



Town of Bridgewater
Budget & Finance Committee

June 3, 2025

6:00 PM

66 Central Square

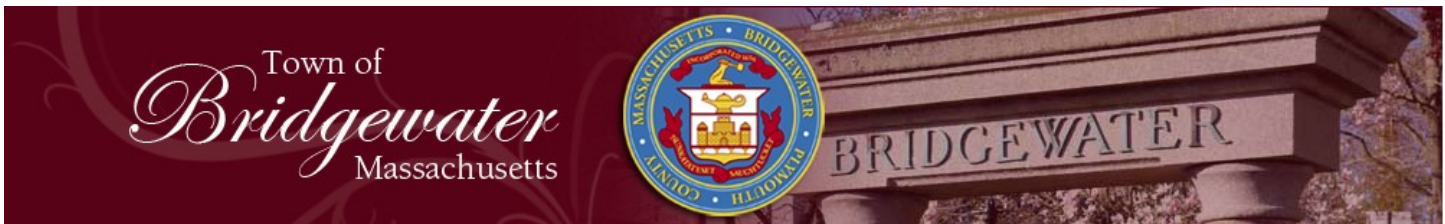
Academy Building

Conference Room 201A/2nd Floor

A quorum of the Town Council may be in attendance

MEETING AGENDA

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) May 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Legislation Referred**
 - 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")
- E. Discussion**
 - a) Expenditures/Reserves to Date
 - b) Roadways Plan
 - c) Water and Sewer Rate Study
 - d) Employee Liability
- F. Public Comment**
- G. Adjournment of Meeting**



Town of Bridgewater

Budget & Finance Committee

May 20, 2025

6:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Conference Room 201A/2nd Floor

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. The meeting took place in Conference Room 201A, 2nd Floor of the Academy Building.

Committee Members Present: Councilor McGrath, Councilor Loreti and Councilor Murphy.

Also in attendance was Town Manager Blythe Robinson and Ashley Pires, Comptroller.

Public Comment

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: noted that he was there for any questions regarding the CPC.

Legislation Referred

- a) Order O-FY25-060: Capital Plan Transfers for FY2026
Town Manager Robinson noted that this is a transfer request for 2026 vehicles.

Councilor McGrath asked how many more years were on the old High School purchase and Town Manager Robinson noted 7 years.

Councilor Murphy asked if these were all replacements and Ms. Pires noted that they were replacements, not new.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-060, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Loreti – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Murphy – Yea.
Motion passed 3-0

- b) Order O-FY25-061: Contractual Buyouts
Town Manager Robinson noted that this pertains to two firefighters and one library employee.

Councilor Loreti noted that these are previous contracts that have to be honored and Town Manager Robinson noted that it changed for those hired after 2019.

Councilor Murphy asked how much more liability does the town have for old contracts and Town Manager Robinson noted that they can get that information.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-061, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Loreti – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Murphy – Yea.
Motion passed 3-0

- c) Order O-FY25-062: Loan Authorization: Plymouth Street Wells Project
Town Manager Robinson noted that this is for Wells 10A and 10B, applied and approved by DEP for low interest loan and need approval in place by the end of June to stay on plan.

Councilor Murphy noted that he would like to look at Enterprise Funds by next meeting. Ms. Pires noted that reports are done monthly and posted on line.

Councilor McGrath asked how often the pumps changes and Town Manager Robinson noted that the wells are rehabbed but not the pumps.

Councilor Loreti asked when would the bids start on the \$7.5M estimate. Town Manager Robinson noted that they would start by the end of the year, currently in the survey, design phase.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-062, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Loreti – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Murphy – Yea.
Motion passed 3-0

- d) Budget Order O-FY26-006: CPA Reserve Accounts - FY2026

Councilor Murphy asked how long the Academy Building had left.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to suspend the Town Council rules and allow Carlton Hunt to speak. This was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Loreti – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Murphy – Yea.
Motion passed 3-0

A discussion was had with Mr. Hunt regarding the academy building and Keith Homestead.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Budget Order O-FY26-006, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Loreti – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Murphy – Yea.
Motion passed 3-0

Discussion

a) **Future Meeting Structure**

Councilor Murphy noted that it would be good to have Finance give a quick overview to Town Council once a month, council will come up with a narrative.

Councilor McGrath asked if the override goes through, would the council do a resolution for the \$500k to Roadways. Town Manager Robinson noted that it would be a good thing to add to the Budget Resolution each year.

Councilor Loreti asked how do we maintain the \$500k each year with different councils, need to be proactive on getting roads repaired.

Councilor Murphy noted it would be good to have current debt exclusions and when they end.

Town Manager Robinson noted that when a project ends you could do a new debt exclusion with no impact to the taxpayers as they would just continue to pay the same amount.

Town Manager Robinson also noted that there is one more year on the contract with Roselli Clark so maybe look for new audit firm.

Councilor Murphy asked for a copy of the audit contract. Ms. Pires noted that she would send them a copy.

Public Comment

- Mark Linde: noted that the sewer study went up 50% last year after years of no rate increases. Town Manager Robinson noted that if the Enterprise Fund cannot fund then the General Fund would have to pay.
- Adelene Ellenberg: asked if the Enterprise funds for roads comes from builders. Town Manager Robinson noted that you cannot have an enterprise fund for roadways but you could take free cash and set up roadway stabilization fund.

Adjournment of Meeting

Councilor Loreti made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Loreti – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Murphy – Yea.
Motion passed 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.



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 black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Martin", is written over a horizontal line.

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.
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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