

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF May 27, 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, Melissa Spear, Treasurer and Nancy Robinson, Clerk

Visitors: Bruce Maxham, Chris Stevens, and George Spear.

Visitors via Zoom: Dennis & Joan Wideman, The Martins, Jerry Oppenheimer, and Johnk.

Additions/changes to agenda: Excess Weight Permit for Mosher Exc. (will sign under clerk's file)

Nope moved to accept the minutes of May 13 & 15, 2025 as written. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Scheduled Visitor: Chris Stevens, BVFD would like the board to set a date for an annual inspection of the fire department. Agreed to April/May of each year. Discussion of scheduled paving around the fire station parking lot and repairing egress pads. There are 3 pads on the north side of the building that are "heaving" and perhaps 1 each on the east and west sides that should be addressed before paving. Suggestion made to grind pads. Bruce has contacted Jeff Ingram who suggested that Rick Kaminski be contacted. Bruce will reach out to Rick to get suggestions. Paving company is scheduled to pave the North Bridgewater Road and several bridge aprons beginning end of June into beginning of July. Bruce and/or Randy will contact the paving company to hold off on the town office/fire station paving until after the door situation has been addressed and solved. Chris asked about schedule for solar panel installation and if any conduit needed to be buried before the paving was completed. 2 conduit pipes have already been installed/buried.

Highway Report: Recently replaced culvert(s) on Bridgewater Hill Road, graveling Baker Hill, cleaned culverts on Grandma's Road. Board reviewed a driveway access application and Notice to Proceed for a new driveway at the top of Baker Hill (J. Mita). Steve moved and Owen seconded to approve the application. Motion carried. Discussion of missing/stolen road signs along the Bridgewater Center Road. We have ordered replacement signs costing over \$800.00. The signs are expensive to keep replacing and a safety issues for ambulance and fire. Randy has notified the County Sheriff's office of this problem.

Pearson Road Culvert bid award – Nope recused himself from the discussion as he had bid on the project. Steve moved to award the bid to Barnard Exc. at \$69,875. This does not include the price for ledge. Owen seconded the motion and motion carried.

The contract for the engineering project at Hale Hollow/Earle Bridge to McFarland Johnson was re-signed due to a payment adjustment. Wants payments as work progresses. Owen moved to approve the payment adjustment, Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Randy alerted the board that he needs to buy/restock culverts; 36", 24" and 18". Will order from Weeds and expected cost is approx. \$10,000. There are funds available in this years budget to order the culverts.

Treasurer's File: Expense warrant #25-18 was reviewed and signed. (e-check #'s 2949-2953 and ck's 21856-21873). May payroll warrant #25-11 was also signed.

May 27, 2025 minutes cont.

A current budget status and fund balance report was given to the board to review. Assistant Treasurer has started working, is doing well and learning quickly.

Clerk's File: An excess weight permit was approved for Mosher Exc. Owen moved and Steve 2nd to approve a 3rd Class liquor and an Outside consumption application for Ramunto's. The board reviewed the delinquent dog list and signed the warrant which will now go to go to the constable. Nancy will be on vacation from June 9-20. Nancy will notify attorneys and paralegals of her vacation schedule. Office will be closed for the 2 weeks.

Old business: Property Maintenance Bids for the Southgate House/Fire Station, Recreation Field and Wastewater Plant were reviewed. Owen recused himself at this time as his son had submitted a bid for the work. Olmstead Property withdrew their bid after being asked to bid on all of the properties. EA Tree & Lawn Services submitted a revised bid to include annual totals. Steve moved to accept the bid from EA Tree & Lawn Services. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried.

New Business: Owen moved and Nope 2nd the motion to file for an extension of 30 days to file the Grand List. Motion carried. Need to get the Grand List filed to get tax bills ready to be sent out in late July. Since the last meeting and that of the special town meeting held on May 13th, where the article to eliminate the office of Lister to change to hired Assessor passed the town has been in conversation with 2 parties that have shown an interest in becoming the Assessor. Owen, Melissa, and Nancy met last Thursday with both parties. Both were viable candidates but were very adamant that they needed to have an in-office data/tax clerk to do the day-to-day paperwork (transfers, homestead downloads, current use, and personnel property changes) and to answer the phone. Current Lister is in place until and Assessor is hired. Owen would like to further discuss employment details in executive session. Discussion of changing the meeting time from 4:30 to later in the day during the summer. Meeting time will be 6:30 pm during the months of June, July, and August. Will re-assess for September meetings.

Visitors: Bruce Maxham reported that the KME Fire Truck has been sold and was going to Haiti.

Owen moved to enter into executive session at 5:40 pm per 1 V.S.A. 313 (a) (3) to discuss personnel items with the board to include Melissa and Nancy. Steve 2nd the motion and motion carried. Zoom recording was paused and muted. Those in attendance left the room.

Return to open meeting at 6:20 pm. Owen moved to hire David Buckley as the Town Assessor at \$15,000 per year and to hire Natasha Bocklov as temporary data/tax clerk for \$23.00 per hour. Data/tax clerk position will be advertised, does not have to be a town resident. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried.

Owen thanked Nancy for taking on the Admin. Asst./Clerk position and moved to hire Nancy to continue as the Administrative Asst. to the board for the current rate of \$27.00 (new rate begins in July, new fiscal year). Will continue as salaried Town Clerk and will submit a timecard for the Administrative hours. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Being no further business, Owen moved to adjourn at 6:30 pm. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson, Clerk