



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

April 9, 2026

7:00 PM

Special Town Council Meeting

66 Central Square

Council Chambers/2nd 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. Call to Order**
- B. Public Comment**
- C. New Business**
 - a) Resolution R-FY26-013: Emergency Resolution - Affirming No New Water Service Connections and Outdoor Water Use During the Declared Water Supply Emergency
- D. Adjournment**



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 4/9/2026
First Reading: 4/9/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Resolution R-FY26-013: Emergency Resolution - Affirming No New Water Service Connections and Outdoor Water Use During the Declared Water Supply Emergency

EMERGENCY MEASURE:

In accordance with Section 2-7 (b) of the Home Rule Charter, An emergency measure shall be introduced in the form and manner prescribed for measures generally except that it shall be plainly designated as an emergency measure and shall contain statements after the enacting clause declaring that an emergency exists and describing its scope and nature in clear and specific terms. A preamble which declares and defines the emergency shall be separately voted on and shall require the affirmative vote of **two thirds of the town council**.

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2025, the Town of Bridgewater petitioned the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to declare a water supply emergency, and written approval was provided on December 5, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager has committed that the Town would not allow new tie-ins to the water system during this water emergency state for non-approved projects; and

WHEREAS, drought conditions currently affecting the region necessitate continued outdoor watering restrictions to protect the Town's water supply capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds it appropriate to formally affirm these commitments on the record during the pendency of the declared water supply emergency;

1. Vote to declare and define Emergency – 2/3 required
2. Vote to Suspend Council Rules & Procedures – Section 18. 2/3 Vote.
3. Vote to Approve the Measure – Majority of those present and voting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Town Council hereby affirms and supports the Town Manager's existing policy that no new water service connections shall be authorized for projects not yet approved during the current declared water supply emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Resolution shall not affect any project that, as of the effective date of this Resolution, has already received all required local approvals for development, including any applicable special permit, site plan approval, subdivision approval, comprehensive permit, or building permit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby affirms the continuation of the outdoor watering ban currently in effect pursuant to the declared water supply emergency and applicable drought conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Resolution is intended as a temporary emergency-period affirmation and shall not be construed as a zoning moratorium or permanent prohibition on development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Town Council shall revisit this Resolution upon restoration of adequate water supply capacity, anticipated upon completion of the Plymouth Street Treatment Facility currently underway.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect upon passage by the Town Council.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Attachments: 1. Emergency Water Memo 12.5.25

1. Vote to declare and define Emergency – 2/3 required
2. Vote to Suspend Council Rules & Procedures – Section 18. 2/3 Vote.
3. Vote to Approve the Measure – Majority of those present and voting.



Town Manager's Office

Municipal Office Building
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0919

December 5, 2025

To: Town Council

From: Justin Casanova-Davis, Town Manager

RE: Emergency Water Declaration

I am providing this memo to inform the Council of some of the actions the Bridgewater Water Department has taken to address our water quality and capacity concerns. Before doing so, I will reiterate that our new Water Superintendent, Bill Young, joined our team less than two months ago. Since that time, he, along with our DPW Director and the rest of the team, has been instrumental in helping me prioritize this issue and in all the steps we have undertaken to resolve it.

As the Council is aware, we have been exploring short- and intermediate-term solutions in addition to the long-term plan to address residents' concerns about discolored water. For a bit of brief background, unfortunately, due to our low water storage levels, as we emerged from a high-demand season, amid drought conditions, and during rehabilitation work on wells, the Town was forced to turn well 10B on in September because of critically low water storage tank levels. That was not an ideal course of action, but it was necessary, and since that time, we have focused on doing everything possible to ensure we do not have to turn well 10A/B on until we have the proper systems in place to treat the water at that well.

Because of that commitment, we began exploring opportunities to enter into interconnection agreements with neighboring communities, including East Bridgewater and Middleborough. We have wanted to enter into an interconnection agreement with a neighboring community to provide an additional water supply, as well as, so we can fill our water tanks and conduct significant targeted water flushing. Although this is not the ideal time to flush our system due to weather conditions, our team has already been exploring the best areas to conduct this work and has a plan in place. After some deliberation, the Town has determined that an intermunicipal agreement (IMA) with Middleborough is the best option for the Town. Ultimately, after discussions, Middleborough has determined that it is willing to enter into a short-term IMA with the Town to help us at this time. I will be able to provide more details regarding this at our next Council meeting, as the Town has not formally agreed just yet. But, after communications with the Town Manager and Town staff, we expect to have an agreement in place by next week.

In addition, the Town has been exploring a wide range of intermediate solutions to help us navigate our water capacity and water quality concerns until we can complete the long-term plan to tie wells 10A and 10B to the High Street treatment plant. We have focused our efforts on a treatment trailer that will allow us to treat for iron and manganese. While these trailers are customary for PFAS treatment, this trailer has required significant engineering work, pilot

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studying, and approval from DEP. I did not share this information while we were undergoing this work, as many elements were unknown, no timelines could be provided, and we had not navigated the DEP approval required for this work.

Work is still ongoing to ensure that we can implement this as an intermediate solution. Our team, engineers, and DEP have made progress, and DEP has finally given the Town approval to pursue this project. We must still submit our finalized plans to DEP for final inspection and approval prior to activating this as a temporary iron and manganese filtration system.

As a condition for allowing the Town to pursue both the proposed interconnection agreement with Middleborough and the temporary treatment filtration system, DEP required that the Town petition them to declare a water emergency, to provide the flexibility we need to pursue these projects. Thus, a request was made on December 4th, and the Town was provided written approval today. As such, it highlights both opportunities as initiatives that the Town can pursue as part of its determination.

Ultimately, we must provide this information to our community in accordance with the timelines outlined by DEP, and it will be shared with residents this weekend. I wanted to ensure I provided you all with an update in advance of that occurring.

I will highlight that exactly what we have committed to do is exactly what we have been doing. As the Council may remember, at our November 18th Council meeting, when we discussed this issue as part of the Town Manager's update, we highlighted some of these efforts.

The team and I will be prepared to discuss this further at our next Council meeting. Not only will we have an update, but we will likely submit an order to help fund the measures needed to address this issue. I know this has been frustrating for many residents. Still, as we alluded to at our November council meeting, we are focused on providing solutions as best as possible, and as quickly as possible. We remain steadfast in resolving this matter. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. But expect the notice regarding this emergency situation to be released this weekend.

CC: Azu Etoniru, Bridgewater DPW Director
Bill Young, Bridgewater Water Superintendent
Laurie Guerrini, Bridgewater Finance Director