



Town of Bridgewater

Finance Committee

June 2, 2025

7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

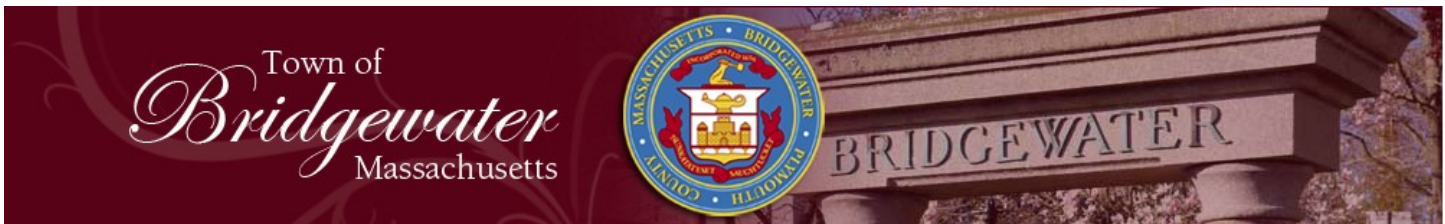
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82541996011>

Meeting ID: 825 4199 6011

MEETING AGENDA

Disclosure: Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2020, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, and the June 30, 2027, extension granted by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance is permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Zoom.

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) May 19th, 2025
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Old Business**
- E. New Business**
 - a) Order O-FY25-063: Acceptance of Gift - Bridgewater Police Association
 - b) Order O-FY25-065: Acceptance of a Grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
 - c) Order O-FY25-066: Transfer Order - Flag Pole Returning Funds to One Time Stabilization Fund
 - d) Order O-FY25-067: End of Year Transfers
 - e) General Ordinance D-FY25-020: Adoption of Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 ("HERO Act")
- F. Additional Items for Discussion**
- G. Adjournment of Meeting**



Town of Bridgewater Finance Committee

MEETING MINUTES

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) May 2nd, 2025

Derek Bennett motioned to approve the May 2nd meeting minutes which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment

D. Old Business

E. New Business

a) Order O-FY25-060: Capital Plan Transfers for FY2026

This transfer will fund Capital leasing/financing obligations in FY2026.

Riggobert Noel motioned to approve O-FY25-060 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

b) Order O-FY25-061: Contractual Buyouts

Contractual Buyouts for Retirements FY25/FY26.

Rigobert Noel motioned to recommend O-Fy25-061 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

c) Order O-FY25-062: Loan Authorization: Plymouth Street Wells Project

The DPW/Water Supply Division has been experiencing elevated levels of iron in the groundwater at Wells 10A and 10B. In June 2023, the Water Supply Dept began receiving significant customer complaints regarding the watercolor and staining. Since the introduction of the High Street WTP, the Department has also had difficulties running the wells and overcoming the increase in system head from the WTP operation. Replacing the pumps for wells 10A and 10B and installing a new raw water transmission main that connects these two wells with the High Street water treatment plant-this will recover lost supply capacity and will allow for an easier accommodation of the upcoming USEPA MCL for PFAS without needing to add separate treatment at the Plymouth Well site. This project is approved for low interest, and/or loan

forgiveness, through MCWT. The Town is actively seeking grant funds from the state in the One-Stop Community Growth program.

Matthew Lyford motioned to recommend O-FY25-062 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- d) Budget Order O-FY26-006: CPA Reserve Accounts - FY2026
Vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2026 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$1,035,000 to meet the administrative expenses, and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

Rigobert Noel motioned to recommend O-FY26-006 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Additional Items for Discussion

G. Adjournment of Meeting

Hayley Bacewicz motioned to adjourn at 7:35 pm which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025
First Reading: 5/20/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-063: Acceptance of Gift - Bridgewater Police Association

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled vote to

WHEREAS: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53A, states as follows: “An officer ... of any city or town ... may accept grants or gifts of funds from ... from the commonwealth ... or an agency thereof, ... and may expend such funds for the purposes of such grant or gift ... with the approval of the city manager and city council...;” and

WHEREAS: The Town of Bridgewater has received a gift from the Bridgewater Police Association for \$1,850 to support the mission of the Bridgewater Veteran's Office. Now, therefore, in accordance with Chapter 44, §53A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Council votes to take the following action:

ORDERED that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to accept the gift and to expend the gift in accordance with stated purpose thereof.

Explanation:

The Bridgewater Police Association are donating funds to support the mission of the Bridgewater Veteran's Office and the funds are to be used at the discretion of the Veteran's Agent.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

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Attachments: 1. Veterans Donation 5-5-2025 (signed)



Town of Bridgewater Veteran's Council

Municipal Office Building
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0908

May 5, 2025

Town Council (Attn: Deb Ward)
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 2025

Dear Mrs. Ward,

I am requesting Town Council acceptance of a donation of \$1,850.00 from the Bridgewater Police Association. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the Veteran's Agent to support the mission of the Bridgewater Veteran's Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gregory Martin", is written over a light-colored background.

Gregory Martin
Bridgewater Veteran's Services Officer



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025
First Reading: 5/20/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-065: Acceptance of a Grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled vote to

WHEREAS: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53A, states as follows: “An officer ... of any city or town ... may accept grants or gifts of funds from ... from the commonwealth ... or an agency thereof, ... and may expend such funds for the purposes of such grant or gift ... with the approval of the city manager and city council...;” and

WHEREAS: The Town of Bridgewater has received notice of a grant award of \$40,000 from the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs for the Open Space and Recreation Plan proposal it submitted to the 2025 round of the Planning Assistance Grant Program.

Now, therefore, in accordance with Chapter 44, §53A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Council votes to take the following action:

ORDERED that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to accept and to expend the grant in accordance with stated purpose thereof.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

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Attachments: 1. Bridgewater 2025 Planning Grant Award

ATTACHMENT A - SCOPE OF SERVICES AND ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

INSTRUCTIONS: In order to ensure that the Department and the Contractor have a clear understanding of their respective responsibilities and performance expectations, the Following attachment shall contain a specific detailed description of all obligations, responsibilities and additional terms and conditions between the Contractor and the Department which do not modify the Contract boilerplate language. *Attach as many additional pages as necessary.* {See INSTRUCTIONS sheet for more information and suggested provisions to include in ATTACHMENT A.}

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) hereby grants the Town of Bridgewater \$40,000 for the Open Space and Recreation Plan proposal it submitted to the 2025 round of the Planning Assistance Grant Program. The submitted proposal is attached; the scope of work and budget contained within are hereby included in this contract by reference.

General Conditions:

- EEA funds must be utilized by June 30, 2026 and documentation regarding their use, along with final billing, is to be received no later than August 1, 2026;
- This contract terminates on June 30, 2026. Any contract amendment, including extensions, will be at the sole discretion of EEA;

- The grantee will credit EEA as a funding source in an written deliverable produced as a result of this project;
- The grantee will document the expenditure of any matching funds committed;
- The grantee will submit an electronic copy of any deliverable to EEA; and
- The grantee agrees to notify EEA about the outcomes that result from this project.

ATTACHMENT B - BUDGET AND APPROVED EXPENDITURES

{The Department and Contractor may complete this format or attach an approved alternative Budget format or invoice.}

Items identified below which are not part of the Contract should be left blank.

Attach as many additional copies of this format as necessary, Maximum obligation should appear as last entry.

Contract Expenditures	Unit Rate (per unit, hour, day)	Number of Units	Other Fees or Charges (specify)	TOTAL
Planning Grant				\$20,000 (FY25)
Planning Grant				\$20,000 (FY26)
SUBTOTAL (this page)				\$40,000

MAXIMUM OBLIGATION

\$40,000

Page 1 of 1 Budget pages

Attachment B is subject to any restrictions or additional provisions outlined in Attachment A



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025
First Reading: 5/20/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-066: Transfer Order - Flag Pole Returning Funds to One Time Stabilization Fund

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled vote to

Pursuant to Section 6-4 of the Town of Bridgewater Charter, that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to return \$25,000 to the Other One Time Stabilization Fund as per Town Manager per the below schedule:

<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>GL Account Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
INSTALLATION OF FLAGPOLE	10995990-596120	Transfer to OOTS Fund	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
Total:			\$25,000.00
<u>Use of Funds</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>GL Account Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Other One Time Stabilization Fund	80134-497002	Transfer from GF Capital Fund	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
Total			\$25,000.00

Explanation:

Funds being returned to Other One Time Stabilization Fund because the Historical District Commission voted to not allow this project to move forward.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025
First Reading: 5/20/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-067: End of Year Transfers

ORDERED; pursuant to Section 6-4 of the Town of Bridgewater Charter, that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to appropriate and transfer the amounts from below schedule Source of Funds to below schedule of Use of Funds:

Dept	Dept Description	Group	Amount
Source of Funds			
123	TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE	1-Salary/Wages/Benefits	(25,000.00)
132	FINANCE RESERVE FUND	2-Expenses	(60,000.00)
145	TREASURY-COLLECTOR'S	1-Salary/Wages/Benefits	(55,000.00)
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	1-Salary/Wages/Benefits	(20,000.00)
182	CED	1-Salary/Wages/Benefits	(30,000.00)
210	POLICE	1-Salary/Wages/Benefits	(100,000.00)
240	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES	1-Salary/Wages/Benefits	(75,000.00)
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	1-Salary/Wages/Benefits	(20,000.00)
	BR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT		
300	DEBT	2-Expenses	(69,000.00)
420	HIGHWAY	1-Salary/Wages/Benefits	(28,000.00)
424	STREET LIGHTING	2-Expenses	(75,000.00)
914	MDCR/HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE	1-Salary/Wages/Benefits	(100,000.00)
Source of Funds Total			(657,000.00)

Dept	Dept Description	Group	Amount
Use of Funds			
111	TOWN COUNCIL	1-Salary/Wage/Benefits	3,000.00
123	TOWN MANAGER	2-Expenses	25,000.00
151	LEGAL	1-Salary/Wage/Benefits	500.00
151	LEGAL	2-Expenses	100,000.00
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	2-Expenses	20,000.00
161	TOWN CLERK	1-Salary/Wage/Benefits	2,500.00
161	TOWN CLERK	2-Expenses	20,000.00
192	TOWN BUILDINGS	2-Expenses	100,000.00
220	FIRE	2-Expenses	30,000.00
220	FIRE	1-Salary/Wage/Benefits	250,000.00
301	BRISTOL AGRICULTURAL TUITION/TRANSPORTATION	2-Expenses	65,000.00
303	NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL TRANSPORTATION	2-Expenses	1,300.00
410	ENGINEERING	2-Expenses	3,500.00
543	VETERAN'S	2-Expenses	15,000.00
820	COUNTY ASSESSMENTS	2-Expenses	10,150.00
919	HUMAN RESOURCES -OTHR BENEFT	2-Expenses	500.00
945	LIABILITY INSURANCE	2-Expenses	10,550.00
Use of Funds Total			657,000.00

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025
First Reading: 5/20/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

General Ordinance D-FY25-020: Adoption of Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)

WHEREAS, the HERO Act provides for increased property tax exemptions to service-connected disabled veterans to further recognize and support their service; and

WHEREAS, Clause 22J of the Act authorizes municipalities to double current exemption amounts for disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater seeks to offer enhanced financial relief to those with service-connected disabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, the Town Council hereby adopts the following as a General Ordinance of the Town:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to adopt Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, in order to increase property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans beginning in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

SECTION 2: ADOPTION OF CLAUSE 22J – INCREASED EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Pursuant to Clause 22J, the Town of Bridgewater shall increase property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans by up to 50% of their current exemption amount, effective FY26.

- **Veterans with a 10%-90% disability rating** shall receive an exemption increase from \$400 to \$600.
- **Veterans with a 100% disability rating** shall receive an exemption increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
-

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION & ADMINISTRATION

- (a) The Bridgewater Board of Assessors shall be responsible for administering these exemptions.
- (b) Eligible veterans must meet existing requirements under G.L. c. 59, §5 and submit applications as required by the Bridgewater Assessor’s Office.
- (c) The Veterans’ Services Office shall confirm the eligibility of applicants under Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, or 22F.
- (d) The exemptions shall be reflected in the tax bills issued for the applicable fiscal year.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and approval as required by law and shall be applicable beginning Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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•	•

Attachments: None