

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2024

Location: 45 Southgate Loop – Selectboard Room

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: Dennis Wideman, George Spear, Heather Suprenant-Windsor-4 Representative, Greg Robinson, Bruce Maxham, Mary Oldenburg- Delinquent Tax Collector, Cindy Ansardy, Tammy Wardwell & Nope Martin

Zoom: Joan Wideman, AM

Call to Order: Willaim called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- ** Additions/Changes to Agenda: None

Minutes: Special Meeting May 14, 2024, Regular Meeting, May 14, 2024

The Board accepted the Minutes as written.

Highway Report: Randy gave updates that Nortrax had called, and the loader should be done by Wednesday afternoon. River Road is finished, Ball field in the Center is close to being done. Roadside mowing on the Center Road, Grading on Bridgewater Hill. Randy has heard from Steve Johnson that he will be here Thursday or Friday to finish the Gorge. William said that he had heard from a few people about potholes on Hale Hollow Road.

- FEMA Updates-Meeting on Wednesday- Hazard Mitigation team was here last week, toured some sites. We would get 100% reimbursed for add-on work – but we do not have the funds to do additional work at this time. Center Road guardrails are done. River Road will be submitted. Work needs to be done to a Class 3 portion of Baker Hill Road. Randy will schedule the work to get that done.

Theo Shultz sent an email to the town about repairs that are needed on his portion of the Chateauguay Road.(aka Booth Road) He will have a contractor working on his section of the road and has offered to have his contractor do the repairs to the town's Class 4 portion of the road if the town will supply 10 loads of material that would be needed for the ½ mile section. Nope Martin spoke that he is the contractor doing the work. After discussion, the Board agreed that the town would truck the material to the site. William made a motion to accept Theo's offer. Seconded by Owen. Motion passed. Nope will also replace the town culvert as part of the job.

Melissa also noted that ATG has credited the town \$2,381.18 for the overage of the transfer case repair.

Treasurer's File:

- Expense Warrant #19 – E Cks #2838-#2840 & AP Cks #21297- #21314 Reviewed and signed by the Board.

- Payroll Warrant – May – E Cks # 3978- #4004 & PR Cks #5154-#5163 Reviewed and signed by the Board
- Dental Insurance Increase – Single person increase \$1.89 & 2-person increase \$3.56 per month. New rates start July 01,2024

Melissa reported that she has been researching a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) - Interest rate of 6.5% - they will loan up to 90% of taxes raised. Melissa would like to borrow \$1 million draw down as needed. She will have more information at the next meeting. General discussion ensued – Heather offered to assist with the problem of getting the FEMA process to move along to ease the town’s cash flow difficulties.

Clerk’s File:

- Liquor license-None
- Excess weight permits -None
- Delinquent dog warrant - the Board signed the Warrant.
- Vacation schedule- Nancy will be on vacation from June 10th – 22nd. Researchers have been notified that the office will be closed.
- Solid Waste Collection Permit Application for ABLE Waste Management –signed by the Board
- ABLE Waste Management agreement with the town to use the town garage for Saturday “Fast Trash” beginning 7/1/2024-6/30/2025. - Signed by the Board.

Nancy also updated that the new carpet was planned to be installed on July 10th & 11th.

Lister Updates:

- Statistical Market Update Complete- Vicky updated that the Notices have gone out. Values have gone up because of the sales in the last 3 years. Vicky gave an overview of the process and the results. Tax rates will go down because of the increase in values– we only have estimates–but hope that the tax rate in July will be under \$2.00–last year's rate was \$2.69.
- Notice of Change – sent by Vision –Vision will hold informal meetings at the office on June 5th & 6th And by phone on June 4th, 5th & 7th. Must call Vision to schedule an appointment. Lister Grievances are June 21st & 22nd by appointment only.
- Current Use Notices Sent- not discussed.
- Anticipated Tax Rate Discussion – See above.

New Business:

- Delinquent Tax Collector Update- Mary updated that she – with help from Melissa is getting information to the attorney-but he is not getting back to her. The new tax law that was just passed has changed some laws pertaining to tax sales. We are still moving forward- but the delays have taken longer than we had hoped.

Old / Other Business: None

Visitors: Dennis Wideman has concerns about 4-wheeler traffic on Stevens Road. The machines are very loud and on weekends there are many groups that go through. Tires are tearing up the road. He would

like the policy reviewed about 4 wheelers on Stevens Road. The Board would like to hear from more people on that road –Dennis will get a letter to the Board signed by residents of the area. There are currently 8 Full-time residents on Stevens Road and 2 full-time residents on Richardson Road.

The Board had concerns about changing the policy which would affect all people using the road. It was suggested that Dennis contact the Game Warden for this area to see if they would come and monitor the situation and maybe put up signs for “Sensitive Area” like they do for snowmobile trails. Dennis will look into this also. The Board will be signing the annual ATV Policy at their June 11th meeting.

Adjourn: Being no further comments- William made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.- seconded by Steve- motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Young,

Administrative Assistant