



## Town of Bridgewater Rules and Procedure Committee

July 1, 2026

6:00 PM

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

To attend via video, click on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87872820405>

To attend via phone, dial: 1(646) 876-9923

**Meeting ID:** 878 7282 0405

### MEETING AGENDA

**Disclosure:** Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2020, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, and the March 31, 2025, extension granted by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance is permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Zoom.

#### *A Quorum of the Town Council May Be In Attendance*

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Public Comment**
- C. Items Referred**
  - a) Order O-FY26-078: Bridgewater Charter Review Committee
  - b) Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004: Amendment to Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 - Business Ethics and Conduct
  - c) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-013: Adopt Chapter 220, Article III – Water Supply Capacity and Development Review
  - d) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-017: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Article III, Multiple Members Appointive Bodies
- D. Public Comment**
- E. Adjournment of Meeting**



# Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Paul Murphy, Councilor  
Mary McGrath, Councilor

Date Introduced: 6/16/2026

First Reading: 6/16/2026

Second Reading:

Amendments Adopted:

Third Reading:

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:

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## Order O-FY26-078: Bridgewater Charter Review Committee

**ORDERED:** The purpose of the Charter Review Committee shall be to review the current language of the Bridgewater Charter and identify provisions that may benefit from clarification, modernization, improved efficiency, consistency, or amendment.

**FURTHER ORDERED:** The purpose of the Committee shall be to review the current language of the Bridgewater Charter and identify language that could benefit from clarification, modernization, improved efficiency, consistency, or amendment.

The Committee shall evaluate the operation of the Charter, receive public input, and make recommendations to the Town Council regarding potential Charter amendments.

The Committee's work shall be limited to reviewing and recommending changes to the existing Charter. The Committee shall not be charged with studying, recommending, or advocating for a change in Bridgewater's form of government.

The Committee shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Town Council upon completion of its work.

### Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6/16/26: Referred to Rules &amp; Procedures</li> </ul>

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING  
VOICE VOTE TO REFER TO RULES & PROCEDURES

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Attachments:           None



## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Sean Kennedy, Councilor  
Date Introduced: 8/12/2025  
First Reading: 8/12/2025  
Second Reading: 10/21/2025  
Amendments Adopted: 2/17/2026  
Third Reading: 2/17/2026  
Date Adopted:  
Date Effective:

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### **Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004: Amendment to Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 - Business Ethics and Conduct**

**ORDERED** that pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 268A; the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to amend the Bridgewater General Ordinances, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1, Business Ethics and Conduct as follows:

Replace the existing language with the following:

The continued success of the Town is dependent upon our citizens' trust, and we are dedicated to preserving that trust. The Town will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and expects its department heads, supervisors, and employees to conduct business in accordance with the letter, spirit, and intent of all relevant laws, and to avoid any illegal or unethical conduct.

In order to comply with the 2009 Ethics Reform Act, all public employees are required to complete an ethics training program every two years. New employees must complete the training within 30 days of becoming a public employee and every two years thereafter. All public employees must also acknowledge receipt of the Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law within 30 days of hire and annually thereafter, as required by the State Ethics Commission. For purposes of this section, "acknowledge receipt" means the employee shall complete the electronic acknowledgment through the State Ethics Commission's online portal. Records of such acknowledgments are retained at the state level, and the Town Clerk may request verification as needed.

Ethics Training website – <https://massethicstraining.skillburst.com>

In accordance with Section 9-1 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, certain exempt employees are required to complete a Statement of Financial Interest. The statement is a supplement to the State Conflict of Interest Law and prohibits Town employees from making, or participating in making, any decision on any issue in which they have an economic interest, unless they comply with the State Ethics Commission's advice or rulings

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under the Conflict of Interest Law, G.L. c. 268A.

Required reporting employees must complete and submit the statement within seven (7) days of employment, appointment, transfer, or promotion. Any employee who does not comply with the terms of this Ordinance shall be subject to appropriate discipline including suspension or termination, consistent with the requirements of the state civil service law and the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, as well as to civil or criminal prosecution under any other applicable state laws.

Pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance #D-FY26-004 (effective date:) the Required Reporters are listed as the following:

A. Heads of the following departments:

- Board of Assessors (Principal Assessor)
- Fire and EMS (Fire Chief)
- Public Works (Director, including Roadways/Highway)
- Community and Economic Development (Director, including Building and Zoning Official/Inspector of Buildings)
- Plumbing and Gas Inspector
- Police (Police Chief)
- Sealer of Weights and Measures
- Finance (Director/Town Accountant, including Treasurer/Collector)
- Wiring Inspector/Assistant Inspector
- Human Resources (Director)
- Informational Technologies (Director)
- Hearings Officer
- Elder Affairs (Director)
- Library (Director)
- Veterans' (Director/Veterans' Agent)
- Parks and Recreation (Director)

B. The following Town officials and Town employees:

- Conservation Agent
- Health Agent and Assistant Health Agent
- Town Council (All Members)
- Town Counsel and Associate Town Counsel
- Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager

C. All members of the following Boards, Committees, or Commissions:

- Affordable Housing Trust
- Board of Assessors
- Community Preservation Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Financial Committee
- Board of Health
- Historic District Commission
- Housing Authority

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- Planning Board
- Water and Sewer Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals

**Explanation:**

*The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the Business Ethics and Conduct section of Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 of the Bridgewater General Ordinances, superseding Ordinance #D-2013-002 (effective November 15, 2013), to update the list of required reporters for the Statement of Financial Interest to promote transparency and accountability in compliance with the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter (Article I, Section 1-8) and M.G.L. c. 268A. It updates outdated references (e.g., changing "Roadways (Highway)" to "Public Works"), includes new departments formed after 2013, and expands the list to include members of boards, committees, and commissions with moderate to high risk of conflicts (e.g., those with regulatory, permitting, or fiscal authority, per M.G.L. c. 268A, Sections 19-23).*

**Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8/12/25: Referred to Rules &amp; Procedures</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules &amp; Procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9/9/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10/21/25: Motion to continue</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2/17/26:: Amendments made and referred back to Rules &amp; Procedures</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules &amp; Procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2/20/26 : Voted to continue to their next meeting</li> <li>• 4/3/26: Voted to continue to their next meeting</li> </ul>

- Attachments:                    1.     Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004 Business Ethics and Conduct Proposed Amendments

REFER TO ADVERTISING  
 VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

**Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004: Business Ethics and Conduct**  
**Proposed Amendments**

Replace the existing language under “Business Ethics and Conduct” within Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 as follows:

The continued success of the Town is dependent upon our citizens' trust and we are dedicated to preserving that trust. The Town will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and expects its department heads, supervisors, and employees to conduct business in accordance with the letter, spirit, and intent of all relevant laws, and to avoid any illegal or unethical conduct.

In order to comply with the 2009 Ethics Reform Act, all public employees are required to complete an ethics training program every two years. New employees must complete the training within 30 days of becoming a public employee and every two years thereafter. ~~After successfully completing the training on the state Ethics Training website—www.muniprogram.eth.state.ma.us, employees must print and submit a copy of the certificate to the Human Resource office so that the Town has a record that this mandatory course was completed. An official copy of the same must also be filed with the Town Clerk.~~ **All public employees must also acknowledge receipt of the Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law within 30 days of hire and annually thereafter, as required by the State Ethics Commission. For purposes of this section, “acknowledge receipt” means the employee shall complete the electronic acknowledgement through the State Ethics Commission’s online portal. Records of such acknowledgements are retained at the state level, and the Town Clerk may request verification as needed.**

**Ethics Training website: <https://massethicstraining.skillburst.com>**

~~In accordance with section 9-1 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, certain exempt employees are required to complete a Statement of Financial Interest. The statement is a supplement to the State Conflict Law and it prohibits Town employees from making or participating in making any decision on any issue in which he/she has an economic interest, unless they comply with the State Ethics Commission’s advice or rulings under the Conflict of Interest Law, G.L. c.268A.~~

~~Required reporting employees must complete and submit the statement within seven (7) seven days of employment, appointment, transfer or promotion. Any employee who does not comply with the terms of Ordinance shall be subject to appropriate discipline including suspension, or termination, consistent with any requirements of the state civil service law and the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, as well as to civil or criminal prosecution under any other applicable state laws.~~

**Pursuant to Article IX, Section 9-1 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Chapter 55, Article I of the Bridgewater General Ordinances, certain Town officials and Town employees identified in this section shall complete a Statement of Financial Interest. Such statement shall serve as a supplement to the State Conflict of Interest Law, G.L. c. 268A,**

and shall prohibit Town officials and Town employees from making or participating in any decision in which they have an economic interest, except in accordance with the advice or rulings of the State Ethics Commission under said law. Required Reporters shall complete and submit the Statement of Financial Interest within seven (7) days of becoming a Required Reporter, whether by election, appointment, employment, transfer, or promotion.

Any Town employee who is required to file and fails to comply with the terms of this Ordinance shall be subject to appropriate discipline, including suspension or termination, consistent with applicable law, civil service requirements, collective bargaining agreements, personal policies, and the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter. Any Town official, board member, committee member, or commission member who is required to file and fails to comply shall be subject to such consequences, remedies, or enforcement as may be authorized by this Ordinance, the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, and other applicable law, Nothing herein shall preclude civil or criminal enforcement under any other applicable state law.

Pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance #~~D-2013-002~~ (effective date: November 15, 2013)-**D-FY26-004** the Required Reporters are listed as following:

A. Heads of the following departments:

- ~~Assessors~~
- ~~Fire Department~~ and EMS (Fire Chief)
- ~~Roadways (Highway)~~ Public Works (Director)
- Community and Economic Development (Director)
- ~~Building and Zoning Official (Inspector of Buildings)~~
- ~~Plumbing and Gas Inspector~~
- ~~Police Department~~ (Police Chief)
- Finance (Director/Town Accountant)
- Human Resources (Director)
- Information Technology (Director)
- Library (Director)
- ~~Sealer of Weights and Measures~~
- ~~Treasurer/Collector~~
- ~~Town Accountant/Director of Finance~~
- ~~Wiring Inspector/Assistant Inspector~~

B. The following Town officials and Town employees:

- ~~Conservation Agent~~
- ~~Health Agent and Assistant Health Agent~~
- Town Council (All Members)
- Town Counsel and Associate Town Counsel
- Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager

- ~~Veterans Agent~~

**C. All members of the following Boards, Committees, or Commissions:**

- **Affordable Housing Trust**
- **Board of Assessors**
- **Community Preservation Committee**
- **Conservation Commission**
- **Financial Committee**
- **Board of Health**
- **Historic District Commission**
- **Housing Authority**
- **Planning Board**
- **Water and Sewer Board**
- **Zoning Board of Appeals**

*See Town Council Ordinance #D-2013-002 for complete legislation. The requisite reporting form is available in the Town Clerk's Office.*

In general, the use of good judgment ~~based on~~ **grounded in** high ethical principles, ~~will~~ **shall** guide employees with respect to acceptable conduct. If a situation arises where it is difficult to determine the proper course of action, employees ~~shall~~ **are expected to** discuss the matter openly with their immediate supervisor, department head, and, if necessary, with Human Resources for advice.

**Explanation:**

*The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the Business Ethics and Conduct section of Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 of the Bridgewater General Ordinances, superseding Ordinance #D-2013-002 (effective November 15, 2013). **The amendments modernize ethics compliance by updating the training requirements to reflect the State Ethics Commission's online portal, eliminating outdated paper-based acknowledgment practices and adding the statutory annual acknowledgement requirement under M.G.L. c. 268A Section 28.** The ordinance also updates the Required Reports list maintained within this section. Collectively, these updates promote transparency, strengthen accountability, and ensure that the Town's Business Ethics and Conduct requirements remain current. ~~to update the list of required reporters for the Statement of Financial Interest to promote transparency and accountability in compliance with the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter (Article I, Section 1-8) and M.G.L. c. 268A. It updates outdated references (e.g., changing "Roadways (Highway)" to "Public Works"), includes new departments formed after 2013, and expands the list to include members of boards, committees, and commissions with moderate to high risk of conflicts (e.g., those with regulatory, permitting, or fiscal authority, per M.G.L. c. 268A, Sections 19-23).~~*



## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Sean Kennedy, Councilor  
Johnny Loreti, Councilor  
Date Introduced: 3/17/2026  
First Reading: 3/17/2026  
Second Reading:  
Amendments Adopted:  
Third Reading:  
Date Adopted:  
Date Effective:

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### **Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-013: Adopt Chapter 220, Article III – Water Supply Capacity and Development Review**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Bridgewater is authorized pursuant to the police powers granted under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, §21 et seq., and its authority to manage, protect, and regulate municipal water systems, to adopt ordinances necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Bridgewater operates a public water supply system subject to operational, seasonal, and regulatory constraints, including but not limited to source availability, treatment capacity, distribution limitations, and emergency conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the availability of potable water supply is a fundamental prerequisite to public health, fire protection, emergency response, and the safe occupancy of buildings and structures; and

**WHEREAS**, periods of reduced water system capacity may arise due to infrastructure maintenance, source impairment, regulatory compliance requirements, drought conditions, or other operational factors beyond the Town's immediate control; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary and appropriate for the Town to ensure that new development and intensified uses do not exceed the Firm Capacity of the municipal water system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has a compelling interest in reserving sufficient water system capacity to meet fire protection and emergency response demands required under applicable fire code authority, including for industrial and warehouse uses; and

**WHEREAS**, the regulation of water supply capacity is distinct from land use regulation and zoning, and applies neutrally and uniformly to all development regardless of use, location, or zoning district; and

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING  
REFER TO RULES & PROCEDURES

**WHEREAS**, nothing in this Ordinance is intended to prohibit development, but rather to ensure that development proceeds in a manner consistent with available infrastructure and public safety requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council finds that requiring case-specific water availability determinations supported by written findings prepared by qualified municipal officials is a reasonable, narrowly tailored, and legally defensible means of protecting the Town's water supply and public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council further finds that establishing clear administrative standards for water capacity review will promote consistency, transparency, and predictability in permitting decisions while preserving flexibility to respond to changing system conditions;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, in Town Council assembled, hereby adopts Chapter 220, Article III – Water Supply Capacity and Development Review, as set forth on the attached.

### **Explanation of Proposed Ordinance**

*The proposed ordinance establishes a formal process for evaluating whether the Town's water system has sufficient capacity to support new development and increased water demand.*

*The Town's public water system operates under a variety of physical and regulatory constraints, including source capacity, treatment limits, distribution infrastructure, and state regulatory requirements. Periods of reduced capacity may occur due to infrastructure maintenance, regulatory compliance requirements, drought conditions, or emergency system conditions.*

*The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that new development proceeds only when the municipal water system has sufficient reliable capacity to safely support that development without compromising public health, fire protection, or emergency response.*

*The ordinance establishes a process known as a Water Availability Determination (WAD). This determination evaluates whether the Town's water system has sufficient Firm Capacity to serve the projected demand associated with a proposed project.*

*Firm Capacity is defined using a standard engineering approach used by public water systems. It represents the amount of water the system can reliably provide when the largest supply source is unavailable for service. This ensures that the system remains capable of meeting demand even during equipment failure or maintenance conditions.*

*For projects that may significantly increase water demand, the ordinance requires a 2-Dimensional Water Supply Impact Study. This study evaluates the projected water demand associated with the project and compares that demand to the Town's available water supply capacity.*

*The ordinance also ensures that water capacity necessary for fire protection and emergency response is reserved and cannot be consumed by new development. This protects the Town's ability to meet required fire flow standards for industrial, commercial, and residential buildings.*

*The ordinance does not prohibit development. Instead, it ensures that development proceeds in a manner consistent with available infrastructure. Where water capacity is limited, projects may still proceed if the applicant reduces demand, phases development, or provides permanent infrastructure improvements.*

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING  
REFER TO RULES & PROCEDURES

*The ordinance is administered by the Town Manager as the chief administrative officer of the Town, with technical determinations prepared through the Department of Public Works and the Water Superintendent.*

*The ordinance applies uniformly to all development town-wide and does not alter zoning regulations or land use approvals. It establishes an infrastructure capacity review process intended to protect public safety and ensure responsible long-term management of the Town’s water system.*

**Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3/17/26: Referred to Rules &amp; Procedures</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules &amp; Procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4/3/26: Voted to continue to next meeting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

Attachments:                    1.     Water Supply Capacity and Development Order Attachment

# **Chapter 220.**

## **Article III.**

### **Water Supply Capacity and Development Review**

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#### **\*\*Section 1.**

##### **Purpose\*\***

The purpose of this Article is to ensure that new development and intensified uses do not exceed the Town's available water supply capacity, impair public health and safety.

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#### **\*\*Section 2.**

##### **Applicability\*\***

A Water Availability Determination ("WAD") shall be required prior to the issuance by the Town of any written permission, permit, or authorization to connect to, activate, expand, or modify service from the municipal water system (a "Municipal Water Service Authorization") for any project that:

- (a) creates a new water service connection; or
- (b) increases the size of an existing service connection; or
- (c) materially increases potable water demand, as determined pursuant to administratively adopted demand calculation standards.

For projects that require municipal water service for occupancy, the Building Commissioner may require proof of an issued WAD as part of the building permit application submission materials.

Such determination shall apply to:

- a) all new construction that requires a new water service connection; and
- b) any addition, alteration, or change of use that materially increases water demand; with the exception of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) as provided herein.

This Article shall apply town-wide and to all uses, regardless of zoning district.

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### **\*\*Section 3.**

#### **Definitions\*\***

For purposes of this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

#### **Application**

A complete written submission for a WAD on forms and with contents established by the Town Manager or designee, including demand calculations, plans, and supporting documentation.

#### **Water Availability Determination (WAD)**

A written administrative determination issued under this Article stating whether Firm Capacity exists to reliably serve the project's projected demand, subject to any terms applicable to Municipal Water Service Authorization.

#### **Municipal Water Service Authorization**

Any written permission, permit, approval, or authorization issued by the Town to connect to, activate, expand, or modify service from the municipal water system, including permission to make a connection, issuance of a service permit, or authorization to activate service.

#### **Non-Permanent Capacity**

Any water supply, treatment, storage, or interconnection capacity that is emergency, provisional, interim, mobile, rental, short-term contractual, not fully permitted/authorized for sustained municipal use, or otherwise not reasonably reliable for long-term planning purposes.

#### **Average Day Demand (ADD)**

The projected average daily potable water demand attributable to a proposed project, expressed in gallons per day (GPD).

#### **Firm Capacity**

Firm Capacity shall mean the maximum reliable potable water supply that the municipal water system can provide when the largest individual water supply source is unavailable for service.

Firm Capacity shall be calculated as the reliable operational capacity of all permanent water supply sources currently in service, including wells and treatment facilities, subject to applicable regulatory limits, minus the maximum operational yield of the largest individual water supply source.

The inputs used in calculating Firm Capacity shall reflect the actual operational condition of the municipal water system at the time an application subject to this Article is deemed complete, including:

- a. the operational capacity of wells, treatment facilities, and other permanent sources of supply currently in service;
- b. applicable regulatory limits governing the water system, including water withdrawal permits issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection;
- c. known operational constraints affecting the water system at the time of determination; and
- d. the reservation of sufficient system capacity necessary to maintain adequate fire protection and emergency response capability.

### **2-Dimensional Water Supply Impact Study (2D Study)**

A study that quantifies projected Average Day Demand attributable to a proposed project and compares such demand to the Town's Firm Capacity at the time of application.

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## **\*\*Section 4.**

### **2-Dimensional Water Supply Impact Study Requirement\*\***

A 2-Dimensional Water Supply Impact Study shall be required for any project that meets any of the following criteria:

- a) Any proposed new water service connection greater than one (1) inch in diameter, or any increase of an existing service connection to a size greater than one (1) inch;
- b) Any project creating four (4) or more additional dwelling units, including multifamily buildings, townhouses, subdivisions, or cumulative residential development under common ownership or control;
- c) Any project projected based on Massachusetts Title 5 (310 CMR 15.000) demand calculation standards to increase Average Day Demand by five thousand (5,000) gallons per day or more; or
- d) Any project below the foregoing thresholds where, based on written findings the Water Superintendent, determines that site-specific conditions indicate a material risk to water supply reliability.
- e.) The Town Manager or designee may require independent peer review of a 2D Study or related technical submittals when reasonably necessary due to project size, potential impacts, or complexity. Consultant review fees, if imposed, shall be assessed and administered in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §53G and any rules adopted thereunder. Fixed administrative fees

for WAD processing, if any, shall be established pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, §22F and applicable local vote.

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**\*\*Section 5.**

**Capacity Determination Standard\*\***

No approval subject to this Article shall be issued unless the Town Manager or designee, determines that Firm Capacity exists to reliably serve the proposed demand, accounting for current system conditions, operational limitations, requires reserves and applicable restrictions, at the time of application and anticipated occupancy.

All capacity determinations required under this Article shall be supported by written findings prepared in accordance with administratively adopted procedures approved by the Town Manager or Designee.

No WAD Application shall be deemed complete, and no Municipal Water Service Authorization subject to this Article shall be issued, unless and until a WAD is issued in accordance with this Article

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**\*\*Section 6.**

**Seasonal and Restricted Conditions\*\***

Capacity determinations shall be based on the most restrictive predictable operating condition, including seasonal peak demand periods and recurring water use restrictions. Average annual conditions shall not be relied upon where they do not reflect known periods of system stress.

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**\*\*Section 7.**

**Temporary or Emergency Capacity\*\***

(A) General Rule.

Non-Permanent Capacity shall not be included as Firm Capacity for purposes of approving permanent or long-term increases in water demand.

(B) Written-Findings Exception.

Capacity that would otherwise be classified as Non-Permanent Capacity may be included in Firm Capacity only upon written findings by the Town Manager or designee that such capacity is:

- (1) legally authorized and fully permitted/approved for sustained municipal use as required;
- (2) reasonably reliable for long-term planning purposes; and
- (3) not merely an emergency, provisional, or short-term measure.

(C) Limit on Scope of Conditions.

Nothing in this Section authorizes the Town Council to issue conditional land-use approvals. Any time limits or conditions pursuant to this Section shall attach only to Municipal Water Service Authorization and/or to the WAD itself.

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## **\*\*Section 8.**

### **Fire Protection and Emergency Reserve Capacity\*\***

In determining Firm Capacity the Town Manager or designee shall reserve sufficient system capacity to meet the maximum fire-flow and emergency response demands required under applicable fire code authority, including but not limited to industrial and warehouse uses. Such reserved capacity shall not be considered available for new or intensified development.

The determination of such reserved capacity shall account for required fire-flow rates, duration, storage availability, delivery capability, and simultaneous system demands, and shall be evaluated based on current system conditions.

The Town Manager or designee shall consult with the Fire Chief or the Fire Chief's designee for the purpose of establishing baseline fire protection and emergency response assumptions applicable to capacity determinations under this Article. Such consultation shall be documented in writing and may be relied upon for subsequent capacity determinations unless material changes in system conditions, land use, or applicable fire code requirements occur.

Individual project-specific consultation may not be required where the capacity determination is consistent with the established baseline assumptions. The absence of additional consultation shall not invalidate a capacity determination otherwise supported by written findings.

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## **\*\*Section 9.**

### **Relation to Other Reviews\*\***

This Article establishes a water supply capacity determination only and does not replace or supersede requirements for fire protection, fire flow, hydrant spacing, residual pressure, distribution system design, or other life-safety or technical reviews required under applicable codes, regulations, or permitting processes, which shall be reviewed separately under applicable fire code authority.

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**\*\*Section 10.**

**Mitigation and Phasing\*\***

Where capacity is constrained A WAD may be issued only upon a showing, supported by the 2D Study and written findings, that projected demand will be reduced, or that permanent infrastructure improvements or enforceable phasing of Municipal Water Service Authorization will ensure that Firm Capacity is not exceeded.

**\*\*Section 11.**

**Enforcement\*\***

Failure to comply with this Article shall constitute grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of any permit or approval issued by the Town.

**Administration and Delegation**

This Article shall be administered by the Town Manager as the Town's chief administrative officer pursuant to the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, including Article IV, §4-2(2) and §4-2(21). The Town Manager may delegate technical review and issuance of Water Availability Determinations to qualified municipal officials or consultants retained by the Town; actions taken under such delegation shall be deemed acts of the Town Manager.

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**\*\*Section 12.**

**Severability\*\***

If any provision of this Article is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.



## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Mary McGrath, Councilor  
Date Introduced: 6/16/2026  
First Reading: 6/16/2026  
Second Reading:  
Amendments Adopted:  
Third Reading:  
Date Adopted:  
Date Effective:

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### **Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-017: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Article III, Multiple Members Appointive Bodies**

**WHEREAS**, In accordance with the provisions of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter relative to amendments to the Administrative Code, it is therefore;

**Ordered** that; the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to amend the Bridgewater Administrative Code, Part II, Chapter 1, Article III, Multiple Members Appointive Bodies as follows:

#### **Section 2 Affordable Housing Trust**

Pursuant to MGL c. 44 section 55c, the Town Manger as chief executive officer, or his designee, shall be an ex officio Trustee. The remaining Trustee shall be appointed by Town Manager for staggered ~~three two~~ year term.

#### **Section 3 Agricultural Commission**

There shall be an Agricultural Commission consisting of three members, **appointed by the Town Manager for three-year term.**

#### **Section 4 Board of Assessors**

There shall be a Board of Assessors consisting of three members, **appointed by the Town Manager for three-year term.**

#### **Section 5 Cable Advisory Committee**

There shall be a Cable Advisory Committee consisting of three members, **appointed by the Town Manager for three-year term.**

#### **Section 8 Conant Trust Fund Committee**

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING  
VOICE VOTE TO REFER TO RULES & PROCEDURES

There shall be a Conant Trust Fund Committee consisting of five members, **appointed by the Town Manager**. Members will serve **three** ~~five~~ year staggered terms.

#### **Section 10 Disability Commission**

There shall be a Disabilities Commission consisting of five members, **appointed by Town Manager for three-year term**.

#### **Section 11A Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and belonging (DEI&B) Committee**

There shall be a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEI&B) Committee consisting of at least five members and no more than nine members, **appointed by the Town Manager for three-year term**.

#### **Section 13 Energy Committee**

There shall be an Energy Committee consisting of three members **appointed by the Town Manager for three-year term**.

#### **Section 14 Financial Committee**

There shall be a Financial Committee, consisting of nine members **appointed by the Town Manager for three-year term**.

#### **Section 15 Board of Health**

There shall be a Board of Health consisting of three regular members, on whom shall be a physician or healthcare professional **appointed by the Town Manager for three-year term**.

#### **Section 17 Historical Commission**

There shall be a Historical Commission consisting of five regular members and two alternate members **appointed by the Town Manager for three-year term**.

#### **Section 18 Housing Authority**

Members shall serve for **three** ~~five~~ year term.

#### **Section 19 Housing Partnership Committee**

There shall be a Housing Partnership Committee to be composed of five members, **to serve for three-year term**.

#### **Section 23 Planning Board**

The Town Manager shall appoint Planning Board members for terms of **three** ~~five~~ (5) years

#### **Section 26A Tree Committee**

There shall be a Tree Committee consisting of seven members **serving for three-year term**.

#### **Explanation:**

*All committees, commissions and boards shall be for a three-year term, with the exception of the Cultural Council. In Section 10 Cultural Council, it states; Members shall not be appointed to more than two consecutive terms in accordance with MGL C. 10 Section 58. Also, some Committees, Commissions and Boards did not state that the Town Manager appoints the members.*

**Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town Council</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6/16/26: Voted to refer to Rules &amp; Procedures</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>

Attachments:           None