



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council Vice President Shawn George called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:30 pm, on June 4, 2019 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Francis Sousa, Fred Chase, William Wood, Shawn George, Matthew Rushton, Peter Colombotos and Timothy Fitzgibbons. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

President Dennis Gallagher

Councilor Aisha Losche

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for all veterans who have passed including:

- Levi Anfield, Jr.
- Donald Shoemaker
- Virginia Beach City Municipal Building victims

**Vice President George announced the meeting was being aired live and recorded.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 21, 2019

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rushton

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0-1 (Councilor Sousa abstained).

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATIONS

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

APPOINTMENTS

- Water & Sewer Board – Joseph Bracken

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rushton.

Discussion: Mr. Dutton spoke briefly in favor of Mr. Bracken noting the CAC recommended appointment unanimously.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

- Board of Heath – Patricia Neary

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rushton.

Discussion: Mr. Dutton spoke briefly in favor of Ms. Neary noting the CAC recommended appointment unanimously.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

HEARINGS -

- **7:35 p.m.:** Order O-FY20-010: FY2020 Supplemental Appropriation
Opened 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Dutton explained the appropriation.

Vice President George invited any questions from the public – None came forward.

Vice President George asked if there was anyone speaking in favor – None came forward.



Vice President George asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None came forward.

Vice President George entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Colombotos asked what the difference is in receiving the appropriation like this as opposed to in the budget? Mr. Dutton explained; effectively there is no difference to the school district.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons clarified; the Town already allocated \$125K to our capital fund, now we are reapplying it and it will be available 7/1. This appropriation will flow thorough just as though it had been done with the budget? Mr. Dutton confirmed Mr. Fitzgibbons is correct.

Vice President George closed the hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Motion: A motion was to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Colombotos.

Discussion: Councilor Wood thanked all involved. Councilor George suggested having ongoing meetings throughout the year which will hopefully make the process a lot smoother. Councilor Fitzgibbons echoed the sentiment. He would like to get started right away.

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Sousa – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Gallagher – ABSENT; Rushton – YEA; Losche – ABSENT; Colombotos - YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2019-010: Common Victualler's License - Mike Shea's Coffee

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rushton.

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons asked Mr. Dutton if the petitioner understands where things are going with First Street. Mr. Dutton responded; he is sure they do.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS

- FY18 Audit – Roselli, Clark & Associates

Mr. Tony Roselli came forward and introduced his colleague; Paul Gargano.

Mr. Roselli began the presentation stating the audit has been trending in a positive direction over the years.

Reserve balances have trended up since 2010. Reserve balances are just about \$8.1MM now. Mr. Roselli explained reserve balances as general fund and stabilization accounts. Councilor Fitzgibbons pointed out the reserve balances are nowhere near the Town's OPEB liability. Mr. Roselli explained the reserve ratio is at 17%. He further explained the benefit of getting to Tier I is that it offers better bond ratings. Councilor Fitzgibbons pointed out; it is not prudent to continue to grow the ratio, but to maintain and budget elsewhere. Mr. Roselli agreed with the statement. Councilor Wood asked if the Reserves figure includes enterprise fund reserves? Mr. Roselli responded; no. Mr. Roselli continued his presentation suggesting the Town have Standard & Poor's do a complete rating on the next offering. Mr. Roselli spoke about OPEB stating the estimated liability is \$40.7MM in unfunded liability and suggested trying to improve the discount rate and increase the 5% free cash transfer. There is currently \$327K in the fund. He then pointed out the Pension liability went down \$5.3MM

Paul Gargano came forward and spoke about general recommendations. He spoke about tailings stating; those are old outstanding checks that sit on the bank reconciliations. The Town moved the checks into the tailings account. The Treasurer now needs to process them. Mr. Gargano addressed the Transfer Station noting he knows the it is on Mr. Sulmonte's radar for 2020. Councilor Fitzgibbons suggested; limiting negotiations based on revenues not going up and making sure contracts are sustainable going forward.

Mr. Gargano moved on to Accounting for special funds. Relative to indirect costs related to enterprise funds; he recommends a methodology.

Regarding Investment Returns; the Town moved significant amount of stabilization funds to investment accounts. He recommends the Treasurer look at other accounts to see if any others can be moved. They recommend a HRMS. Human Resources documentation is still decentralized; he pointed out MUNIS has a HR component. Councilor Wood spoke briefly about Mr. Sulmonte's findings that almost half the vehicles in town are leased and



asked if Mr. Gagnon sees that in other towns and should it be a concern in an economic downturn? Mr. Gagnon agreed with the state average, but cautioned about not building in the 8% - 10%.

Vice President George asked Mr. Roselli if the Town is too conservative in revenue projections so that we are underfunding departments, and Town needs. Mr. Roselli responded; now that the Town is at 15% you can start looking at things like that; though he reminded the Council to keep in mind the OPEB liability.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included:

- Update on House on Lake Nippenicket
Mr. Dutton gave the history of the Keith Homestead purchase which was purchased with CPC funds. The plan was to prevent over-development in that area. The house sold for \$270,000, the Town netted \$255,331 which was returned to CPC funds. There is a preservation agreement on the interior and exterior of the house. There have been no building permits pulled for the property. Regarding the canoe launch Mr. Dutton has planned and is awaiting funding through the State Department of Fishing and Boating.
- B-R School District Regional Agreement Update
Mr. Dutton met with Dr. Prewendowski, Mr. Dolan, Mr. Luciano and the Superintendent. They spoke about what type of committee should be formed. Tentatively they will put one Councilor and one Finance Committee member on the committee. They discussed needing language about needing consistent review. Mr. Dutton outlined several items discussed.
- Items for Next Meeting
 - Councilor Sousa would like information on the tree cutting business on the Corner of South Street.
 - Councilor George would like an update on McElwain School and timeline of when transaction will close. He would also like an update on the excise tax demand notices with information on what people should do.
 - Councilor Fitzgibbons suggested; every two months have McElwain update on Town Manager's report.
 - Councilor Wood would like an update on all the consultants we've hired (zoning, strategic planning, cultural council)

DISCUSSIONS

- Standing Discussion Items:
 - Mitchell School Update – Town Manager
Mr. Dutton stated; Thursday June 6th at 7:30 p.m., there will be an interactive workshop on the current plan - babysitting will be available. June 13th at 7p.m. there will be a presentation at BR in the Lecture hall. He then outlined the timeline: all materials are due to MSBA by July 11th, so they can make final recommendation on July 8th. MSBA takes a final vote August 28th. Once the vote is taken, the town has 120 days to make the appropriation and take a vote. There is a possibility of doing a first reading at the first meeting in August. The next MSBC meeting is June 17th at 6:30 p.m.
Information is available at www.bridgewater-school-project.com. Mr. Fitzgibbons stated the next two meetings are very important for citizens to come and be heard.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Community & Economic Development Committee: Councilor Colombotos reminded citizens of the open house for Comprehensive Master Plan Committee.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY19-059: Loan Order - Amend Order O-FY19-041: Loan Order - Elm Street Project
Mr. Dutton explained; they now have more refined cost estimates and the new order reflects that. He reminded all that just because we appropriate \$7.5MM, does not mean we spend the full appropriation.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chase.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if the \$7.5MM is contained within the DIF? Mr. Dutton confirmed that was correct.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

- Order O-FY19-060: Order of Taking - Property on Elm Street

Mr. Dutton explained; this is a friendly taking. He has been in discussions with National Grid. This is the beginning of the process and there is no need to refer this.

Vice President George asked the Council Clerk to schedule a public hearing accordingly.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to ask the Council Clerk to schedule a hearing on the 25th. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

- Order O-FY19-061: Transfer Order - Notice of Intent - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

Mr. Dutton explained; this is the beginning of the expenses we'll have to incur as a result of the new regulations and will fund the consultant.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

- Order O-FY19-062: Transfer Order - Funding for Clearing Out Town Hall and Highway Barn

Mr. Dutton explained; this will accomplish removal of dividers on the second floor of Town Hall. It will also help pay for final removal of items from Spring Street garage.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

- Order O-FY19-063: Transfer Order - FY19 End of Year Transfers

Mr. Dutton explained; this is for standard end of year transfers. He noted the Recreation transfer for \$17,000 will be encumbered for the Park Steward. They will be coming up with a more extensive plan.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to take orders 064 – 071 all as one. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Dutton explained; these easements are for drainage or retention structures.

- Order O-FY19-064: Accept Permanent Easement - Elm Street

This measure was not referred to any committee.

- Order O-FY19-065: Accept Permanent Easement - Elm Street

This measure was not referred to any committee.

- Order O-FY19-066: Accept Permanent Easement - Elm Street

This measure was not referred to any committee.

- Order O-FY19-067: Accept Permanent Easement - Elm Street

This measure was not referred to any committee.

- Order O-FY19-068: Accept Permanent Easement - Elm Street

This measure was not referred to any committee.

- Order O-FY19-069: Accept Permanent Easement - Elm Street



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 4, 2019

This measure was not referred to any committee.

- Order O-FY19-070: Accept Permanent Easement - Elm Street

This measure was not referred to any committee.

- Order O-FY19-071: Accept Permanent Easement - Elm Street

This measure was not referred to any committee.

- Order O-FY19-072: Transfer Order – Elm Street Land Taking

Mr. Dutton explained; this transfer funds the earlier order of taking with \$11,000.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rushton.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons: No comments.
- Councilor Colombotos: Reminded all to stop by the Senior Center for the Comprehensive Master Plan Workshop tomorrow.
- Councilor Losche: Absent
- Councilor Rushton: Congratulated School District on the High School graduation activities and events.
- Councilor Wood: Reminded all that the Finance Committee has the ability to go in and look at things like Tailings.
- Councilor Chase: Congratulated all graduates and their families. He also encouraged all to attend the Comprehensive Master Plan Workshop and spoke about the past workshop which was very well run. He reminded all that Thursday 6/6, the Planning Board will hear Solar Farm project.
- Councilor Sousa: Spoke about Comprehensive Master Plan Workshop.
- Councilor Gallagher: Absent
- Councilor George: Echoed previous comments about the Comprehensive Master Plan Workshop. Mr. George suggested citizens educate themselves on things we do have control over. He reminded all that 6/6 is Music Alley's opening night and that there are multiple events over the next few weeks for the 4th of July committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Chase. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rushton.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Minutes submitted in by: Ann Holmberg

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (7-0-2) (Councilors Losche and Gallagher abstained).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk