

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF JULY 8, 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: George Spear

Visitors via Zoom: Dennis & Joan Wideman & The Martins

Additions/changes to agenda: Letter to VTRANS requesting withdrawal from Sand Shed Grant.

Nope moved to accept the minutes of June 24, 2025 as written. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Scheduled Visitor: Chris Hayes, Wastewater Plant Superintendent (Simon Operating Services). Chris came in to update on current issues related to the Pump Station and Treatment Plant. There has been a water problem on the west end of the line, maybe either a sump pump running water into the system or a broken line. More noticeable when we have heavy rain. Chris has run a camera through the line a couple of times when dry but will do again when its wet. Had to have A-1 pump from the pumping station and transfer to the treatment facility in order to keep up with the water flow. We are down a pump due to string getting into the station and jamming the pump. Also spoke about scoop issues at the treatment facility. New scoops are approx. 6" lower than old scoops, can't get to bottom of sludge tank when there is heavy water flow and system backs up. We could modify the scoop handles and/or breakdown the sludge to a more manageable state for removing by adding a "blower" to the tank. The blower would mix more water into the sludge allowing for easier and more cost-effective removal. At present, hauling company brings in a tank of water to mix then removes the sludge with the extra water. With blower wouldn't need to bring in extra water and sludge would be easier to pump into tanker which would be a cost savings to the town. Chris had a quote from Motor & Pump Co. for approx. \$3,800 to purchase a new "blower". Would also need some electrical work but panel is just inside door to pump room. The quote is for a 3hp regenerative blower with a drive allowing for adjustment for sludge agitation. It is also 240-volt maintenance free only needs filters with a 20-year life span. Should pay for itself within a couple of years as there should be a saving in hauling costs. Total expense of approx. \$5,000 between blower and electrical work. There are available funds in the sewer account. Owen moved to purchase the new blower. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried.

Highway Report: Randy reported that paving has begun around the fire station and Southgate parking lots. Should be completed by end of week. Pavers will then move to the North Bridgewater Road. Town has received a grant to pave from the intersection of US RT 4 to the end of the current pavement. Hubbard Bridge was paved last week, not able to do Jenne and Holiday Farm bridges as membrane was not ordered due to miscommunication. Has now been ordered at an additional cost of \$9,955. Expense will be covered by FEMA. Bridge paving will be completed after the North Bridgewater Road is done. The board signed the paving grant approval form for the North Bridgewater project. Road will not be closed; it will be one lane only for emergency and local traffic if possible. Flaggers will be onsite to direct traffic.

July 8, 2025 minutes cont.

Baker Hill and Pearson Road projects have been completed. Noyes/Barnard Exc. will be moving to Bridgewater Hollow Rd and Markowski will be finishing the mitigation work on Fancher Road. These are some of the last FEMA projects to be completed.

Discussion of hole developing by the Oak Chapel Bridge. Will need to be addressed at some point in the future. Owen asked about mowing the grass at the bottom of Gold Coast Road. Hard to see when coming off Gold Coast Road or out of the surrounding driveway. Not sure who has mowed it in the past. Will follow up.

Treasurer's File: Expense warrant #25-21 (year-end) was reviewed and signed. (e-check #'s 2963 and ck's 21916-21920). A current expenses warrant #26-01 was reviewed and signed (e-ck #'s 2964-2966 and ck's 21921-21946) A year end budget status report was reviewed by the board. Melissa gave the board an updated Fund Balance accounting of all of the town accounts. Melissa also gave the board a copy of the Town's engagement letter with RHR Smith & Co. (Auditors) who will be here to begin the FY 25 audit next week.

Clerk's File: Owen moved and Nope seconded to approve the OQ Farm 2nd class license and the OQ Farm Catering Event applications (July 26, 2025). Motion carried.
Owen signed excess weight permits for Beacon Sales and Consolidated Communication.

New Business: The 2025 Abstract Grand List was officially filed on July 2, 2025 and change notices were sent out on the same day. Grievance hearings have been scheduled for Saturday, July 19th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Discussion of upkeep and maintenance needed at the Southgate House; skunk issue is still ongoing; Nancy saw a mother and 3 babies on the front lawn on Sunday afternoon. Not sure if they are living under the porch. Polly Timken recently reported that skunks have also been an issue at the Historical Society Building and would be willing to share cost with town to have them trapped. Nancy will reach out to Rick Kaminski to set traps. Neighbors Helping Neighbors Christmas Tree on front lawn is dying and needs to be cut down and replaced. Steve will cut the tree down. NHN will replace tree.
North side of building needs to be cleaned/pressure washed. Will reach out to a couple of people/companies to get quotes.

Old business: The board members looked at the Recreation Field on way to tonight's meeting as scheduled for 6:00 pm. Randy was also present. Lower end of field where boat and playground equipment is placed may not need as much work as previously discussed. Boat is coming next week and we already have the tables and grills. Will need chips around the boat.
Primary work consists of cleaning out the Culvert and drainage ditch. Board decided that they need to get more information regarding access to the field and easements. Will try to have more information for the next meeting. Electrical work is still under discussion.
Randy mentioned that he has spoken with Mark Palmer who is doing the Kenyon & Peterson work on the North Bridgewater Road and that Mark reported that he will work with Mr. Peterson to get the culvert work done.

Being no other business, Owen moved to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson,
Clerk