



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

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

**Date / Time / Location of Meeting**  
**July 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**  
**140 Worcester Street**  
**West Boylston, MA 01583**  
**Board Meeting Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Members Present:**  
**Kristina Pedone, Chair**  
**Patrick J. Crowley, Vice Chair via Zoom**  
**James Morrissey, Clerk**  
**Marc Frieden**  
**Barur R. Rajeshkumar**

**Members NOT Present:**

**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:**

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

- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87289496812?pwd=QUg2cHBMNmJid0ZIZk9BZTVGbXFzZz09>
- **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 p.m.**

- 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. Complaints or criticism directed at staff, volunteers, or other town officials shall not be permitted. If we do not have Open Session items to discuss, other agenda items may be brought forward earlier.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

- April 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, abstained*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

**Approved**

- April 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, abstained*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

**Approved**

- May 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, abstained*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

**Approved**

**REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE WARRANTS FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JULY 10, 2023 THROUGH JULY 19, 2023: Town Payable Warrants FY2023-55 and FY2024-02A and FY2024-03; Sewer Warrant FY2023-SE38; and School Warrant FY2023-S26.**

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, yes*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

**Approved**

**6:05 PM PUBLIC HEARING: To consider creating policies relative to Compliant Customer Service and Service Animals.**

Mr. Morrissey read the Public Hearing Notice.

Ms. Warren-Dyment these two policies were continued from a previous meeting. She explained these were both a result of the ADA Transition Plan. She explained the Compliant Customer Service Policy puts into policy ADA Compliance. She states the employees have been handling ADA Compliance very well currently and not many changes are needed if any at all. She explained the Police and Fire buildings are not accessible and both have either intercom system or call number for service. She stated the accountant's office at times may need to meet with retirees in their homes and provide service in that manner. Mr. Crowley has concern with the term reasonable distance for any service to home, and feels it is opening the Town up to what is a reasonable distance. The Board and Town Administrator had discussion on what is a reasonable distance. Ms. Warren-Dyment stated this has never been requested and suggests 10 miles outside of West Boylston. Mr. Morrissey stated clarification on the term reasonable needs to be made as one person may believe something to be reasonable and another may not, and suggests leaving it undefined and case dependent. Mr. Crowley suggests 10 miles from West Boylston but outside of these limits may be mutually agreed upon, Mr. Morrissey believes there is a requirement for interactive dialog to determine what a reasonable accommodation may be. Ms. Warren-Dyment suggested having the 10 times and that all other requests shall be considered by the ADA Coordinator, Ms. Pedone agreed. Mr. Frieden suggested the bordering towns instead of 10 miles.

Ms. Warren-Dyment gave an overview of the Service Animal Policy and explained that there is a legal distinction between a Service Animal and Comfort Animal. She stated after adoption of this policy she will be working the NEADS World Class Service Dogs Organization to get staff trained on service animals. Mr. Frieden advocates for training as he has friends with these animals and understands the training is needed. Mr. David Femia asked if the policy is accepted do businesses in Town have to comply, Ms. Warren-Dyment explained this is for municipal buildings of West Boylston only. She explained that service animals in businesses fall under the ADA Act and the town is not involved with that issue.

***Motion*** Mr. Frieden moved to close the Public Hearing; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, yes*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

***Approved***

***Motion*** Mr. Frieden moved to adopt policy M-1 Compliant Customer Service as written subject to amending the section under Accounting to read the staff will meet retirees in their homes within 10 miles of West Boylston all other requests beyond 10 miles of West Boylston shall be considered by the ADA Coordinator as a reasonable accommodation; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*  
*Mr. Morrissey, yes*  
*Mr. Frieden, yes*  
*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*  
***Approved***

***Motion*** *Mr. Crowley moved to approve Policy M-2 Service Animal; seconded by Mr. Frieden.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*  
*Ms. Pedone, yes*  
*Mr. Crowley, yes*  
*Mr. Morrissey, yes*  
*Mr. Frieden, yes*  
*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*  
***Approved***

**6:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING: To consider creating a Policy relative to Vehicle Use.**

Mr. Morrissey read the Public Hearing Notice.

Ms. Warren-Dyment explained this policy was recommended by MIIA Insurance Company. She explained the policy deals with anytime a municipal employee is using a municipal vehicle what they can and cannot do, what they must and shall not do. She explained this also covers municipal employees that use their own vehicles but are being reimbursed for the use by the Town. She gave an overview of things covered in the policy and explained a couple items that were amended from feedback received. She stated the Town will receive rewards credits for adopting this policy. Mr. Frieden suggested some minor grammatical changes. He also asked about Board, Committee and Commission being covered under this policy. Ms. Warren-Dyment stated only staff or people receiving payment from the Town such as payroll, salary or stipend. She can ask Town Counsel for clarification. Mr. Frieden asked about use of handheld devices and offers a suggested amendment to include use of apps for navigation, or other travel job related apps, Ms. Pedone stated that violated State Laws to use handheld devices while driving unless for emergency use. Ms. Warren-suggests adding the word handheld in front of cellular phone to clarify, Mr. Morrissey suggests using the language handsfree options. The Board has discussion around the use of handheld and handsfree. Mr. Morrissey asked if there will be training for staff for this policy, Ms. Warren-Dyment stated there are not many employees this will apply to but Department Heads will have meetings with their staff and also at time of new hire onboarding. She stated signoff that employees have received policy will be required and will be filed in personal files. Mr. Crowley suggested changing language that report of accident should occur within 24 hours instead of immediately, Mr. Morrissey suggested using as soon as practicable. Ms. Pedone asked to change Supervisor to Department Head throughout document. Ms. Pedone discussed the notification for arrest that include license revocation and would like to clarify the requirement to notify.

***Motion*** *Mr. Frieden moved to close the Public Hearing; seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*  
*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*  
*Mr. Morrissey, yes*  
*Mr. Frieden, yes*  
*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*  
**Approved**

**Motion** *Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve Policy L-28 Vehicle Use subject to; in all references to immediate supervisor change language to Department Head and Town Administrator, on page 28, 30, 31, and 32 changes as discussed; seconded by Mr. Frieden.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*  
*Ms. Pedone, yes*  
*Mr. Crowley, yes*  
*Mr. Morrissey, yes*  
*Mr. Frieden, yes*  
*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*  
**Approved**

**7:30 PM PUBLIC HEARING CONITUATION from July 12, 2023: Consider amending Policy K-11, “Policy on Hiring”**

Mr. Morrissey read the Public Hearing Notice.

Ms. Warren-Dyment explained this is a continuation from July 12, 2023 and the only item left was to discuss the promotion when an employee is moving one position to another position and moving grades and that person is already at a step 6 or above. Mr. Crowley discussed that Jay wanted to go up to a Step 12 to possibly attract more applicants, but he believes the issue is starting staff at Step 12 the Town will never be able to retain them as they will only ever get the COLA if funded annually. He would like to leave the Step 6. Mr. Morrissey didn’t want to just have people starting at Step 12 but that any deviation had to be supported by evidence of performance or data. He was just looking to give flexibility to Department Head and Town Administrator. Ms. Warren-Dyment would be comfortable having language of two to three step increase at time of promotion but to be placed not higher than step 6 and is not comfortable having it open up to Step 12. Mr. Morrissey stated they would have to demonstrate performance and qualifications. Ms. Warren-Dyment stated this is not for many positions as it excludes contracted employees and DPW, Police and Fire Unions. She explained how a new position could be created and would create a situation for promotion and there is not depth in the organization with each department have a Department Head with one or two employees. She stated there is only one department that the Department Head cannot be contracted and that is the Town Clerk. She stated the Municipal Assistant is also not under contract. Ms. Pedone suggests changing it to two step increase and come back before the Board in a year if it is not working out. Ms. Warren-Dyment explained in order to be transparent this is before the Board due to an employee considering resigning and coming back as a new employee for this promotion to get to the Step 6 as a new hire instead of staying internal. Mr. Crowley stated he would like the language to state “up to an additional two step increase”. Ms. Warren-Dyment clarified the language would be if a two-step increase does not place the employee at Step 6 or above, they may be placed at a Step 6 in the new compensation classification grade.

**Motion** *Mr. Frieden moved to close the Public Hearing; seconded by Mr. Crowley.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*  
*Mr. Crowley, yes*  
*Mr. Morrissey, yes*  
*Mr. Frieden, yes*  
*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*  
***Approved***

***Motion*** *Mr. Crowley moved to adopt and change the Hiring Policy on page 2 to read “The Employee may receive up to an additional two step rate increase at the time of promotion if the Department Head feels that the employee’s qualifications and performance warrant it and if the Town Administrator approves. However, if these two step-rate increases do not place the employee at a Step-Six or above, they may be placed up to a Step Six in the new classification and compensation grade”; seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*  
*Ms. Pedone, yes*  
*Mr. Crowley, yes*  
*Mr. Morrissey, no*  
*Mr. Frieden, yes*  
*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*  
***Approved***

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Introduction of Facilities Manager Charles Goss**

Ms. Warren-Dyment introduced Charles “Chuck” Goss, Facilities Manager shared with Town of Sterling. She stated he has had time to take an overview of the buildings and has gotten right to work. Mr. Goss introduced himself and gives his professional background, he is pleased with the staff in West Boylston and Sterling. He explained he has begun working on some safety concerns and also HVAC issues. Ms. Pedone is very happy to the Town has employed him and welcomed him. Mr. Frieden asked how the share position has working, Mr. Goss stated it is going well but keeping a split time between is sometimes difficult but feels it will work out. Ms. Warren-Dyment stated they will begin evaluating the service contracts next and thanked the Board for supporting this position.

- **Discussion and potential vote on the charge and composition of Facilities Implementation & Strategic Planning Committee (FISP)**

Ms. Warren-Dyment explained at the last FISP meeting there was discussion on “what is FISP, how did it start and what should it be FISP”. She would the Select Board to discuss and decide what should the charge of FISP be. She explained the FISP members were split and some members think their purpose is new buildings, and the others felt FISP deals with all municipal building’s major capital projects. She believes the decision on the charge is going to be based on the funding mechanism and gave examples of projects and funding. She stated the first discussion needs to be is it a new buildings committee or is it a develop a strategic plan for all major capital upgrades and repairs. She stated the second item FISP discussed was how does FISP interplay with the schools even though the care, custody and control is with the school the funding of their projects needs to be considered, and also the Library building. Ms. Warren-Dyment suggested that if FISP is a buildings specific committee that the Board dissolve FISP and anytime a new building is being considered create a building specific committee. And if the Board believes FISP should look at all major capital improvements and set a threshold and also

decide, how do they play into the Capital Investment Board. Ms. Pedone stated the town does not do a good job planning for renovations and waits for an issue until they have to begin planning and if this Committee does not do this, who does. Mr. Rajeshkumar believes the new facilities manager will now work on repair plans. FISP did work on the Senior Center and Police Department. He stated they established subcommittees when needed for any construction, but would be open to changes of the committee. Ms. Pedone stated if the committee does not complete the first sentences of the charge than that committee does not exist and will the Facilities Manager be bringing to the town a strategic plan. Ms. Warren-Dymont clarified the Facilities Manager will not be providing a strategic plan as it is not in his job description. She stated FISP also is made up of the Select Board, one rep Finance Committee and one resident and the Board could also consider a different make up members. She does not believe the Capital Investment Board wants to engage in a lot of the tasks of FISP. Ms. Warren-Dymont suggests keeping FISP but task them with strategic plan and major capital projects. Mr. Morrissey asked if the Facilities Manager will create a preventative maintenance schedule, Ms. Warren-Dymont stated the town has a lot of deferred maintenance and only having 20 hours a week Facilities Manager. He is hopeful that in the future the Facilities Manager will be able to provide a plan. Ms. Warren-Dymont would like to remove the Finance Director as a seat as the town does not have one but will engage the Town Treasurer/Collector and Accountant when needed for borrowing. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated the FISP does have a role and is open to modifying the current charge. Ms. Pedone does not believe it should be all the Select Board members, and would like to see others take some of the seats. Mr. Crowley stated the Select Board was involved due to making large spending decisions for the Town and believes that if only two members of the Board were appointed to the committee it would go around and around for decisions to be made. He stated if there is a strategic plan being created, he does not believe all five members of the Select Board need to be involved and would be better to have experts or people with knowledge involved. Ms. Pedone would like to have Town Administrator, Facilities Manager and Building Inspector as non-voting members. Mr. Frieden asked about a third Select Board member interested in attending, Ms. Warren-Dymont explained open meeting law requirements.

**Motion** *Mr. Morrissey moved to amend the makeup of the FISP to be made up of two Finance Committee members, two Select Board members, three residents of Town Administrator appointment; seconded by Mr. Crowley.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, yes*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

**Approved**

**Motion** *Mr. Morrissey moved to amend the makeup of the FISP to remove Town Accountant and add Facilities Director; seconded Mr. Rajeshkumar.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, yes*  
*Mr. Frieden, yes*  
*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*  
***Approved***

Ms. Pedone would like the FISP to review the charge and add to a future meeting.

- **Discussion and potential vote on the charge and composition of Celebrations Committee**

Ms. Warren-Dyment stated she is requesting the composition from five to seven members.

***Motion*** *Mr. Morrissey moved to amend the makeup of the FISP to remove Town Accountant and add Facilities Director; seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*  
*Ms. Pedone, yes*  
*Mr. Crowley, yes*  
*Mr. Morrissey, yes*  
*Mr. Frieden, yes*  
*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*  
***Approved***

- **Semi-Annual Town Meeting**

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

***Motion*** *Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to set the Semi-Annual Town Meeting, October 16, 2023 at 7 p.m. location to be Middel High School; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*  
*Ms. Pedone, yes*  
*Mr. Crowley, yes*  
*Mr. Morrissey, yes*  
*Mr. Frieden, yes*  
*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*  
***Approved***

- **Vote to open Town Meeting Warrant**

***Motion*** *Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to open the Semi-Annual Town Meeting Warrant on August 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.; seconded Mr. Morrissey.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*  
*Ms. Pedone, yes*  
*Mr. Crowley, yes*  
*Mr. Morrissey, yes*  
*Mr. Frieden, yes*  
*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*  
***Approved***

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

***Motion*** *Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to close the Semi-Annual Town Meeting Warrant on September 1, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, yes*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

***Approved***

- **Draft ADA Transition Plan presented to Select Board and Public Comment Period on Transition Plan Opened**

Ms. Warren-Dymont provided the Board with the ADA Self Analysis and Transition Plan that was conducted with the Collins Center and is available online. She explained the Select Board needs to open the public comment period for thirty days and there is a form available online, or in person to submit comments. She stated comments will be incorporated into the final plan.

Ms. Pedone would like to only allow comments from West Boylston residents and must include name and address.

***Motion*** Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to accept the Draft ADA Transition Plan and open the public comment period; seconded by Mr. Morrissey.

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, yes*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

***Approved***

- **Consider accepting Walmart Community Grant of \$200 in accordance with MGL c. 44, s.53A**

***Motion*** Mr. Frieden moved to accept the Walmart Grant; seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar.

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, yes*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

***Approved***

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Mixer Field Update**

Mr. James Pedone, Chair of the Parks Facilities Committee provided the Board an update on the Mixer Field. He stated they have received construction documents that are 90% completed but they are not ready to be presented to the Select Board. He stated the Parks Facilities Committee met with David Larson of Warner Larson Landscape Architect to go over the intent of the plans and everything is to the design that they originally requested. He stated they also received preliminary cost estimates as the costs have changed again since beginning this project. He stated they are waiting for the responses from that meeting. He stated they will be meeting with the West Boylston Water Department and Municipal Light Department to go over plans with

them for items needed to be completed by those departments. Mr. Frieden asked if the cost estimates appear to be good for the budget of the project, Mr. Pedone stated the new estimates are slightly lower but they still need to evaluate the cost estimate against the budget and separate out the engineering costs that has been spent and he feels it might be over budget. He believes they are in better shape than they were prior. Mr. Crowley asked if the layout requirements of the fields will be met, Mr. Pedone stated that is the layout the committee is pursuing. Ms. Warren-Dymont stated Representative O'Day is working with House Ways and Means Chairman a way to extend the funds appropriated for the project. Ms. Warren-Dymont provided an overview of the funds received and the current status of the funds from the State including the balance.

- **Pride Park Update**

Ms. Warren-Dymont updated the Board that the Final Construction documents and final bid documents are complete from Weston and Sampson. She stated it has been listed on Combuys on July 26<sup>th</sup> and will open in August. She explained a final meeting with Weston and Sampson will be held to go over final language of the bid docs. She spoke to O'Brien and Sons about the equipment and it is scheduled to ship on September 7<sup>th</sup> from the manufacturer. She stated the DPW will be removing the old equipment sometime in August. She stated they plan to execute a contract within ten days of bid opening and the contractor will have fifteen days to commence work on the property. She explained there is a tight timeline for construction due to weather requirements for the poured in place element of construction. Ms. Rajeshkumar commented on the appearance of the site currently, Ms. Warren-Dymont stated she will not pull staff off of their current projects to clean up the site that will be under construction soon. Mr. Frieden asked about the shade sails and grants are available from skin cancer organizations, Ms. Warren-Dymont stated they are past the point of adding items at this time.

- **18 Malden Street Update**

Ms. Warren-Dymont stated she made contact with the owners of 18 Malden Street to inquire if they are still under a purchase and sale agreement. She stated the Select Board Chair and the realtor representing the owners to discuss the town's interest in acquiring the property. She explained the owners decided to list the property for sale and see what the market brings. Ms. Warren-Dymont wanted to be clear to the owners that if there is a change and the owners would like to come back to the table with the town, the town is open for that discussion and pursuing the opportunity. Ms. Pedone stated the actions of the community were unacceptable and asks residents to respect the owner's position.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:**

- **Acknowledge the resignation of Anna Shaw as the Library Director from the Beaman Memorial Library.**

Ms. Warren-Dymont thanked Anna for her dedication and professionalism to the town and the community. She stated Anna is working with the Trustees on a final date and interim plan.

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

1. **Regional Public Health Alliance Update:** Micah Blondeau, Regional Environmental Health Coordinator for the Alliance has tendered his resignation to the City of Worcester, effective Friday, July 21, 2023. The Alliance member-towns (Shrewsbury, Grafton, and West Boylston) are meeting with folks from the City tomorrow to discuss next steps which includes an interim plan for Friday beginning at 5PM for environmental-health matters. I will keep the Select Board and Board of Health updated.

2. **Walmart Grant Update:** At the last Select Board meeting, the Board accepted a grant for \$4,500 from Walmart. Based on the Departmental submissions, the funds will be allocated as follows:

**Library**

- Nintendo Switch console and games- \$500
- Furniture for the young adult area- \$1,000

**Senior Center**

- Walmart Breakfast/Picnic Event- \$1,000

**DPW**

- Mulch, weed block, beautification around football field scoreboard- \$500
- Purchase of trees for tree planting- \$1,000

**Celebrations Committee**

- Funding towards a community event- \$500

3. **Ambulance Receipts Update:** At the January 18, 2023 Select Board meeting, the Board voted to increase the ambulance fees. The monthly collection average from July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 was \$39,735.00. The monthly collection average from January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 was \$54,926.00. In addition to the rate increase, fees are now regularly being collected from the Worcester County House of Corrections. Thank you to Chief Sadowski for his research and diligence in this area.

4. **Cannabis Control Commission Proposed Draft Regulations:** The Cannabis Control Commission has published long-awaited preliminary draft regulations. These draft regulations apply retroactively to current host agreements. The MMA is strongly advocating that the final regulations allow existing HCA's to continue until expiration.

Discussion on the State Tax and Host Community fees.

5. **Woodland Park:** I have had a preliminary meeting with some members of the Parks Commission and a landscape architect. We are exploring submitting a PARC grant for redevelopment of the area presently occupied by the tennis court.
6. **"Rt 12 Pickle":** There was an article in the Worcester Business Journal regarding "Rt. 12 Pickle". The area once occupied by Salter College will now be the home to indoor pickleball. They are anticipating opening by the end of the year and plan to be before the Select Board for a beer and wine liquor license in the near future.

**MEETINGS INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Next Select Board Meeting: August 9, 2023**

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

**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 non-union personnel (Cheryl St. Louis, Treasurer/Collector) and the Chair declares that an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

**Ms. Pedone declared a detrimental effect and will be adjourning following the session.**

***Motion:** Mr. Crowley moved to enter 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 non-union personnel (Cheryl St. Louis, Treasurer/Collector) and that the Select Board adjourns at the conclusion of the Executive Session and return to open session, seconded by Mr. Morrissey.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, yes*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

***All in favor***

***Motion*** *Mr. Crowley moved to exit executive session 9:11 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Morrissey*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, yes*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

***All in favor***

***Motion*** *Mr. Frieden moved to adjourn 9:11 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Morrissey*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Roll Call Vote*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Morrissey, yes*

*Mr. Frieden, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

***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