



Town of Bridgewater
Budget & Finance Committee

April 14, 2025

7:00 PM

Joint Meeting with Budget & Finance and Finance Committee

66 Central Square
Academy Building
Council Chambers/2nd Floor

MEETING MINUTES

A quorum of the council may be in attendance.

Call to Order

Councilor Linde called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. The meeting took place in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor of the Academy Building.

Committee Members Present: Councilor McGrath, Councilor Chase and Councilor Linde. This was a joint meeting with the Finance Committee.

Also in attendance was Town Manager Blythe Robinson and Finance Director Laurie Guerrini.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – None

Public Comment

- Mark Peterson commented on meeting minutes being posted to the website.
- Carlton Hunt commented on the Hanson Farm Conservation restriction being considered.
- Michael Thomas made comments on the new flagpole and its expense to the town.
- Ashley Mallard commented on the override and the importance of school funding.
- Adelene Ellenberg commented on the upcoming override.
- Donna Jewell commented on a referred 5-year plan by Councilor Loreti.
- Sean Kennedy commented on a referred 5-year plan by Councilor Loreti.

Legislation Referred

- a) Order O-FY25-049: Order Approving a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement for the Development Project at 70-86 Broad Street

Councilor McGrath made a motion to withdraw Order O-FY25-049, which was duly seconded.

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

- b) Order O-FY25-050: Acceptance of Donation - Bridgewater Firefighter's Association
Councilor Chase made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-050, which was duly seconded.

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

- c) Order O-FY25-051: Transfer Order - Flag Pole
Councilor Chase made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-051, which was duly seconded.

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

- d) Order O-FY25-052: Acceptance of Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs MVP Grant for Hanson Farm Conservation Restriction Purchase
Councilor Chase made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-052, which was duly seconded.

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

- e) Order O-FY25-053: Acceptance of Grant - High Street Dam - Town River Restoration
Councilor Chase made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-053, which was duly seconded.

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

- f) Order O-FY25-054: Transfer Order - Conservation Easement/Restriction - Hanson's Farm
Councilor McGrath made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-054, which was duly seconded.

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

- g) Order O-FY25-055: Proposition 2 1/2 Ballot Question
Councilor Chase made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-055, which was duly seconded.

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

- h) Budget Order O-FY26-001: FY2026 Annual Town Budget
Councilor Chase made a motion to recommend Order O-FY26-001, which was duly seconded.

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

- i) Budget Order O-FY26-002: FY26 Water Enterprise Fund
Councilor McGrath made a motion to recommend Order O-FY26-002, which was duly seconded.

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

- j) Budget Order O-FY26-003: FY26 Sewer Enterprise Fund
Councilor Chase made a motion to recommend Order O-FY26-003, which was duly seconded.

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

- k) Budget Order O-FY26-004: FY26 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund
Councilor Chase made a motion to recommend Order O-FY26-004, which was duly seconded.

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

- l) Budget Order O-FY26-005: Authorization of Revolving Funds
Councilor Chase made a motion to recommend Order O-FY26-005, which was duly seconded.

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

Public Comment

- Sonya Striggles: commented on the proposed budget and override.
- Sean Kennedy: commented on the breakdown of the override.
- Tim Fitzgibbons: commented on the override and the budget.
- MJ Spagone: commented on the early adjournment of the FinCom meeting.
- Ashley Mallard: commented on the budget discussion.
- Adelene Ellenberg: commented on the budget proposal.

Adjournment of Meeting

Councilor Chase made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Budget & Finance Committee assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2025, to approve the aforementioned minutes.