



Town of Bridgewater Budget & Finance Committee

September 16, 2025

6:15 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Conference Room 201A/2nd Floor

MEETING MINUTES

A Quorum of the Town Council may be in attendance.

A. Call to Order

Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. 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 Justin Casanova-Davis and Finance Director Laurie Guerrini.

Councilor Linde and Councilor Ellenberg were also in attendance.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) August 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Loreti made a motion to approve the August 5, 2025 meeting minutes, 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. Public Comment - None

D. Legislation Referred

a) Order O-FY26-014: Transfer Order - CPC First Parish Unitarian Church Window Project

Finance Director Guerrini noted that this is an annual donation from a foundation in Brockton; have been donating every year for the past ten years. Donations must be spent on elders, no building expenses or salaries.

Councilor Murphy asked what the money was spent on last year and Ms. Guerrini noted that every year the Senior Center has to send a report but last year was for events, programs to assist the seniors. Valentine dances, dinners. Etc.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that in their letter they pointed out that we did not provide that for last year and it was noted that there was staffing changes and we notified them that it would be provided in the future.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Order O-FY26-014, 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-FY26-018: Acceptance of Donation – Howard Foundation

Ms. Guerrini noted that when money is donated to the Town the Town council has to accept it. This is money being donated to the parks and Recreation for a park bench in Stiles and Hart. The location will be provided.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that we do not have a bench policy but will make sure that benches that are put in place are uniform and will ask that the funds are donated and not the bench.

Councilor Loreti asked if there is a formal agreement between those that donate for benches and Ms. Guerrini noted that this is the first so not sure why we do not have something in place. Will be putting a policy in place going forward.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Order O-FY26-018, 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-FY26-019: Acceptance of Donation to Parks & Recreation Department - Ron Enos

Ms. Guerrini noted that when money is donating to the Town the Town council has to accept it. This is money being donated to the parks and Recreation for a park bench in Stiles and Hart. The location will be provided.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that we do not have a bench policy but will make sure that benches that are put in place are uniform and will ask that the funds are donated and not the bench.

Councilor Loreti asked if there is a formal agreement between those that donate for benches and Ms. Guerrini noted that this is the first so not sure why we do not have something in place. Will be putting a policy in place going forward.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Order O-FY26-019, 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) Order O-FY26-020: Acceptance of Gift - Bridgewater State University
Councilor Murphy noted that President Clark did a great presentation last meeting.

Ms. Guerrini noted that over the last 10 years BSU has donated approximately \$600K which is divided into thirds for Fire, Police and DPW.

Councilor Loreti made a motion to recommend Order O-FY26-020, 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.

E. Discussion

- a) G/L Report

Councilor Murphy noted that he has asked the Finance Director to share the general ledger to show where we are at.

Ms. Guerrini noted that typically in the beginning of the year they are working on closing the previous year and starting the new year. Recently just closed August. Trying to improve the process of reporting with more information. The reports will be shared on the website. Tracking everything with the departments, watching their budgets.

Councilor Loreti noted that building permits have collected \$115k do we know what projects are moving forward? Ms. Guerrini noted that they do not know yet, will break that down when we get into quarterly reporting.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that many municipalities were conservative with building and fees because of the economy.

Councilor McGrath asked where the parking fees come from and Ms. Guerrini noted that the fees come in monthly, from parking tickets given by the police department. There are also other fees paid to the police department such as fees for details; reports, etc.

Councilor Loreti asked why the police holiday line is at 28% budget, ahead of schedule and Ms. Guerrini noted that it might be a few officers cashing in on their holidays, those they have not used or taken.

F. Public Comment

Councilor Linde noted that at one point in time he thought we had a \$1M deficit. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that they would check on that, if that were the case it would be part of an executive summary.

Councilor Ellenberg asked where the \$200k plus that came from Plymouth County at the last meeting went and Ms. Guerrini noted that it was put towards the capital project for the wells.

Councilor Ellenberg asked how much was in that project capital fund and Ms. Guerrini noted that the town went out and borrowed so that is sitting in the fund right now and the newest check is there also, specifically for Wells 5 and 9.

G. 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 6:43pm.

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, October 7, 2025, to approve the aforementioned minutes.