

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 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: George Spear

Visitors via Zoom: The Wideman's

Additions/changes to agenda: None.

Owen moved to accept the minutes of November 4, 2025 as written. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried.

Highway Report: Randy reported that the crew have been cleaning up, sanding roads as needed due to recent rain and snowstorms. Spot fixing areas as needed. Randy and Chris Bump have been putting together the scope of work and bid specifications for the Hale Hollow Bridge project. Plan to have bid notice in newspaper and on posting sites on December 4th and 11th. Pre-bid meeting will be held at the town garage on December 16th and if weather allows site inspection will be also take place. Bids would be due to the town office by January 12th so that the board could open at the January 13th meeting. May need to schedule another meeting to review and award bid, with the understanding that work would not begin until spring or when ANR allows access to the river. Steve will oversee and review the bid specifications before publications. Need to get this process/plan in place and sent to FEMA for review and approval. This is the last highway project for FEMA to approve and pay except for the administration costs which gets approved and funded after final projects are approved. Randy also reported that the grader has a flat tire and will be repaired soon. The town of Pomfret brought a load of sand as shared resources for Wayside Road.

Treasurer's File: Expense warrant #26-10 was reviewed and signed. (e-ck #'s 2993-2995 and ck's 22128-22172). Paying school tax, social service organizations, refunds to taxpayers for overpayments due to tax credits or escrow payments. Delinquent taxes are about the same as last year, current year is \$239,767 and total all years is \$390,917. Mary Oldenburg picked up delinquent notices today. Current year budget status and fund balance reports were reviewed by the board.

Clerk's File: The board approved an event application submitted by Shackleton/Thomas for a holiday party on December 6th. Nancy discussed with the board the safety deposit boxes located in the vault. There are 25 boxes total with only 4 currently being rented at an annual fee of \$10.00 each/\$40.00. Nancy would like to have the boxes removed so that space can be utilized for town documents that have to be in the vault. Owen moved to remove the safety deposit boxes from the vault. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried 2 yea and 1 neutral.

November 18, 2025 minutes cont.

Old business: The Errors and Omissions report has been reviewed by Assessor David Buckley and ready to be signed. Owen moved to sign the report, Steve 2nd the motion and motion carried. Overall impact to grand list and taxes is minimal.

New business: Board members reviewed the December and January board meeting dates. Board agreed that the December 16th budget meeting was not necessary as the treasurer and clerk could begin collecting budget numbers and entering them onto the budget worksheet. The 1st budget meeting will be held on January 6th.

Visitors: Joan Wideman asked if the grand list could be put into an excel format and put onto the town website. Will follow up with the Assessor's to see if they can create a document and add it to the website.

Joan also asked to the board to consider looking into the Local Options Tax process/program as another source of revenue for the town. Item will be put on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

Randy asked about notifying the appropriate departments about bear trash on the riverbank by his house. Fish and Game or ANR could or should be notified.

Being no other business, Owen moved to adjourn at 5:22 pm. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson,
Clerk