



**Town of West Boylston**  
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

## **Select Board/Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date / Time / Location of Meeting</b> <b>November 1, 2023, 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>140 Worcester Street</b> <b>West Boylston, MA 01583</b> <b>Board Meeting Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>
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<b>Members Present:</b> <b>Patrick J. Crowley, Vice Chair</b> <b>James Morrissey, Clerk</b> <b>Marc Frieden</b> <b>Barur R. Rajeshkumar</b>
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<b>Members NOT Present:</b> <b>Kristina Pedone, Chair</b>
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<b>Invited Guests:</b> <b>Jennifer Warren-Dyment, Town Administrator</b> <b>Faye Zukowski, Municipal Assistant</b>
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### **THIS MEETING WILL ALSO BE HELD VIRTUALLY IN A HYBRID SETTING VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION:**

#### **To Join Zoom Meeting**

- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87289496812?pwd=QUg2cHBMNmJid0ZlZk9BZTVGbXFzZz09>
- **Meeting ID: 872 8949 6812, Passcode: 01583, Dial by your location: (646) 558-8656 US (New York)**

This meeting will be held in-person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly.

#### **CONVENE MEETING – 6:00 pm**

- Roll call

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** This fifteen-minute period is an opportunity for the public to address their concerns and questions regarding town operations and programs to the Board. Except in urgent circumstances, any matter presented for consideration by the Board shall not be discussed in detail nor acted upon by the Board at this meeting. A scheduled time on a future agenda may be set at the Board's discretion.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

### **September 6, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes**

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

*All in favor*

### **October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

*All in favor*

## **REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE WARRANTS FOR THE PERIOD COVERING SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 through NOVEMBER 1, 2023: Town Payable Warrants FY2024-17, FY2024-18; Payroll Warrant FY2024-09; MLP FY2024-10; Sewer Warrant FY2024-SE10; and School Warrants FY2024-S27.**

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

*All in favor*

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Consider approving the Senior Health Insurance Renewal Rates for Calendar Year 2024, presented by Ken Lombardi of NFP.**

Ken Lombardi of NFP presented the Board with the proposed 2024 retiree plan. He explained the town currently offers two insurance plans; Medex2 and Managed Blue for Seniors. The town has almost 200 retirees utilizing the plans. He stated the plans renew every January 1<sup>st</sup> and gave an overview of each of the plans offered. He explained the Medex 2 plan is increasing 6.3% (111 members) and the Manager Blue for Seniors is increasing 4.35%. He stated the increase will cost the town approximately \$15,000. He recommends requesting proposals for July 2024 for all insurance plans and believes MIIA has a great offering there may be others that have more to offer. Mr. Crowley asked if carrier changes are made will the town need buy in from the unions, Mr. Lombardi stated if there are not changes to the coverage then there is no requirement. Ms. Warren-Dymont stated there is union representation on the IAC (Insurance Advisory Committee) but they would have to agree.

*Motion Mr. Morrissey moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Friden.*

*All in favor*

- **Consider approving the hiring of Anthony Buscarino to the fractional-time position of Production Assistant, effective November 2, 2023 subject to a CORI and Pre-employment physical with a rate of \$16.03, Grade B, Step 1.**

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Frieden.*

*All in favor*

- **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:**

- **Resignation of Jay Givan from the WBPA-TV PEG Board effective October 23, 2023**
- **Consider Town Administrator appointment of Bob O'Connell to the Cable TV Access Committee effective November 1, 2023 for a term to expire on June 30, 2024.**

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

*All in favor*

- **Consider Town Administrator appointment of Danielle Wyatt to the Celebrations Committee effective November 1, 2023 for a term to expire on April 30, 2026**

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Frieden.*

*All in favor*

- **Consider appointing two Select Board designees to the Facilities Implementation & Strategic Planning Committee (FISP)**

Ms. Warren-Dyment stated they are still seeking two residents to join this Committee.

*Motion Mr. Frieden moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Rajeshkumar and Mr. Morrissey; seconded by Mr. Crowley.*

*All in favor*

- **Consider appointing as the Fire Municipal Hearings Officers Jennifer Warren-Dyment and Faye Zukowski concurrent with their employment**

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

*All in favor*

**TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT (May contain Departmental updates, community reminders and announcements, project updates, etc. No votes will be taken).**

1. **Pride Park Playground Update:** The poured-in-place material is being installed this week. The material has been installed in sub-ideal conditions with the evening temperatures dropping. We are requesting an increased length of time for the warranty.
2. **Flu Clinics and Vaccine Updates:** The flu and COVID-19 clinics have now been concluded. At total of 81 flu shots and 79 COVID-19 vaccines were administered. There were some issues with the roll out of the program in terms of timeliness of information that was delivered to the Town and subsequently, the residents. These concerns were shared with the Regional Health Alliance and assurances have been made that such issues will not happen again with future events.
3. **Tax Classification Hearing:** The Assessor and Accountant are in the final stages of preparing for the Tax Classification Hearing. We are tentatively proposing the hearing will be at the next meeting of the Select Board, November 15, 2023.
4. **Town of West Boylston v. Justin Gabriel:** On October 25, 2023, the Town filed a complaint in the matter of Justin Gabriel and 57 Goodale Street. The Building Commissioner issued an order requiring Mr. Gabriel to demolish the garage to bring the property into compliance with the Zoning Bylaw. The order was appealed to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) who voted to uphold the Building Commissioner's Order. Mr. Gabriel did not appeal the decision of the ZBA. The matter is scheduled for a hearing on the Town's motion on a preliminary injunction on November 8, 2023 at 2:15 p.m.
5. **Snowplow Contractors:** The Town is seeking contractors for snow removal services for the 2023-2024 winter season. Like many, the Town is having difficulty filling the positions. Rates are posted on the employment page of the Town website. If you, or anyone you know has interest in assisting this winter, please contact Keri at the DPW at (508) 835-4820.
6. **Lieutenant Governor Regional Listening Tour:** West Boylston was honored to host the Lt. Governor, Kim Driscoll and members of the Administration in last Thursday for a regional municipal listening tour. They were interested in ideas that could reduce the burdens on

municipalities and make state programs more easily accessible. We are looking forward to the Administration's version of the Modernization Act 2.0.

7. **Laurel Street Yard Waste Center:** There are only two more scheduled openings of the Laurel Street Yard Waste Center- Friday, November 3, 2023 and Saturday November 18, 2023 from 7 a.m. to noon.
8. **"Thank You Veterans Breakfast":** Friday, November 10, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. will be the annual Thank You Veterans Breakfast at the West Boylston Senior Center. If you are planning to attend, please contact the Senior Center by Friday, November 3, 2023.
9. **Veteran's Coffee Group:** As a reminder, Jacob Webb, the Veteran's Services Officer will be starting Veteran's Coffee Groups. The first coffee is Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. The group will continue to meet the third Wednesday of each month.
10. **Lunch is Back at the Senior Center:** With the hiring of Chef John Grosse, lunches are back on at the Senior Center. The first lunch is November 7<sup>th</sup>, but sign ups have closed. The next lunch will be November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please reserve by November 20<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a Pasta Making Class with John on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

#### MEETINGS INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Assistance is requested with flag removal from Veteran's graves - please meet at Mount Vernon Cemetery, Saturday, November 18th at 9:00 am.**

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SELECT BOARD REPORTS:

- Mr. Morrissey stated the DCR has Sunday Hikes information on DCR Website.
- Mr. Crowley the Fall Fest went well and will be working on the planning earlier for next year and thanked everyone.
- Mr. Crowley discussed a recent meeting he attended with "Community Leaders" meeting.

***Motion** Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to adjourn 6:38 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.  
All in favor*

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

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Kristina Pedone, Chair

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Patrick J. Crowley, Vice Chair

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James Morrissey, Clerk

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Marc Frieden

