

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

DRAFT

Meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm by Owen Astbury, Chair

Present: Steve Tarleton, Selectboard Member, Melissa Spear, Treasurer, Randy Kennedy, Road Foreman and Nancy Robinson, Clerk, Nope Martin, Selectboard Member arrived late.

Visitors: None

Visitors via Zoom: Dennis & Joan Wideman & The Martins

Additions/changes to agenda: None

Steve moved to accept the minutes of September 9, 2025 as written. Owen seconded the motion and motion carried.

Scheduled Visitor: None

Highway Report: Cargill salt contract (98.25 ton) was signed. Allows town to have/use up to 175 ton at contracted cost. Board signed Grants in Aid reimbursement request for ditching work on the Hale Hollow and Richmond Hill Roads. Expect to be reimbursed for approx. \$10,400. Randy has met with Scott Jensen and Rita Seto to review Better Back Roads and Structures Grant projects. Steven's Road may qualify for a grant for an erosion problem. The large culvert by Smith's on the Cox District Road may also qualify for a structures grant, would first require a hydraulic study. VTRANS is too busy to do the study, suggest that town hire Pat Ross (used to work for VTRANS) at a cost of approx. \$1,000. The hydraulic study would help with the project bidding process when we get to that point. This grant awards up to \$175,000 and could take up to 2 years to get everything lined up. Owen moved to authorize Randy to contact Pat Ross to do the hydraulic study at a cost not to exceed \$2,000. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Board members have received and reviewed the engineering report with regards to the Hale Hollow Bridge. Randy and Melissa are working with Chris Bump at VTRANS on the Scope of Work as recommended by the report. Scope of Work will then be sent to FEMA for review. Crew have been putting up the sand that has been delivered (1500 yds) and servicing equipment. Randy will be on vacation next week to work on his house. Owen asked about grading roads and if one of the other employees could grade in his absence. Shawn could grade roads if weather conditions allow. Also reported that road signs have been replaced along US Rt 4.

Treasurer's File: Expense warrant #26-06 was reviewed and signed. (e-ck #'s 2984-2986 and ck's 22056-22073). Town is reimbursing the State of Vermont for the salt shed grant funds of \$25,388.79. Paid fire department FEMA funds that were approved at the last meeting (\$50,886.59) and fire station bond payment of \$82,154.82. Payroll warrant #26-03 was reviewed and signed by the board. Melissa had a quote from town's IT person for new/updated Sonic Wall for computer of approx. \$3,200, which does not include labor costs. Town needs to keep computer systems secure and will allow the Assessor remote access to the Vision software.

September 23, 2025 minutes cont.

Clerk's File: None

Old business: Steve reported that he had contacted Mr. Peterson regarding the culvert/access situation on the North Bridgewater Road and was given 20 days to correct or town would remove the culverts. Town received an email from Mr. Peterson this afternoon stating that he is working on correcting the problems.

New business: Owen reported that he attended the LEMP (Local Emergency Management Meeting) last week where the discussion primarily focused on the current drought situation. Emergency Management is asking for anyone experiencing water problems to report them via phone or email to the state. Some assistance may be available depending on number of reports. Randy reminded board of a 10,000-gallon water tank sitting at the town garage. Maybe something that the fire department could use. Board, treasurer and clerk reviewed October, November, December and January calendars, and changed meeting dates due to holidays and budget process.

Visitors: Questions in chat queue on the zoom site regarding fiscal year end condition, ended year with a surplus no need to borrow and tax sales, none in works at this time.

Being no other business, Steve moved to adjourn at 5:06 pm. Owen seconded the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson,
Clerk