



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 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, Finance Director Laurie Guerrini, Comptroller Ashley Pires and Chief Assessor Shelley McCauley.

Councilor Striggles and Councilor Ellenberg were also in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a) May 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Councilor McGrath made a motion to amend the meeting minutes to change "resolution" under Discussion a) to "order". This was duly seconded by Councilor Loreti.

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

Councilor Loreti made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 20, 2025 with the amendment, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

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

Public Comment - None

Legislation Referred

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

Councilor McGrath made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-063, which was duly seconded by Councilor Loreti.

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

- b) Order O-FY25-065: Acceptance of a Grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
Councilor McGrath noted that she could not find this information on the website and Town Manager Robinson noted that Shane O'Brien is responsible for updating the information.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-065, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

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

- c) Order O-FY25-066: Transfer Order - Flag Pole Returning Funds to One Time Stabilization Fund
Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-066, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

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

- d) Order O-FY25-067: End of Year Transfers
Town Manager Robinson noted that this is done annual to balance department budgets.

Finance Director Guerrini explained the lines items and why they were less and why some need more money (ie. Fire – large OT budget covering shifts).

Councilor Loreti asked if the replacement of 2 firefighters would lower the OT budget and Finance Director Guerrini noted that it would go down when fully staffed.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Order O-FY25-067, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

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

- e) General Ordinance D-FY25-020: Adoption of Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 ("HERO Act")
Councilor Loreti noted that this ordinance would not be approved in time for FY26 and would like to have the amount be 100% for FY27.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Scott Pitta to speak. This was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

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

Scott Pitta, Chief of Staff at MA Office of the Veteran Advocate showed an on-line tool that was created for each municipality and the value that veterans are to a community. In favor of this Ordinance, not all veterans will qualify. Numbers not adjusted for decades, part of the Hero Act.

Chief Assessor McCauley gave an update on how many exemptions were given last year and what was reimbursed by the State.

Town Manager Robinson noted that this is not budgeted for FY26.....

Councilor Loreti made a motion to continue Ordinance D-FY25-020, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

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

Councilor McGrath noted that the Town Council should hire an outside consultant for water study. Town Manager Robinson noted that the Town is currently using a water consultant. Finance Director Guerrini noted that there would be a water presentation at the 7/15 Town Council meeting.

Discussion

Councilor Murphy noted that he will be meeting with Town Manager Robinson and Finance Director Guerrini on these items and would put on the next agenda.

- a) Expenditures/Reserves to Date
- b) Roadways Plan
- c) Water and Sewer Rate Study
- d) Employee Liability

Public Comment – None

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: McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Murphy – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55p.m.

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.