



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

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

**Date / Time / Location of Meeting**  
**February 7, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**  
**140 Worcester Street**  
**West Boylston, MA 01583**  
**Board Meeting Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Zoom**

**Members Present:**

**Kristina Pedone, Chair**  
**James Morrissey, Clerk**  
**Marc Frieden via Zoom**  
**Barur R. Rajeshkumar**

**Members NOT Present:**

**Patrick J. Crowley, Vice Chair**

**Invited Guests:**

**Jennifer Warren-Dyment, Town Administrator**  
**Faye Zukowski, Municipal Assistant**

### **THIS MEETING WILL ALSO BE HELD VIRTUALLY IN A HYBRID SETTING VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION:**

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**

### **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:**

**November 15, 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  
JANUARY 25, 2024 THROUGH FEBRUARY 7, 2024:**

**Town Payable Warrants FY2024-31 and FY2024-32**

**Payroll Warrant FY2024-16**

**Sewer Warrant FY2024-SE15**

**School Warrants FY2024-S13**

**MLP Warrants FY2024-16**

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

*All in favor*

**6:00 p.m. Public Hearing: To Consider Amending Ambulance Rates**

Mr. Morrissey read the Public Hearing notice.

Chief Mark Sadowski presented a recommendation to amend the Ambulance Billing Rates for 2024. He explained he requested from Comstar Ambulance Billing the towns billing service provider, average cost for their customers in Worcester County. He explained overall it is an average of 6-7% increase to the rates which is a consistent increase over the last four years. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if the town is receiving all the payments from the jail, Chief Sadowski stated they are billing Worcester County House of Correction through the health insurance they provide for the inmates.

*Motion Mr. Frieden moved to close the public hearing; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

*All in favor*

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

*All in favor*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Acknowledge and accept donations on behalf of the Town received from the Council on Aging between October 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023 from residents in the amount of \$120 to be used for events and programs at the West Boylston Senior Center.**

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

*All in favor*

- **Annual Town Meeting**

- **Vote to set date for Annual Town Meeting**

Ms. Warren-Dyment requested Annual Town Meeting be held on May 20, 2024 at 7 p.m. at the Middle High School.

*Motion Mr. Morrissey moved to approve the date and time of town meeting; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

*All in favor*

- **Vote to open Town Meeting Warrant**
  - **Vote to set date to close Town Meeting Warrant**

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to open the town warrant immediately and close the warrant on March 29, 2024 at noon, seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

*All in favor*

- **Approve citation for Route 12 Pickle**

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

*All in favor*

- **\*Approve citation for LK Home & Gifts**

*Motion Mr. Frieden moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.  
All in favor*

- **Sign the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election Warrant**

*Motion Mr. Morrissey moved to approve and sign; seconded by Mr. Frieden.  
All in favor*

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **\*Consider amending the effective date of Pay as you throw (PAYT) bag increase.**

Ms. Warren-Dyment explained after last meeting she was made aware that Waste Zero the bag manufacturer will need more time to get the corporate stores set up with the new pricing and have requested March 11<sup>th</sup> be the effective date of the bag increase.

*Motion Mr. Frieden moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar.  
3-0-1 Mr. Morrissey abstained*

#### **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:**

- **Consider the Town Administrator Appointment of Lynn Harding McGrail to the Council on Aging effective February 7, 2024 with a term to expire April 30, 2024**

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

- **Consider the Town Administrator Appointment of Andrew Stewart to the Transportation Committee effective February 7, 2024 with a term to expire June 30, 2024**

*Motion Mr. Morrissey moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Frieden.  
All in favor*

- **Consider the Town Administrator Appointment of Kelsey Hogue to the Transportation Committee effective February 7, 2024 with a term to expire June 30, 2025**

*Motion Mr. Morrissey moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Frieden.  
All in favor*

- **Consider the Town Administrator Appointment of Alexander Lyon to the Transportation Committee effective February 7, 2024 with a term to expire June 30, 2026**

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

- **Consider the Town Administrator Appointment of Melody Stierheim to the FISP Committee effective February 7, 2024 with a term to expire April 30, 2025**

*Motion Mr. Morrissey moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Frieden.  
All in favor*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Consider entering into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with collective bargaining (Massachusetts Coalition of Police, Local No. 172) and the Chair declares that an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

Tabled until next meeting.

- **Ratify Police Chief Contract**

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

- **Ratify Massachusetts Coalition of Police, Local No. 172**  
Tabled for a future meeting.

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

1. **Health Insurance Rates- FY25:** In the last Town Administrator report I announced that the MIIA Health Trust renewal rates for FY25 were between 2.2% and 9.95% with a trust average of 6.6%. This week I heard that West Boylston's renewal rate will be 7.95%. The Insurance Advisory Committee will be meeting next week to discuss the renewal rate.
2. **DPW New Hire Update:** At the last Select Board meeting, several individuals were appointed to various positions in the DPW. Ryan Fahey who was appointed to Mechanic has decided not to take the position. Daniel Tobojka who was appointed as Equipment Operator/Laborer will be taking the position, but will not be starting until a future date.
3. **FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program:** The Department of Fire Services has awarded West Boylston \$15,500 under the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program. These funds will be used for ice and water rescue equipment.
4. **Route 12 Pickle Business Spotlight:** WBPA staff has recently filmed a business spotlight which is available on the WBPA YouTube page and the Town Facebook. We hope to produce more of this type of content in the community! The grand opening and ribbon cutting will be on February 15<sup>th</sup>!

Mr. Rajeshkumar asked about spotlight of other businesses in town. Ms. Warren-Dyment stated if staff allows anyone can request content to be added to the public access. Discussion on content and requests from business or groups, will be added to a future agenda item.

5. **Update on Shared Building Services:** I have had three meetings over the last several months with three other nearby communities regarding sharing building services. The concept was that between the four communities we would share two fulltime people. One would be a Commissioner and one would be a Local Inspector. This week one of the communities stated that they would not like to go forward with this regional plan at this time. The other two communities remain interested in a shared services model, but without the fourth town, we cannot support two full time individuals. We are going to regroup to discuss next possible steps. The current agreement with the Interim Commissioner expires at the end of the month.
6. **Update on MassDOT Meeting- Rt. 12 and Franklin Street:** On January 25<sup>th</sup>, the DPW Director and I had a meeting with MassDOT and CMRPC regarding Route 12 and Franklin Street. This meeting was at the request of MassDOT. Based on the meeting, MassDOT and CMRPC will conduct a road safety audit in the Spring. MassDOT had collected traffic data in the past to determine whether a signal was warranted. However, there is not enough traffic for a signal. They stated a roundabout must be at least part of the conversation, but they would want to balance the impact to the businesses at the intersection. During the conversation, we did bring up other issues on Route 12 and will be providing that information more formally to MassDOT.

7. **Assistant Town Accountant accepted into MMA-Suffolk Municipal Finance Management Seminar:** Assistant Town Accountant Michelle Noberini-White has been selected to participate

in the MMA-Suffolk Municipal Finance Management Seminar. This was a competitive application process, so I am thrilled she was accepted. This one day per week, five-week course will assist Michelle in continuing the transition from Administrative Assistant to Assistant Town Accountant.

8. **Municipal ADA Improvement Grant:** The Town was notified we were not selected to receive the \$250,000 Municipal ADA Improvement Grant for Pride Park. I will be reaching out to the Massachusetts Office on Disability to determine how we can be more competitive for future applications.

#### **MEETINGS INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**None**

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

- Ms. Pedone announced Town Wide Clean up April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Consider entering into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation (Jeffrey Moore, Workers Compensation) and the Chair declares that an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

***Motion** Mr. Morrissey moved to enter into executive session and to adjourn following 6:41 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Frieden.*

***Roll Call***

Ms. Pedone, yes

Mr. Frieden, yes

Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes

Mr. Morrissey, yes

***All in favor***

***Motion** Mr. Morrissey moved to exit executive session, seconded by Mr. Frieden.*

***Roll Call***

Ms. Pedone, yes

Mr. Frieden, yes

Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes

Mr. Morrissey, yes

***All in favor***

***Motion** Mr. Morrissey moved to adjourn 6:55 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Frieden.*

***All in favor***

Respectfully submitted,

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristina Pedone, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick J. Crowley, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Morrissey, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Frieden

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barur R. Rajeshkumar