

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

**DRAFT**

**September 12, 2023**

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

**Visitors:** Stephen A. Tarleton, Tammy Wardwell, Deborah Ogden, Cyndy Ansardy, Owen Astbury, Greg Robinson, Bruce Maxham & Gloria Martin

**Zoom:** Diane Martin, Mary Bovaconti, Justin Wardwell, Dennis & Joan Wideman, Marsha Fraser & Pete Fellowes – TRORPC

**Executive Session** – Personnel Per 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(3) William opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. William made a motion to go into executive session for Personnel with Vicky included, seconded by Steve – motion passed.

Out of executive session at 4:39 p.m. - Interviewed a potential new employee - Danny Silva – will offer \$27.00 per hour – No benefits – on a 30-day trial basis.

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

- \*\* Additions/Changes to Agenda: Cargill Salt Quote – the Board signed the quote for this coming winter's salt @\$86.51 /ton - Estimated 175 tons

**Justin Wardwell – 911 Coordinator** – New Road Name RT 4 West – Justin informed the Board that there needed to be a change to 4 parcels off RT 4 West by the previous Pancake House. Since there are four residences on the road - by State law it needs to have a road name. Justin had sent letters to all four property owners, and one responded back with a name suggestion of Stone Hill. Justin and the Board agreed on that name so Justin will let the State of VT and the owners of the four properties know that the new road name will be Stone Hill and new 9-1-1 numbers will be assigned. William made a motion to name the new road- Stone Hill, seconded by Steve, motion passed.

**Pete Fellowes –MTAP & Salt Shed** – Pete requested to be moved to before the Minutes as he had another meeting to attend. Two Updates: (1) The Sand shed project has reached the \$5,000.00 expense line - and Pete will submit for reimbursement. Finalizing 60% of the plans and estimates. The Grant is up to \$500,000.00 for overall costs – we will get 80% of the total cost. We do have to put out bids for the building. (2) MTAP is a State program to help towns with securing Grants for anything not transportation. TRORPC would help find Grants and help the town to apply for Grants. Could help with the Community Center- William asked about the Passive Solar Glass Panel Wall on our newly renovated sewer plant – if that could be something to check on. The glass wall is very deteriorated and was not part of the plant upgrade. This wall panel helps heat the building in the winter. Pete will check into this. Bruce Maxham asked about dry hydrants- if they could be something that could be part of this program. Pete will check it out.

**Minutes:** August 15, 2023, August 22, 2023, Minutes of August 29, 2023. The Board reviewed all Minutes and William made a motion to accept all as written, seconded by Steve - motion passed.

**Highway Report:** Updates:

Bids: Markowski Excavating Inc.

1. Dailey Hollow Rd – Site #4 -(across from home on the other side of the river) \$49,200.80 - including materials.
2. Fancher Rd –Site #5 - \$105,310.89 - including materials.

William made a motion to accept these two bids, seconded by Steve – the motion passed. Further discussion of Holiday Farm and Jenne Road Bridges – the cost to have the Holiday Farm Bridge built and the old one demolished is: \$582,819.78. The Jenne Rd Bridge is \$637,311.00 to be built and the old one demolished. A temporary one through the State for the Jenne Bridge is going to be another 2 weeks – waiting for parts- we have to hire 2 trucks to get it here and hire contractors to put it together when it gets here. Temporary Bridge could cost us \$500,000.00. Could be more cost of taking demolished bridges to a landfill, etc. We are looking into other alternatives – still gathering information. General discussion of Wayside and Fancher roads, bids for projects, difficulty of getting people to bid. William said that last week the FEMA Rep told us that Bridgewater is far ahead of other towns because of the hard work of everybody here, especially Melissa.

**Treasurer’s File:**

- Expense Warrant #24-03 – Cks #2757-#2759 & #20745-#20774 & #24-04 –Cks #2760-#2764 & Cks #20775-#20810
- Payroll Order Sheet August 2023 - Cks #5064-#5078 & Cks #3773-#3797

The Board reviewed and signed the three warrants.

Melissa also informed the Board that the Fire Department will not be doing a controlled burn on the debris on River Road. We will look into other alternative ways to dispose of it.

- FEMA letter for Lori Scott - Public Assistance requirements - Signed by William.

**Clerk’s File:**

- Excess Weight Permits; Chase Site Services, Inc., and Mosher Exc. Inc.

The Board reviewed and signed the Permits.

**Lister Updates:** Vicky updated the Board that we have had confirmation from Vision that our Data quality Study is finished and that we have passed the requirements to submit to the State for review to allow us to have a Statistical Market Update instead of a full townwide reappraisal. Vision said that our study showed only minimal changes and we should have no problem having a Statistical Market Update. This will save the town from having to do a full reappraisal at a much higher cost. The Estimated cost for the Statistical Update is \$39,500.00 versus \$100,000.00 +/- for a full reappraisal. The Board thanked the Lister Board for their hard work. Melissa also shared that Vicky had received an award for Lister of the Year on Friday September 8<sup>th</sup> at the annual meeting for VALA (Vermont Association of Listers and Assessors). The Board congratulated her for 25 years as a Lister for the Town.

**New Business: None**

**Old / Other Business:**

Next Regular Meeting:

The Board discussed whether to continue with weekly meetings or to go back to their bi-monthly meetings. It was decided to stay with their regular meetings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. William made a motion seconded by Steve to return to the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month for Regular meetings. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be September 26, 2023

**Visitors:** General discussion of bidding and work getting done. The Board said that we are doing our best with limited number of companies bidding and Contractors to do the work. Also, a question of if we will need to borrow more money for flood expenses - Melissa said that is a possibility. Also - question of the collection of delinquent taxes- Melissa said that delinquent taxes are coming in. Some have payment plans – Mary did not want to do tax sales because of the flooding- but is still working on getting taxes paid up. Questions of Gold Coast Rd, Bridgewater Center Rd by Steve Hill's and Deborah Ogden had concerns about her property and the town's ditches/swails. Steve will check on this and see what needs to be done. Melissa will alert FEMA for a site visit and possible Mitigation Grant for this area.

**Adjourn:** William made a motion to adjourn at 5:38 p.m. seconded by George- motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Young

Administrative Assistant