

**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER**  
**SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING AGENDA**

**March 26, 2024**

**Present:** William O. Young-Chair, Stephen S. Tarleton – Vice Chair & Road Commissioner, Owen Astbury – Board Member, Nancy Robinson-Clerk, Melissa Spear –Treasurer, Victoria Young-Administrative Assistant & Lister

**Visitors:** Bruce Maxham, Mary Oldenburg-Delinquent Tax Collector, Geroge Spear & Gloria Martin

**Zoom:** Diane Martin, Dennis & Joan Wideman

**Executive Session:** Personnel - per 1 VSA 313(a)(3)) William called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. and made a motion to enter executive session for personnel – seconded by Steve.

The Board came out of executive session at 4:37 p.m.

*William made Motion to amend September 26, 2023, Minutes to reflect a raise in pay for Kaleb McIntire to \$20.00 per hour. Seconded by Steve. Motion passed.*

**Call to Order:** William called the regular portion of the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

- \*\* Additions/Changes to Agenda: Mary Oldenburg- Delinquent Tax Collector, Nancy added LEOP- Local Emergency Operation Plan

**Delinquent Tax Collector Update:** Mary has been working with the Town Attorney on the tax sale process. 10 Properties are heading to Tax Sale. She has sent the information he asked for to start the process. Demand letters will be sent from the lawyer giving 30 days to pay in full or continue to a tax sale. There will be some expense to the town-not all costs are recouped in the tax sale. Hoping to have the process completed by the end of June.

**Minutes:** March 12, 2024 & March 21, 2024- Board reviewed and approved as written.

**Highway Report:** Steve reported that it was a tough snowstorm last weekend – the grader has been out and most of the roads are done. All went well with only one stuck town vehicle needing a wrecker. It was a long day for our drivers –20 Hr. day. Jenne Bridge will be set Thursday. There may be an interruption of power in the Center area – not fully known how long if any. Melissa has put out a message on the Local Facebook pages letting folks know that it may happen. The 2020 truck is back from the repair shop, as is the plow that was repaired.

**Treasurer's File:**

- **Expense Warrant #16** – Cks #21166-#21220 & E-Cks #2820-#2823 and Payroll Warrant - Cks # 5138-#5145 & E-Cks # 3935-#3956 for March 2024 – signed and reviewed by the Board.
- **Truck Loan Documents** – No documents to sign. We were turned down for a loan from Daimler – we are going back to Mascoma Bank. Their Loan Board will review next Monday. The 1.4 Mil. VT Bond Bank Loan will pay off one Mascoma Loan. If we get the \$193,000. loan for the truck from Mascoma it would be after William has left for vacation – so Steve would need to sign the paperwork.

*William made a motion for Steve as Vice Chair to sign the Mascoma loan documents for the truck in his absence seconded by Owen – motion passed.*

- **FEMA Update** – No roads have been entered. Melissa is meeting by zoom tomorrow with our FEMA Rep and with our new hired Consultant Shannon, Lori Scott, and Randy. This will be the last one with our current Rep – hoping to have a new one. FEMA has also implemented simplified methods.

**Clerk's File:**

- Excess Weight Permits: ArborScape, Amerigas, Bazin Brothers Trucking, Blaktop, New England Quality Service & Wind River Env. & Structural Wood Corp. - Reviewed and signed by William.
- Nancy also reported that the annual LEOP (Local Emergency Operating Plan) needs to be updated. She is working with Josh Maxham (BVFD) and Max Elles (Fast Squad) getting it updated and needs to be signed by a Selectboard member that has taken the required 4-hour training to work on it too. Since George is no longer on the Board – he took the course 3 years ago – a new board member would need to take the required 4-hour course. Owen offered to take the course and be the Board representative for the emergency Plan.

**Lister Updates:** Vicky reported that the Lister's will be starting the road work this week. Continuing through April.

**New Business: WW Plant front southern facing passive solar system:** William reported that the Fiberglass window panel on the sewer plant is degrading. He feels that we need to be proactive and get it taken care of. There are polycarbonate panels instead of the current glass panels, that have a 10–15-year warranty/Lifespan. We need to have some contractors look at it and get a price to have it replaced. After discussion - *William made a motion to solicit contractors to look at the job - seconded by Owen – motion passed*

William also said that the sewer vent is broken from this past snowstorm. He thinks that the vent pipe needs to be moved up. We will check the warranty on the roof. Vicky will contact Cassella Construction.

**Old / Other Business:**

- **Sewer Plant Boiler update** – William reported that the new boiler is up and running. It is a combination boiler & hot water heater should we ever need the existing hot water heater replaced.
- **April Meeting – One meeting on April 23, 2024** – The Board agreed to having one meeting in April on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also – changing the meeting time to 6:00 p.m. for the April – September months.

**Visitors:** Bruce reported that the Fire Department met Monday night at their regular meeting and voted to not have the solar panels put on the Fire Department roof. They are concerned with the snow on the roof sliding/leaking, nail holes in their roof & maintenance issues. Also –if there was a fire – with the panels not being able to de-energize it is not fire-friendly. They do not want any batteries in the building. He said that there was not much benefit to the fire department. William stated that there was benefit – They would save a considerable amount on their electric bill. William said that the roof was designed to support solar. And we need to look at what is the best solution for the town. William said they (BACF) are looking at ground mounts too. They are not as aesthetical as a roof mount – but do produce more

kw. The roof mounts are more economical than ground mounts. General discussion ensued. Charlie and Michael are looking into other options. Bruce said that this was a recommendation to the Selectboard as it is a town building. William does not want this to create a wedge with the Town, BACF and the Fire Station. Owen suggested that we wait to see what other options there may be and thanked Bruce for bringing it to the Board.

Nancy informed the Board that there are some varmints burrowing under the Southgate House by her front door entrance. William made a motion for Nancy to contact a pest control company to fix the problem. Seconded by Owen. Motion passed.

**Adjourn:** William made a motion to adjourn at 5:37 p.m. - seconded by Owen –motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Young

Administrative Assistant