



### **CALL TO ORDER:**

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President William Rivers called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:32 pm, on May 19, 2015 at BTV Studios, 80 Spring Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

### **PRESENT:**

Council members present were, Sandra Wright, Peter Colombotos, William Wood (arriving at 8:34 p.m.), Kevin Perry, William Rivers, Aisha Losche, John Norris, , Dennis Gallagher and Timothy Fitzgibbons. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Mark Gildea were also present.

**ABSENT:** *No Councilors were absent*

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

- Robert Fernandes
- Thomas Buckley
- Richard Lawrence
- David Baker

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

### **PROCLAMATIONS -**

- Caitlin Pestana

Captain Elder of the Fire Department offered a proclamation recognizing Caitlin Pestana for going above and beyond.

### **CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – *No citizens came forward.***

### **APPOINTMENTS –**

- Martha Shionis – Housing Authority

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Dutton explained the makeup of Housing Authority, which used to be a five member board. One member is appointed by the Governor. The remaining appointees are appointed by the Town Manager and approved by Council. One of the seats is to be held by a resident of the Housing Authority.  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

- Lorraine Carrozza – Housing Authority

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Dutton explained he is generally not inclined to appoint employees to boards/committees. However this case would be an exception because this is such a good fit with the Council on Aging and this seat. Mr. Dutton may propose designating a seat for Director of Elder Affairs.  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

- Judy Wilson – Housing Authority

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Dutton spoke on Mrs. Wilson's behalf highlighting her experience and qualifications. Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked all the appointees for their willingness to serve.  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

### **HEARINGS -**

- 7:40 p.m., Petition #P-2015-009: Pole Location - Main St. Pole #17-84  
President Rivers opened the hearing at 7:42 p.m.  
President Rivers asked the presenter to come forward.



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Ricardo Maldonado came forward and explained the details of the project, noting, they will be installing a pole and an anchor which will support pole #17.

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

President Rivers asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None came forward.

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

President Rivers entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Perry noted the property owners had a concern that pole may be placed right in front of their walkway. He is hoping both parties will come to an agreement. Councilor Fitzgibbons stated there had been a similar situation on South Street; National Grid was more than willing to work with the property owner. At Councilor Wright's request, Mr. Maldonado confirmed there were no safety issues.

President Rivers closed the hearing at 7:47 p.m.

**Motion:** A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wright. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.

**Discussion:** Councilor Perry stated as long as there is a mutual agreement with the homeowner, he has no problem with this petition.

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

Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wood – YEA; Perry – YEA; Rivers – YEA; Losche – YEA; Norris – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

- 7:42 p.m., Petition #P-2015-010: Pole Location - Oak St., Pole #1

President Rivers opened the hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Mr. Maldonado explained the project and the streets affected. On Oak Street will be relocating the pole 10 feet northeast, still in the public way.

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

President Rivers asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None came forward.

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

President Rivers entertained any questions from councilors:

- At Councilor Norris' request, Mr. Maldonado explained they typically we fill it in and compact the vacated hole, and they'd like to see it completed before the end of summer.

President Rivers closed the hearing at 7:51 p.m.

**Motion:** A motion to approve was made by Councilor Norris. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.

**Discussion:** None

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Norris – YEA; Losche – YEA; Rivers – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – NOT PRESENT; Colombotos – YEA; Wright - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

- 7:45 p.m., Petition #P-2015-011: Pole Location - Main St. & Union St.

President Rivers opened the hearing at 7:51 p.m.

President Rivers read the address on the petition. Mr. Maldonado explained this corner is a particular problem.

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

President Rivers asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None came forward.

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

President Rivers entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Perry noted it seems this is very close to the Credit Union and asked if there will be any tree removal. Mr. Maldonado responded he didn't know yet if any will be taken down, but they do their own tree trimming.



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President Rivers closed the hearing at 7:54 p.m.

**Motion:** A motion to approve was made by Councilor Norris. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wood – NOT PRESENT; Perry – YEA; Rivers – YEA; Losche – YEA; Norris – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

- 7:47 p.m., Petition #P-2015-011: Pole Location - Union St. Pole #16-84

President Rivers opened the hearing at 7:54 p.m.

President Rivers Read the location. Mr. Maldonado explained the location and that they will be installing a sub pole and a sidewalk anchor.

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

President Rivers asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None came forward.

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

President Rivers entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Perry asked if there will be any obstructions with the pole to the property owner or to the sidewalk. Mr. Maldonado responded, no.

President Rivers closed the hearing at 7:56 p.m.

**Motion:** A motion to approve was made by Councilor Norris. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.

**Discussion:** None

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Norris – YEA; Losche – YEA; Rivers – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – NOT PRESENT; Colombotos – YEA; Wright - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

- 7:50 p.m., Petition #P-2015-012: Pole Location - Pleasant St. Pole #2

President Rivers opened the hearing at 7:57 p.m.

President Rivers read the locations. Mr. Maldonado explained this road is curved which can be difficult. They will move the existing pole 4 feet from where it currently exists. Will remove the old and put in a ne. There's already an anchor.

President Rivers invited any questions from the public –

- Chris Oliver 275 Pleasant Street: Mr. Oliver asked if the pole moving up the street or into the yard? Mr. Maldonado responded, the pole is staying in the grassy area.

President Rivers asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None came forward.

President Rivers asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition – Mr. Frederic Philemond, 267 Pleasant Street.

Mr. Phillamone stated the pole is right next to window and he does not want it there, he wants it as is.

President Rivers entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilors Norris and Fitzgibbons asked questions about the proximity of the pole and potential wires to Mr. Philemond's home. Mr. Maldonado confirmed the pole the pole is probably 100 feet from his house and they would be installing wires to his property. Councilor Fitzgibbons noted he would like to see them work with the property owner if you're going to put things on his property.
- President Rivers noted this matter can be postponed if the Council sees fit. Councilor Norris confirmed with Mr. Maldonado that postponing would not be a detriment.
- Councilor Perry requested pictures be included when this comes before the council the next time.

President Rivers closed the hearing at 8:06 p.m.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Norris to postpone to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.



A voice vote was taken and the motion to postpone passed 8-0.

#### **LICENSE TRANSACTIONS**

- Petition #P-2015-013: Common Victualler's License – QNB Foods, Incorporated dba Tedeschi Food Shops #374  
**Motion:** A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.  
**Discussion:** None  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.  
**Motion:** A motion to take agenda item M: Old Business out of order was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

#### **OLD BUSINESS (*Taken out of order*)**

- Ordinance #D-2015-006: An Ordinance Amended and Codifying A Flood Plain Ordinance for the Town of Bridgewater (*Taken out of order.*)  
It was noted this was unanimously approved by the Planning Board and Community & Economic Development Committee.  
**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to send to advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.  
**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to take agenda item N: New Business out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.  
**Discussion:** None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

#### **NEW BUSINESS (*Taken out of order*)**

- Order #O-2015-016: Authorization of Revolving Funds (*Town Manager*)  
**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.  
**Discussion:** None  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
- Order #O-2015-017: Library Contract Ratification (*Town Manager*)  
**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.  
**Discussion:** None  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
- Transfer #T-2015-009: High Street Water Treatment Pilot Study (*Town Manager*)  
A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.  
**Discussion:** None  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
- Transfer #T-2015-010: Vernon Street Rock Well 10 Day Pumping Test (*Town Manager*)  
A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.  
**Discussion:** None  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
- Resolution #R-2015-003: A Resolution Urging the State of Massachusetts to Adopt a Plastic Bag Policy (*Councilor Colombotos*)  
This measure was withdrawn by the proponent.



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- Order #O-2015-018: FY15 Capital Plan (*Town Manager*)

A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.

**Discussion:** None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

**PRESENTATIONS -**

- FY16 Budget Presentation

Mr. Dutton walked through a presentation on the FY16 budget. Items of note included:

The original budget request was roughly 2MM over projected revenues. Some Issues came to light about the FY15 budget. Essentially, we didn't account for \$379,000 in Snow & Ice and the General Fund budget was voted without identifying a funding source for several items. We had to make that up on the recap sheet, which we did. We could have come back to the council to revote, but there wasn't sufficient time. Mr. Dutton thinks we're fine moving forward. Mr. Dutton noted FY16 challenges – as Snow & Ice deficit is at \$810,000, however we will be reimbursed by at least \$100,000 with FEMA reimbursement and can spread the remaining debt over 3 years. That is not Mr. Dutton's preference, though given the financial constraints, he will do that. Mr. Dutton noted that General Fund Free Cash was certified at \$789,218. He then briefly updated on the general conditions of the town. Mr. Dutton also briefly spoke about the newly voted rooms tax explaining; we don't estimate rooms tax revenues until we have one full year of receipts under our belt, probably not FY16 or FY17. Revenues from building permits have exploded. They estimated \$316,000, but the actual is \$520,000, which has good implications for new growth. They have seen an increase in Planning Board fees. General fund spending will be \$49,124,000, which is just over 1% from FY15. Mr. Dutton noted cost drives as; contractual obligations, pension assessment. Bridgewater-Raynham Regional assessment is 2.8% over last year, and the snow & ice deficit. Mr. Dutton will look to present a balanced budget to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee on 6/1/15. Mr. Dutton then explained excluded debt is debt that the public votes to exclude from proposition 2 ½. Bridgewater-Regional School District excluded debt came off as well as one of the elementary schools and noted with new growth comes some expense. Finally, Mr. Dutton noted future opportunities as improve business climate. Bridgewater State University – it's critical for us to have a good working relationship with them. We need to look to them to partner with them cooperatively. We will continue to look for grant funding, leverage technologies and continue to be diligent on collective bargaining.

*\*8:34 p.m. – Councilor Wood entered the meeting.*

**Council Questions:**

Mr. Dutton answered several questions from Councilors, which included: Councilor Fitzgibbons stated we shouldn't get the math wrong. Councilor Gallagher asked if in the FY16 budget are there any layoffs and how many new positions are created in FY16? Mr. Dutton responded in FY16 will not include layoffs, but we may slow down on new hiring. Councilor Norris asked if the Building Growth includes businesses plus houses. Mr. Dutton responded that number included all permits. President Rivers noted for the public that in FY15, we didn't make the stabilization transfer we said we were making. Mr. Dutton responded we can make the transfer. There's no date requirement.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: Highlighting several projects being processed by the Building Office; who provided Mr. Dutton with list of projects (Academy Building, Hotel and a number of smaller commercial projects, a number of new businesses. Dry Zone Basements, Spier Wellness, Perriwinkles Consignments, also closing out 2 solar projects.)

*\*8:43 p.m., Councilor Fitzgibbons left meeting.*

Mr. Dutton spoke at the Murray-Needs event which was a good opportunity to thank Trust for Public Lands and the Murray's and Needs'. We are working to get gas to Elm Street, but the street needs replacing. The Town Manager's office is recruiting to fill the Town Accountant, but Eric Krishneff is the interim Town Accountant until the position is filled. Mr. Dutton provided an update on the Mitchell School Roof collapse, noting the District has engaged a public



adjuster to evaluate contents. He anticipates asking the same adjuster to do structural review, as well, after procurement. Mr. Dutton will be participating in any school building meetings. Finally, the Town Manager provided an explanation on the Calthrop closing timing, noting the settlement required Mr. D'Emilia to close in 100 days, which brought the date to 5/26.

*\*8:51 p.m. Councilor Fitzgibbons returned to the meeting.*

#### **Councilor Questions:**

Questions from councilors included:

Councilor Wood asked about the condition of the street sweeper. Mr. Dutton responded he was unsure, but would look into it. Mr. Wood also asked about the graffiti on the Old Bowling Alley. Mr. Dutton has written to the owners asking that they remove the graffiti; he will follow up again. Mr. Dutton noted the Vacant & Abandoned Properties Ordinance only covers residential properties at this point. Finally, Councilor Wood asked if Skips Liquors had pulled a permit yet. Mr. Dutton responded they had not pulled any permits yet, though they had called. Mr. Dutton reminded the Council they had the option to revoke. Councilor Norris requested a list of streets being repaired. Mr. Dutton stated the Highway Superintendent is the process of identifying roads for repair, will update council once he has it. At Councilor Perry's request, Mr. Dutton gave a brief update on the High Street light stating his understanding was the contractor wanted to wait until the college let out. Now that college is out, he will follow up. Councilor Rivers noted he feels we've been a little misdirected by Skips Liquors and would like to see movement on that sooner rather than later. He also asked, regarding the Town Accountant, if we do exit interviews. Mr. Dutton responded; we always do them. Mr. Rivers also asked to get a timeline on having the Auditor do a presentation and finally noted he has seen an increase in truck traffic on High Street, asking if we can post a tonnage sign or something. Mr. Dutton responded regarding High Street; he believes there has to be a structural reason to post such a sign. Councilor Colombotos requested a list of liquor license holders who are in violation to remain consistent. He also requested an update on the Wage & Personnel study. Mr. Dutton stated he should have the study by the end of the month.

#### **DISCUSSIONS - None**

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Budget & Finance: President Rivers noted he has provided a document with proposed Council Committees, stating if any Councilor has objections, please let Mr. Rivers know. The Budget & Finance Committee met jointly with the Finance Committee last week. They discussed the Police Department contract, but postponed ratification on that pending clarification on vacation time.

#### **LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** – *No citizens came forward.*

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Councilor Wright: Thanked Caitlin Pestana and the Housing Authority volunteers. Mrs. Wright also thanked Mike White.
- Councilor Colombotos: Nothing
- Councilor Wood: Went to National Honor Society awards earlier this evening, noting all the new building that's going on right now looks wonderful, but the residents in those homes will need services.
- Councilor Perry: Echoed Councilor Wright's sentiments, thanking Caitlin Pestana. Dr Perry offered deepest condolences to families of veterans who were lost.
- Councilor Losche: Reminded all about State Amendment #755 to help with Alzheimer's Education. Mrs. Losche encouraged all to take a look and write your State Representative.
- Councilor Norris: None
- Councilor Gallagher: Reminded and encouraged residents about Memorial Day.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked Ron Emma for donating 10% of proceeds tonight to the Animal Control Officer.
- Councilor Rivers: Echoed Councilor Gallagher's sentiments for Memorial Day. Thanked Gail Arrighi for a successful 5K for Schools on Wheels. Mr. Rivers thanked the Bruno's employee who cleaned the graffiti off the old bowling alley as best she could. Thanked Housing Authority volunteers, noting we will have 2 openings on the Finance Committee.



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**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – *No Executive Session was held.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.  
Minutes submitted 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 23, 2015, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a voice vote (8-0) (Councilor Wood absent).**

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

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Ann M. Holmberg  
Town Council Clerk