



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 an Order 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.

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, June 3, 2025, to approve the aforementioned minutes.