

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2025

DRAFT

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Owen Astbury, Chair

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

Visitors: None

Visitors via Zoom: Dennis & Joan Wideman & The Martins

Additions/changes to agenda: None

Owen moved to accept the minutes of July 8, 2025 as written. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Scheduled Visitor: None

Highway Report: Randy reported that the Jenne and Holiday Farm Bridges were now paved. Oak Chapel Bridge has been repaired and paved. North Bridgewater Road paving project is in process, should be done in a couple of days. Mulched around the boat on the Recreation Field. Noyes is working on the Bridgewater Hollow Road ('23 flood repairs). Everything is running and going well. Grading roads. Discussion of the town moving forward with the sand shed project. Town recently withdrew from the State Grant program as the estimated cost to build was approx. 1.5 million. The town was approved for grants in the amount of \$500,000, town would have had to raise a million dollars. We currently have approx. \$170,000 in the building reserve account. State has not mandated that the town have a sand shed at this time. Town owns the building plans, need to get cost estimates for dirt and concrete work. Steele structure cost was estimated at \$300,000. Maybe could do project in stages, get estimates now and begin foundation work next spring. Suggestion made to hire a general contractor as this project is more than anyone here should/could take on. Will follow up with TRORC to get plans to review at least for concrete dimensions.

Treasurer's File: Expense warrant #26-02 was reviewed and signed. (e-ck #'s 2968-2971 and ck's 21947-21972).

Melissa reported that grievances were held last Saturday and that the final grand list should be filed by the end of this week. Total municipal tax rates determined by dividing budget by grand list come to 0.4958. Owen moved to set the municipal rate at 0.4958, Nope seconded the motion and motion carried. A copy of the attached letter outlining tax due date as well as other pertinent information will be sent with tax bills.

Auditors were here last week; final audit is expected in early August.

Fund Balance Policy was previously adopted and does not need to be re-done.

Melissa will be away on vacation the week of August 4th -9th. Geoff will cover the office on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 8am to 12 noon. New "boat" has arrived at the Recreation Field. Wood chips have been put around it to assist with safety issues.

Clerk's File: None

Minutes of July 22, 2025 cont.

Old Business: After a brief discussion of the recreation field, the board decided not to take any action at this time.

New business: Board members reviewed the Hazard Mitigation Plan agreement between the town and TRORC. Cost to town to update the plan is \$3,500.00, funds will come from the Planning Commission reserve fund. Owen moved to approve and sign the agreement with TRORC. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried. Discussion and explanation of the National Opioid Settlement between many pharmaceutical companies, most of the 50 United States, cities, towns, and municipalities. Bridgewater opted out the settlement earlier but came back into it in 2023. Awarded funds must be used for specific drug and treatment activities within each State, city, town, or municipality. Bridgewater does not have any facilities set up to use these funds which may amount to approx. \$17,000 paid out over a 10-year period. We have been in conversation with a Settlement representative as to how to “opt” out again or what to do with the money once it comes to the town. Checks arrived in the mail this past weekend amount to just over \$4,000. At this point we are waiting for paperwork to re-allocate future funds back to the State and seeking guidance as to how to proceed with the funds that have already been sent to the town. Owen moved and Nope seconded the motion to re-allocate any current and future funds to the State of Vermont. Motion carried.

Being no other business, Owen moved to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson,
Clerk