

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2025

DRAFT

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Owen Astbury, Chair

Present: Steve Tarleton, Selectboard Member, Nope Martin, Selectboard Member, Randy Kennedy, Road Foreman and Nancy Robinson, Clerk

Visitors: Mary Oldenburg, Cindy Ansardy, Bruce Maxham and Donald McNeill
Visitors via Zoom: Dennis & Joan Wideman, The Martins and Jerry Oppenheimer,

Additions/changes to agenda: None

Nope moved to accept the minutes of March 25, 2025. Bruce Maxham asked for a clarification before the minutes were accepted. The last sentence in the paragraph under the discussion of the Planning Grant stated that Bruce Maxham, on behalf of the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department agreed to write a letter of support, should have said that Bruce Maxham indicated that the Fire Department may be willing to write a letter of support. Owen seconded the motion and motion carried with edit.

Scheduled Visitor: Pete Fellows from TRORC (running late)

Highway Report: Met with Chris Bump from VTRANS and completed the Annual Financial Plan and Municipal Highway Grant to pave the North Bridgewater Road in the amount of approx. \$181,000. Chris assisted with preparing 3 bids for FEMA project: Pearson Road Culvert, Baker Hill, and an engineering bid for Earle Bridge. Bids have been posted on town website and advertised in paper. Site visits will take place on April 17th and 24th. Chris Bump, VTRANS and Scott Jensen (ANR) will be at the site visits to answer any questions.

Cutting brush from last weeks storm. Aware of fallen tree on Grandma'ams Road and will clean up as soon as possible.

Several of the vehicles need attention – Loader has 2 oil line leaks, Nortrax has been contacted to come up to work on machine. 2024 Western Star needs some warranty work. The Ford needs new ball joints and tie rods. Randy is working on getting all of these repairs scheduled and completed.

Discussion of radio situation, current radios are getting old and not working well. Randy would like to try a radio system from CVC Paging (Steve Josselyn), Board approved trying new radios, if they work out town could rent for \$39.00 each a month. Will also check to see if the frequency matches the Fire Department.

Owen moved to accept the bid of VT Road Works of \$18,000 to pave the Southgate Parking Lot. Nope seconded the motion. Motion carried. Will try to schedule at same time as the Fire Station top coating to save on moving fee.

Pete arrived and updated the board on the status of the Sand/Salt Shed building. Bids for the project have been advertised and are due by April 21st. Several companies have shown interest. Town has been awarded grant(s) in the amount of \$554,000. The board has Grant Amendment Agreement to sign. This is potentially a \$1,000,000 project, if bids are too high board can “scrap” project and return grant. Would have to repay approx. \$26,000 in town costs. Would also need a Construction Inspection company for project, GPI is a company that many local projects are using, cost would be \$85,000.

April 8, 2025 minutes cont.

Do not need to approve until bids are opened and chosen. Pete would like to open bids here at the town office on Monday, April 21st then discuss and award at the April 22nd. board meeting.

Discussion of building size 60'x140'. This project has been ongoing for more than 5 years. It was a \$400,000 project with a town match of \$100,000 now it is a million-dollar project with a match of over \$300,000. Town has budgeted \$150,000 in the next fiscal year budget and has some funds in reserve.

Will need to budget more in the next year.

Discussion of the Grant Amendment for the Sand/Salt shed requiring board signatures. Owen moved to sign the Grant Agreement form; Steve seconded the motion. Owen and Steve voted yes, Nope opposed. Owen & Steve signed the form.

Treasurer's File: Expense warrant #25-15 (ck #'s 21773-21781 and e-ck #'s 2936-2937) was signed. A current budget status report was given to the board for review.

Clerk's File: Excess weight permits were approved for Blaktop Inc., Casella Construction, Dead River, Evans Group, Goodro Lumber, Martin Exc. & New England Quality.

Old business: Re-visited sound system discussion. Lynne's system did not work. Getting very good reviews from neighboring town about the "Owl". Owen will order for trial at the next meeting. Can be returned within 30 days if it is not a usable system.

No discussion regarding Right of Way over town Landfill as Steve is getting more information that he will need to present to the board.

New Business: Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission is requesting a representative for the Transportation Advisory Committee; in past it has been Road Commissioner or Road Foreman. Randy Kennedy was appointed.

Current property maintenance contracts will expire on June 30th. Reviewed previous bid notice. Owen and Nancy will review and revise "spec" sheet and draft advertisement. Will send to board members for approval before public notice.

Town has received a petition requesting a reconsideration vote regarding the Lister Elimination article that was defeated at town meeting. Owen moved and Nope seconded the motion to hold the required special town meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 pm at the Community Center following the regular selectboard meeting. Motion carried. The warning will also include the 2 vacant Lister positions in case the elimination article is defeated. The Board members signed the warning for the meeting which will be posted locally, on the town website and in newspaper later this month.

At this time only one person has shown some interest in being appointed to one of the vacant Lister positions, and the board will hold off on making an appointment due to the upcoming special town meeting.

Visitors: Don McNeill asked about the towns portion of the funding for the sand shed, will be raised in taxes. Also inquired about a town vote for the solar panels on the fire station. Selectboard has discretion of town buildings.

Being no further business, Owen moved to adjourn at 6:15 pm. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson, Clerk