



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

June 26, 2025

7:00 PM

Special Town Council Meeting

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chamber - Second Floor

The Town Council meeting is being streamed Live via You Tube.

Go to the Town of Bridgewater Facebook Page for the link.

MEETING AGENDA

Due to Massachusetts Open Meeting Law requirements, discussions will not take place during Public Comment periods. If appropriate, responses to questions and concerns will be given by the Town Manager at a future Town Council meeting.

A. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT

B. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

C. APPOINTMENTS

- a) TIF Ad Hoc Oversight Committee for 60-86 Broad Street:
 - 1. Dan Greenberg
 - 2. Fred Chase

D. DISCUSSIONS

- a) Town Fiscal Outlook: FY26 Budget, School District Assessment and Override Implications
Discussion to include the Bridgewater-Raynham School District budget, the recent override vote, and overall FY26 municipal revenues and expenditures.

E. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Order O-FY25-068: United Steel Workers Bargaining Contract Ratification
Budget & Finance meeting 6/26/25. Finance Committee voted 5-0 at their 6/23/25 meeting.
- b) Order O-FY25-069: United Steel Workers Collective Bargaining Appropriation Transfer
Budget & Finance meeting 6/26/25. Finance Committee voted 5-0 at their 6/23/25 meeting.
- c) Order O-FY25-070: Non-Union Affiliated Positions Appropriation Transfer
Budget & Finance meeting 6/26/25. Finance Committee voted 5-0 at their 6/23/25 meeting.
- d) Order O-FY25-072: Acceptance of Donation - Oliari Charitable Foundation Bridgewater Public Library
Budget & Finance meeting 6/26/25. Finance Committee voted 5-0 at their 6/23/25 meeting.

- e) Order O-FY25-073: Town Clerk's Salary
Budget & Finance meeting 6/26/25. Finance Committee voted 5-0 to take no action at their 6/23/25 meeting.

F. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution R-FY25-014: A Resolution Requesting an Independent Operational and Financial Review of the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District

G. CITIZEN COMMENTS

H. COUNCIL COMMENTS

I. ADJOURNMENT



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 6/3/2025
First Reading: 6/3/2025
Second Reading: 6/17/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 6/26/2025
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-068: United Steel Workers Bargaining Contract Ratification

ORDERED, in accordance with section 4-2 (15) of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, that the Town Council assembled vote to approve the negotiated agreement covering July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 with the United Steel Workers Local 9517 Unit 04 (Unit A & B).

Explanation:

The Town Manager negotiated an agreement with the United Steel Workers Local 9517 Unit 04 (Unit A & B). An affirmative vote of the Council will approve the contract as presented. A concurrent transfer request will fund the appropriation thereof.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
Budget & Finance	Meeting 6/23/24
Finance Committee	6/23/25: voted 5-0 to recommend.

Attachments: 1. USW AB Signed MOU 5.27.25

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER AND
UNITED STEEL WORKERS LOCAL 9517 UNIT 04 (UNIT A & B)
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT**

***WHEREAS,** the Town of Bridgewater ("Town") and the United Steel Worker's Local 04-9517 Unit A and Bn("Union") have met in good faith and agreed to a successor collective bargaining agreement, pursuant to G.L. c. 150E, subject to ratification by both parties.*

***NOW THEREFORE,** the parties have agreed to the following changes to the collective bargaining agreement:*

1. Article 1 – Effective Date

- a. Update CBA duration to reflect a three (3) term of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027.

2. Article 4 – Union Dues and Agency Fee

- a. Change address from "PO BOX 400041" to "60 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburg, PA 15222."

3. Article 12 - Wages

Effective 7.1.24 – 2% retroactive COLA increase to all base wages

- i. Effective 7.1.24 – 2.5% retroactive COLA increase to base wages in Step 12 (this is in addition to the 2% COLA increase to all steps for a total Step 12 increase of 4.5%)
- ii. Effective 7.1.25 – 2% COLA increase to all base wages
- iii. Effective 7.1.26 – 2% COLA increase to all base wages

4. Article 15 – Holidays

- a. Add Juneteenth as an enumerated paid holiday.

5. Article 16 – Vacations

The current language of Article 16 shall be removed and replaced with the following:

Vacation leave shall be based upon an employee's years of service with the Town of Bridgewater and shall be issued at the following rates:

Years of Service	Vacation Time In Hours
1 – 4	80
5 – 9	120
10 – 14	160
15 – 19	200
20	216
21	232
22 or more	240

Employees shall not be eligible to accrue or use vacation leave during their probationary period. On the first pay period after the expiration/conclusion of an employee's probationary period, the employee shall be credited with the one (1) year employee vacation time pro-rated from the employee's date of hire to December 31.

Effective January 1, 2025, vacation leave shall be issued in full on January 1 of each year, to be used within the calendar year. Employees who have accrued vacation time as of December 31 may carry over up to forty (40) hours into the following year. Any carried over vacation time must be used by July 1, or it will be forfeited.

During the calendar year, if an employee's anniversary would satisfy the Years of Service requirement for a higher tier of vacation time, the employee shall be issued a pro-rated value of the difference of the higher tier vacation time and the value of vacation time issued on January 1 on the first pay period after the employee's anniversary. For example, if an employee had an anniversary of July 1, and was in their ninth year of service on January 1, they would be issued 120 hours of vacation time on January 1. On the July 1 following that vacation accrual, the employee would enter their tenth year of employment, elevating them to a new tier of vacation time. The employee would then be credited with twenty (20) hours of vacation time on their first pay period after July 1 (the pro-rated annual value of the 40 hours difference between the 5-9 and 10-14 year vacation time accruals). Thereafter, On the following January 1, the employee would have ten (10) years of service and be credited with the 160 hours of vacation time.

Any employee who has accrued vacation time on December 31, shall be permitted to carryover up to forty (40) hours of vacation time. This carried over vacation time shall expire on July 1.

Scheduling

1. Employees must request and seek approval for the use of any vacation leave.
2. Senior employees will be given preference when scheduling vacations.
3. If a Holiday falls within a vacation period sought by an employee, a vacation day will not be used during the holiday.
4. Employees shall be issued compensation for any unused accrued vacation time upon the employee's termination, retirement, resignation, and/or death.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Union and the Town, by their authorized representatives, have set their hands to this Memorandum of Understanding on this 27 day of May 2025.

For the
TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

Blythe C. Per

Laurie Guerin

Carolyn Weir

For the
United Steel Workers Local 04-9517 Units A&B

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
Van Holmberg



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 6/3/2025
First Reading: 6/3/2025
Second Reading: 6/17/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 6/26/2025
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-069: United Steel Workers Collective Bargaining Appropriation Transfer

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 from below schedule Source of Funds to below schedule Use of Funds:

Description: settlement of United Steel Workers Local 9517 Unit 04 (Unit A & B) Contract FY25-FY27

<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>GL Account Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Other One Time Stabilization Fund	80135-596100	TRANSFER TO GF	\$ 61,392.00
WTR Reserved for Special Purpose	6200-358000	TRANSFER TO EF	\$ 3,131.00
SWR Reserved for Special Purpose	6100-358000	TRANSFER TO EF	\$ 3,131.00
Total:			\$ 67,654.00
<u>Use of Funds</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>GL Account Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salaries Assessor	01415001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 2,865.00
Salaries Treasury/Collecting	01455001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 9,775.00
Salaries IT/Technology	01555001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 3,759.00
Salaries Town Clerk	01615001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 3,481.00

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Salaries CED	01825001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 5,361.00
Salaries Inspectional Services	02405001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$10,560.00
Salaries Engineering	04105001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 7,665.00
Salaries Highway	04205001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 2,604.00
Salaries Health	05105001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 2,159.00
Salaries COA	05415001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 6,409.00
Salaries Veteran's Agent	05435001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 1,763.00
Salaries Recreation Director	06305001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 4,991.00
Salaries Water Superintendent	62005001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 3,131.00
Salaries Sewer Superintendent	61005001	Salary Contractual Pay	<u>\$ 3,131.00</u>
Total			\$67,654.00

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
Budget & Finance	Meeting 6/26/25
Finance Committee	6/23/25: voted 5-0 to recommend

Attachments: None

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 6/3/2025
First Reading: 6/3/2025
Second Reading: 6/17/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 6/26/2025
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-070: Non-Union Affiliated Positions Appropriation Transfer

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 from below schedule Source of Funds to below schedule Use of Funds to fund non-union affiliated positions:

<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>GL Account Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Other One Time Stabilization Fund	80135-596100	TRANSFER TO GF	\$ 38,279.00
Total:			\$ 38,279.00
<u>Use of Funds</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>GL Account Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salaries Town Council Clerk	01115001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 1,598.00
Salaries Town Manager Sp Assist	01235001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 1,598.00
Salaries Accounting/Payroll	01355001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 10,796.00
Salaries Treasury/Collection	01455001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 1,508.00
Salaries Human Resources	01525001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 4,224.00
Salaries Town Clerk	01615001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 2,085.00
Salaries Town Facilities	01925001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 1,789.00
Salaries Police Administration	02105001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 1,918.00
Salaries Fire Administration	02205001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 4,058.00
Salaries Engineering/DPW	04105001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 1,807.00
Salares Highway	04205001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 3,978.00
Salaries Library Director	06105001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 2,417.00
Salaries Recreation Admin	06305001	Salary Contractual Pay	\$ 503.00
Total			\$ 38,279.00

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
• Budget & Finance	• Meeting 6/26/25
• Finance Committee	• 6/23/25: Voted 5-0 to recommend

Attachments: None

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 6/17/2025
First Reading: 6/17/2025
Second Reading: 6/26/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-072: Acceptance of Donation - Oliari Charitable Foundation Bridgewater Public Library

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 Donation award from The Oliari Charitable Foundation for \$1,500 to the Bridgewater Public Library. 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.

Explanation

The Oliari Charitable Foundation, has graciously donated \$1,500 to the Bridgewater Public Library to fund the stipend for the Flora T. Little Fellowship program.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
Budget & Finance	Meeting 6/26/25

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

• Finance Committee	• 6/23/25: Voted 5-0 to recommend
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Attachments: 1. Oliari Donation Library Fellow

28 May 2025

Jed Phillips
Library Director
15 South Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Dear Mr. Phillips:

This letter is to attest that The Oliari Charitable Foundation is donating in the amount of \$1,500.00 to the Bridgewater Public Library to fund the library's Flora T. Little Fellowship. These funds are for this expressed purpose only.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danielle Oliari', with a long, flowing horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Danielle M Oliari
Board Chairperson
Oliari Charitable Foundation
Danielle.olari@cntdep.com



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 6/17/2025
First Reading: 6/17/2025
Second Reading: 6/26/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-073: Town Clerk's Salary

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled vote:

To set the Town Clerks Salary beginning July 1 2025 - at Grade 13, Step 2 \$44.6699 hourly. Annually \$93,270.71.

Explanation:

This sets the salary for the newly elected Town Clerk.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
Budget & Finance	Meeting 6/26/25
Finance Committee	6/23/25: Voted 5-0 to take no action.

Attachments: 1. FinCom Memo - Order O-FY25-073 - Town Clerk's Salary - 06.23.25

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Town of Bridgewater



Financial Committee

66 Central Square
Bridgewater MA 02324

MJ Spagone, Chairwoman

Joshua McGraw, Secretary
jmcgraw@bridgewaterma.org
(508) 697-0919

To: Johnny Loreti, President of the Town Council
From: MJ Spagone, Chairwoman
Cc: Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager

June 23, 2025

Re: Financial Committee Action on Order O-FY25-073: Town Clerk's Salary

Dear Mr. President:

At the recent meeting of the Bridgewater Financial Committee (FinCom), the membership voted to take no action on the abovementioned measure. However, the vote to take no action is hereby accompanied by the Committee's desire to see the Town Council take into further consideration the legislation's monetary stipulation with additional data inclusive of the following:

1. Comparable salaries of Town/City Clerks in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
2. Populations of Town/Cities used in the comparison for item 1.
3. Compensation policy structure of the comparable Town/City (i.e. Town Clerk reserves the right to seek salary increase, Town Council proposes salary increases, or salary is tied to the equivalent of other appointed/elected officials)

It is the Committee's sincere hope that with the recent override election's outcome in mind, the Town Council will have a more fulsome conversation regarding the Town Clerk's salary and seek to put Order O-FY25-0073 before us again for a final vote.

If you or members of the Town Council have any questions, I can be available at your earliest convenience to discuss the matter further

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle Spagone", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

MJ Spagone
Chairwoman, Financial Committee



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 6/26/2025
First Reading: 6/26/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Resolution R-FY25-014: A Resolution Requesting an Independent Operational and Financial Review of the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District

WHEREAS, the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District represents the largest recurring expenditure funded by the Town of Bridgewater; and

WHEREAS, the Bridgewater Town Council has a fiduciary responsibility to its residents to ensure that all public funds are allocated and managed in a manner that is sustainable, efficient, and aligned with community priorities; and

WHEREAS, recent trends in school budget growth, combined with constrained municipal revenues and a failed override, have underscored the need for a thorough evaluation of how educational resources are budgeted, deployed, and managed; and

WHEREAS, an independent third-party review would support transparency, identify areas for cost optimization, and help inform long-term planning by both the School Committee and Town Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bridgewater Town Council respectfully requests the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee commission an independent operational and financial review of the School District to include, but not be limited to:

- A review of budgeting procedures and forecasting accuracy;
- Staffing structure and personnel cost trends;
- Special education service delivery, out-of-district placements, and settlement practices;
- Central administration and overhead;
- Use and oversight of revolving funds and grant funding;
- Compliance with internal financial controls and procurement standards;
- Opportunities to align expenditures with long-term sustainability and student outcomes.
-

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this review be conducted by an experienced, independent firm under standards appropriate to financial and operational consulting engagements, and that findings be shared publicly to promote transparency and collaborative improvement.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Attachments: 1. School Finance Review Letter

Johnny Loreti
Councilor-At-Large
President

Mary McGrath
Councilor-At-Large
Vice President

Mark Linde
District 2 Councilor

Adelene Ellenberg
Councilor-At-Large

Town of Bridgewater

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL



Sonya Striggles
District 1 Councilor

Paul Murphy
Councilor-At-Large

Sean Kennedy
District 3 Councilor

Dr. Kevin Perry
Councilor-At-Large

Marilee Hunt
Councilor-At-Large

{Date}

Ms. Rachel King, Chair
Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee
166 Mt. Prospect Street
Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324

On behalf of the Bridgewater Town Council, I am writing to express our interest in working collaboratively to strengthen transparency, improve fiscal sustainability, and maintain the trust of the residents we jointly serve.

As you are well aware, the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District accounts for the largest share of the town's operating budget. With limited revenue growth and a recently failed override, our constituents are asking important questions about how resources are managed and how we ensure accountability without compromising educational quality.

To support this goal, the Town Council voted to formally request that the School Committee commission an independent operational and financial review of the District. The scope of this review would include internal budgeting procedures, personnel and special education costs, the use of revolving funds, compliance with financial controls, and any systemic issues contributing to structural deficits.

Such a review would not be a formal audit, but rather a consulting engagement under recognized standards to evaluate processes, detect inefficiencies, and identify practical opportunities for improvement. We believe the results could strengthen both public confidence and intergovernmental collaboration.

We would be glad to assist in scoping this review, identifying qualified firms, and ensuring alignment with community priorities. We hope you will view this proposal as an opportunity to lead with transparency, foresight, and fiscal discipline.

Sincerely,

Johnny Loreti
President, Bridgewater Town Council