

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MINUTES May 14, 2024

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

Visitors: George Spear & Bruce Maxham

Zoom: Diane Martin, Dennis & Joan Wideman

Call to Order:

- ** Additions/Changes to Agenda: Nancy added one overweight permit and three liquor licenses and a GUVSWD Hazardous Waste Notice for July 27, 2024, at Hartford Transfer Station from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Minutes: April 23, 2024 – The Minutes were accepted as written.

Highway Report: Updates-Randy stated that projects are getting wrapped up, Guardrails are on at Oak Chapel site and by Ballou’s, Fancher & Hubbard bridges. Tomorrow the Holiday Farm bridge and Jenne bridge guardrails will be done. Work on the bank side of the Holiday Farm bridge is cleaned up. He is working on paving bids for both bridges and getting the Gorge project completed. Roger’s road was worked on for access to one property - but Randy put a sign up to close it off to traffic. The road needs more work to be passable. Hale Hollow Bridge – Randy has a quote from Olmstead’s. Work has been done on Wall’s Road and discussion of Pearson Road. The Loader has a center pin problem - Nortrac came and estimated it would take 28 hours to do the job. \$10k-\$12k to fix. This would include trucking also. Nortrac could get it done in a week's time. Randy also said that there is a “weeping” line on the loader that needs to be fixed also – while they have the loader apart. Melissa asked if Randy could get a written estimate for her records. William made a motion for up to \$15k to repair the Loader – seconded by Steve-motion passed.

- Annual Financial Plan - signed by the Board
- Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory - signed by the Board.

Treasurer’s File:

- Expense Warrant #18 – Man. Cks #2833-2837 & AP Cks #21270-21296–Reviewed and signed by the board.
- FY 2024 Auditor Update-Melissa has contacted the firms that were suggested by Nathan Hawley and only one of them was responsive. RHR Smith from Maine sent a 1-year contract for FY 24. The amount is \$15,500. for the audit and \$6,000. for a Single Audit and \$4,000. for any additional single audits needed. The total cost could be \$25,500. After discussion- William made a motion to accept the one-year contract from RHR Smith for the FY 24 Audit Contract- seconded by Steve –motion passed.
- Yankee Generator Contract - The annual contract for the generator has risen to \$795.00 from \$615.00 - after discussion- Owen made a motion to accept the contract from Yankee Generator –seconded by William – motion passed.
- FEMA Update- Melissa stated that we have a new PDMG –Dirk Paulan and a new team of FEMA people. Dirk will be here every Wednesday for the FEMA meeting in person. They are also working on the

December flooding incident. They are working on getting Gunderson RD, Fancher RD and Bridgewater Center (750K) projects into the FEMA Portal.

- Childcare Contributions Tax FY 2025- Melissa explained the new Childcare Payroll Tax that begins July 1st. The Tax is .44% Payroll tax on wages The Town has the choice of either covering it all or having the employee pay .11% and the Town paying the .33%. The cost of this tax is approximately \$1,800. per year to the Town. After discussion William made the motion for the town to cover the .44% - seconded by Owen – motion passed. Melissa also updated the FLSA law change regarding paying employees overtime after 40 hours. No one falls over this level in Bridgewater now.
- Budget Status: The Board reviewed the report. Melissa noted that some Treasurer and Highway wages and benefits will be reimbursed by FEMA. Also- an expense in the Sewer maintenance line for the new boiler in the building - the Board authorized for that expense of \$9,000. + To be moved to the Restricted Fund Balance in the Sewer Fund.

Clerk's File:

- Liquor Licenses- Ramunto's 1st Class, 3rd Class & Outside Consumption Permits –William made a motion to approve the Permits – seconded by Owen – motion passed. Nancy will submit them in the State Portal.
- Flooring Update- Nancy had an estimate from Carpet Warehouse in Rutland- Carpet tiles w/rubber backing glued down. Any leveling that might need to be done. Full- service- taking up and removing/discarding old carpet, moving all furniture. Cost of \$7,707.10 The job could be done in the next few weeks. She will try to get it done in a Wednesday - Friday period if possible. Owen made a motion to approve the Carpet Warehouse Quote for \$7, 707.10 - seconded by William- motion passed.
- Overweight Permits- Roni Johnson Landscaping – signed by William.

Lister Updates: Vicky updated that the Notices of Change in Assessment will be mailed out on Friday from the Vision company and the Lister's will be filing the Abstract Grand List on that date, also.

New Business:

- Recreation Field – Plans to repair/revitalize-Melissa reported that the signs are junk, benches are in bad shape. Needs a lot of work. FEMA will reimburse "in kind" - as it was before the flood. There are a few folks in town that would like to help with new plans for the field- i.e., dog walking park, new play structure instead of a boat. Maybe move the playground area up away from the flood area. Some new ideas for more updated use of the park. Randy will put up some posts down by the parking area that was damaged in the July flooding to keep cars and people out of the area that needs to be fixed/cleaned up. The highway crew can also help to get some of this cleaned up. Randy will get bids for some of the work. The Selectboard may do a site visit to see what is needed and discuss a plan to report back at the next meeting.

Old / Other Business:

- 100on100 Relay – The Board received an email that the race has been cancelled (August 10, 2024)
- Inclusion Proclamation – After some discussion –William made a motion to decline the Inclusion Proclamation - seconded by Owen – unanimous decision. Motion passed.

- Next Meeting – May 28, 2024

Visitors: Steve asked how the Tax Sale procedure was going. Melissa said Mary was moving ahead with it and that some payments had been made. Some parcels will continue to be set for Tax Sales. Perhaps Mary could come to the next meeting and give an update.

Adjourn: Being no further business- William made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Steve – motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Young, Administrative Assistant