



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

## **Board of Selectmen/Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date / Time / Location of Meeting</b> March 6, 2019; 7:00 p.m.; Selectmen's Meeting Room, 140 Worcester Street
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<b>Members Present</b> Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman Patrick J. Crowley, Vice Chair Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Clerk John W. Hadley, Selectman
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<b>Members NOT Present</b> Siobhan M. Bohnson, Selectman
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<b>Invited Guests:</b>
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Mr. Rucho convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one came forward for this agenda item.

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

1. February 20, 2019

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve, second by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

**REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE WARRANTS FOR THE PERIOD COVERING  
FEBRUARY 21 TO MARCH 6, 2019:** Town Payable Warrants FY2019-35 and 36; Sewer  
FY2019-SE19; Payroll P/R 2019-17 and MLP #24

Motion Mr. Crowley to approve, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

Steven Ucher of Mass DOT presentation on Malden Street, Holden project bridge rehab project

Mr. Ucher joined the Board and reported that the bridge is located in Holden over I-190. It will undergo an extensive preservation project which should extend its life for 20 to 30 years. The bridge will be closed for no more than 65 days. Weather dependent, the project will start some time during the first three weeks in April. Due to the fact that the initial part of the project involves water it can't be done during freezing temperatures. They will blast the top two inches of the bridge road surface off down to the rebar and then they will re-pour new surface material. They intend to post bridge closure signs and a detour has been approved. The detour will send traffic down Lee onto Prospect Street.

Mr. Hadley asked if I-190 would be closed. Mr. Ucher advised that there will be impacts to I-190 at night from 9:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. That will be during the July and August time frame. They plan to repave I-190 from exit 4 to exit 7 in Leominster. They have a contract in place and all three lanes will be done. Two weeks before they close the bridge they will reach out to the town and schedule a meeting with the contractor. Chief Minnich pointed out that when you go down Goodale Street to the bridge there is a cul-de-sac which is used by the school bus as a turnaround. He added that when you block the road we will need access to that. Ms. Ucher reports that they will put up type 3 barriers right at the bridge. The Chief also noted that there are houses in Holden on the West Boylston side of the bridge and our back up mutual aid for Holy Cross is Holden. Mr. Ucher noted that they have flexibility on where they close the bridge and they will make accommodations to keep access open. Mass DOT will post signs and have flashing lights and a message board at the bridge. They will also do public outreach in Holden and West Boylston. West Boylston Police and Fire will be covering the Holden houses through mutual aid and Chief Minnich will inform them of that fact. Mr. Ucher states that the bridge will look very clean once the project is done.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Consider offer of donation of property located on Blue Ridge Road to the Town of West Boylston  
Isreal Real Estate owns a parcel of property on Blue Ridge Road. They reached out to the Treasurer/Collector to see if the town might have an interest in acquiring the property. Prior to sending it to the Board Ms. Lucier reached out to our Open Space Implementation Committee to see if they had an interest in acquiring the property for open space or perhaps a dog park. She was told that they had looked at the property but felt a dog park would not work at this site. They also looked at acquiring it for open space, but found it is a site that would require significant cleanup and maintenance to keep the neighbors from dumping their yard waste and debris. It is not a liability the committee wanted to accept.

Motion Mr. Hadley not to consider acquiring the property, second by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

7:15 p.m. Public Hearing – in conformity with the General Bylaws of the Town of West Boylston, ARTICLE XXIII - PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE to review and consider changes to Building, Electrical and Plumbing fees

Mr. Rucho opened the public hearing and Mr. Rajeshkumar read the following notice. Public notice is hereby given, in conformity with the requirements of the General Bylaws of the Town of West Boylston, ARTICLE XXIII - PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE, that the Board of Selectmen will meet on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 7:15 p.m. for the purpose of considering amendments to the fees charge by the Building Department including building, electrical and plumbing fees. The meeting will be held in the Selectmen's meeting room, #210 of Town Hall, 140 Worcester Street, West Boylston. For additional information, or to review the proposed changes, please contact the Office of the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen at 774.261.4012. All interested persons, groups, and agencies are invited to attend. Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman advertised on February 20, 27, 2019.

Building Commissioner George Tignor joined the Board. He reports that in order to keep up with what other towns in the area are charging he is asking the Board to consider some changes to our fee schedule. Residential increases are very minor and commercial went up quite a bit more. He

worked with the inspectors to come up with these recommendations. Commercial plumbing fee was \$150 as a base fee plus \$50 for every required inspection. With input from the inspectors he is recommending a \$250 base fee to cover up to 20 fixtures. After that if it is more than 20 then they do a plan review and charge \$5.00 for each additional fixtures over 20. He is proposing to increase re-inspections

Mr. Hadley reports that he spoke with Mr. Tignor earlier and he thinks a commercial plan review should be \$1,000 and we currently charge \$500. Mr. Tignor reports that Worcester charges \$1,000. He would also like to raise the per inspection fee for the primary inspector from \$30 to \$35. He will check on plan review fees and commercial electrical base fees for other towns and

Motion Mr. Hadley to continue the hearing until April 17<sup>th</sup>, second by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

### **NEW BUSINESS (cont):**

2. Review 2019 Traffic Count Program activities and consider whether you would like to add on up to three additional counts

Ms. Lucier forwarded this information to both the Transportation Committee and the Police Chief to get their input.

Motion Mr. Crowley to defer to the Transportation Committee and the Chief on what they think the additional counts should be, second by Mr. Hadley. Discussion ensued with regard to what streets should be counted. It was noted that the counts will take place between April and November during the workday. The board felt we should look at Prospect Street. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

3. Acknowledge Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center 6-month update

In accordance with our agreement, the town receives a written update during the month of February and an in-person update in August.

### **FISP UPDATE:**

#### **1. General Update on Senior Center**

Mr. Hadley reports that the Center is pretty much done with a few small issues to work out. We haven't yet taken possession of it yet. The landscaping and parking lot will be done this spring. Dave Femia noted that the Council on Aging voted on a grand opening for May 4. Mr. Hadley pointed out that the Facilities Implementation and Strategic Planning Committee owns the building and hasn't yet decided on that date.

#### **1. Invoices**

None this evening

### **INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

#### **1. SWAT UPDATE**

At the request of SWAT, Casella coordinated an audit of our recycling contamination rate by trash route. The results were as follows: Monday – 3.1%, Tuesday – 3.25%, Wednesday – 11.11%, Thursday – 8.15%, Friday – 11.61% with our average being 7.44%.

The top 5 contaminants are Plastic bags/film like case wrap (the biggest issue by far), soiled/used paper products like paper napkins and single use drink cups, textiles, tangles like extension cords and scrap metal – pots and pans. We have updated our SWAT webpage document on What To Do With..? to include these items. We are also working on posting a couple of recycling videos.

Ms. Lucier will get a response to a question posed by Mr. Crowley as to how West Boylston compares to other towns.

## **2.Municipal Vulnerability Plan Update**

Last Thursday night we held our kick off meeting with representatives of CMRPC and representatives from a good number of town boards and departments. We scheduled our Community Resilience Building workshop for Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> here at town hall from 8:00 until 3:00. At the meeting we identified a large number of stakeholders to invite to the workshop. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Crowley suggested inviting someone from MEMA or FEMA to attend the workshop.

## **3.Review Liquor License Fee Survey and consider whether the Board would like to amend any of the license categories**

Included in the agenda packet is a liquor license fee survey. We haven't updated our fees since July 1, 2000. Should the Board feel there is a need to make any adjustments we will need to schedule a public hearing.

## **4.Review Business License Fee Survey and consider whether the Board would like to amend any of the license categories**

Included in the agenda packet is a business license fee survey. We haven't updated our fees since July 1, 2000. A few years ago we did amend the fee schedule to add the category of donation bins. Should the Board feel there is a need to make any adjustments we will need to schedule a public hearing. The Board suggested scheduling a public hearing for both business and alcoholic beverage licenses at their April 17 agenda should they wish to move ahead with any changes.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:**

1.Concurrence on the appointment of Chris Berglund to the Housing Authority effective March 6, 2019 for a term to expire on May 31, 2023

There has been a vacancy on the Housing Authority for the state appointee. According to the Act Modernizing Municipal Finance and Government, if the state does not fill the vacancy in the position of that member within 120 days from the date that the vacancy is created, that vacancy may then be filled by its Board of Selectmen. Because it is a political appointment it does not need to be advertised. The vacancy was created on October 5, 2018, we are beyond the 120 waiting period and now the Board may take action.

Motion Mr. Hadley to appoint Chris Berglund to the state appointee slot, second by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

2.Acknowledge receipt of resignation from Patty Page as Grant Writer

Motion Mr. Crowley to acknowledge receipt, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

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

1.The town received its Payment in Lieu of Taxes from the Department of Conservation & Recreation in the amount of \$683,581.59

The FY19 payment the town will be getting from the state \$683,581.59, and the minimum PILOT due is \$387,188.43.

2.Announce that the Community Survey will remain online until March 31<sup>st</sup> – residents are encouraged to take the Survey and give us their input

We are currently over 400 responses and are hoping to get more responses.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SELECTMENS REPORTS:**

Mr. Crowley would like to schedule a discussion with the Board on writing a policy to require that we include West Boylston vendors when we solicit quotes for services.

Mr. Rajeshkumar noted that we are in the early stages of the election and asked where the election will be held. Ms. Lucier advised that the election will be at the school and we will notify residents in the town meeting mailer of that change.

Motion Mr. Crowley at 8:00 p.m. to adjourn, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

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Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

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Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman

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Patrick J. Crowley, Vice Chairman

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Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Clerk

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John W. Hadley, Selectman