



**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> April 24, 2019; 6:00 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 Siobhan M. Bohnson, Selectman John W. Hadley, Selectman
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<b>Members NOT Present</b>
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<b>Invited Guests:</b>
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Mr. Rucho convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

1. Consider approving the hiring of seasonal employee for the Department of Public Works (tentative)

Ms. Lucier reports that Mr. Kellaher has interviewed the two applicants and is recommending Glenn Parker for the position. His hiring will be effective April 29, 2019 for a term to expire on October 31, 2019, at Step 3 of Grade 1, \$14.91 an hour.

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

2. Consider approving a one-day transient vendor & common victuallar license for the April 27<sup>th</sup> Harry & Fran Brewing Company event (tentative)

We will pass over this item as they plan to hand out complimentary bags of chips and pretzels.

3. Review, approve, vote to sign and post May 20, 2019 Semi-Annual Town Meeting Warrant

ARTICLE 1 - authorization to hear the reports of officers and committees of the town

This is a standard article allows various boards and committees to make brief reports. Thus far SWAT intends to make a presentation. Economic Development Task Force may have a report

Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar to include the article on the warrant, second Mr. Crowley all in favor.

ARTICLE 2 - authorization to borrow in anticipation of revenue and to enter into a compensating balance agreement with a bank

This is a standard article. Motion Ms. Bohnson to include the article on the warrant, second Mr. Crowley all in favor.

ARTICLE 3 – authorization to expend funds in anticipation of reimbursement of state highway assistance aid

This is a standard article. Motion Mr. Hadley to include the article on the warrant, second Mr. Crowley all in favor.

ARTICLE 4 - authorization to amend the personnel bylaw and to amend the classification and compensation plan so as to provide employees a cost –of-living pay increase in fy2020 (2%)

This is a standard article. Motion Ms. Bohnson to include the article on the warrant, second Mr. Crowley all in favor.

ARTICLE 5 - authorization to set the salary of elected officials

This is a standard article. Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar to include the article on the warrant, second Mr. Crowley all in favor. Mr. Crowley would like to ask the Municipal Light Board to waive their \$300 stipend.

ARTICLE 6 – authorization to transfer unexpended funds from fiscal year 2019 appropriations

This is a standard article. Motion Mr. Crowley to include the article on the warrant, second Ms. Bohnson all in favor.

ARTICLE 7 – authorization to pay bills from a previous fiscal year

This is a standard article. Motion Mr. Hadley to include the article on the warrant, second Mr. Rajeshkumar all in favor. Thus far we do not have any bills and we may be passing over this article.

ARTICLE 8 – authorization to appropriate money to the sewer enterprise account for fiscal year 2020

This is a standard article for the sewer budget. Motion Mr. Hadley to include on the warrant, second by Ms. Bohnson, all in favor.

ARTICLE 9 - fiscal year 2020 omnibus budget appropriation article

This is a standard article to set the budget. Motion Mr. Hadley to include the article on the warrant, second Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

ARTICLE 10 – vote to appropriate funds for capital improvement purchases

This is our standard article for capital purchases. It will allow us to purchase 3 stainless steel dump bodies at a cost of \$114,340 and stainless steel materials spreader at a cost of \$23,500. The CIB has not yet consider the request from the Fire Department for a forestry utility truck at a cost of \$87,500. Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 10, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

ARTICLE 11 – authorization to purchase equipment for the new fire truck

This article will allow us to purchase rescue equipment for the new rescue pumper and include the \$85,000 within the initial borrowing. The Fire Chief will be prepared to answer questions at town meeting and going forward we will make sure that vehicle equipment is included with the original purchase. Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar to include the article on the warrant, second Mr. Hadley all in favor.

ARTICLE 12 – authorization to purchase salt spreader speed controls for DPW trucks

Motion Mr. Crowley to include the article on the warrant, second Ms. Bohnson, all in favor.

ARTICLE 13 – authorization to purchase software to upgrade the Assessors IT system

Motion Mr. Crowley to include the article on the warrant, second Ms. Bohnson, all in favor.

ARTICLE 14 - to reduce eligibility age for exemption qualification.

This article will allow us to reduce the age for people to qualify for this exemption. Currently we have 1,756 people in that age bracket and as of right now we only have 21 people who applied for and qualify for that \$1,000 a year exemption. Motion Mr. Crowley to include the article on the warrant, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

ARTICLE 15 - authorization to appropriate funds to the unemployment trust fund

This article will allow us to replenish this fund. Motion Mr. Crowley to include, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

ARTICLE 16 – authorization to re-appropriate surplus bond proceeds

Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 16 on the warrant, second by Mr. Crowley. The Board suggested having the town accountant answer any questions under this article and be prepared to mentioned what the original amount of the bond was. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

ARTICLE 17 – appropriation to fund an elderly community services program

Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar to include Article 17 on the warrant, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor. Mr. Crowley asked if the \$15,000 is a statutory cap. He would like to move towards minimum wage, asked how many people on the program get to the \$15,000, and asked if the number needs to go to \$18,000. We will ask how many people are on the program and if we ever spend the entire \$15,000. Ms. Lucier reports that last year we increased the hourly rate by \$1.00.

ARTICLE 18 - departmental revolving funds

Motion Mr. Crowley to include the article, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

ARTICLE 19 – authorization to appropriate funds from community preservation fund revenues

Motion Mr. Crowley to include the article on the warrant, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor. Mr. Crowley noted that they do not have any projects for this town meeting and the Library has one for October.

ARTICLE 20 – transfer of cemetery funds

Motion Mr. Hadley to include the article on the warrant, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor. This article will allow the Cemetery to purchase a new Walker Zero Turn Mower at a price \$17,000.

ARTICLE 21 – authorization to appropriate funds to the OPEB trust fund

Motion Mr. Hadley to include the article on the warrant, second by Ms. Bohnson. This is the article that will allow us to start funding our Other Post Employment Benefits Trust, which was previously established by the town back on May 16, 2011 under Article 35. The plan is to transfer \$100,000 from Free Cash. If all the articles pass, we will have a balance of \$295,536 in Free Cash and it could be moved to the Capital fund, or be carried over as free cash. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

ARTICLE 22 – authorization to appropriate funds to the stabilization fund

Motion Mr. Crowley to include the article on the warrant and pass over it, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor. We are required to be at 5% and we are at 5.06%. Mr. Crowley noted that the bonding agencies look at your total savings and Stabilization and Capital count the same for bonding.

ARTICLE 23 – authorization to appropriate funds to the capital investment fund

Motion Mr. Crowley to include the article on the warrant, second by Mr. Hadley. The balance in the Capital Investment fund is \$670,551.55 before project close out and turn backs such as the communications equipment article. The CIB is recommending the stainless steel truck bodies and materials spreaders for \$138,000. They are also considering the fire department truck at \$87,500. Mr. Bricault noted that they have sufficient money for this year and a lot of future new needs. He added that with every DPW Director the interest and the cost of those interests keeps changing. Mr. Crowley suggesting holding off assigning Free Cash until we revisit the capital needs. We could come back in six months to see if Stabilization or Capital would be the best route. Mr. Bricault will work on that. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

ARTICLE 24 – authorization to enter into a permanent sidewalk easement – 1 Lynwood Lane

Motion Mr. Crowley to include Article 24 on the warrant, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

ARTICLE 25 - Petitioned Article 25 & ARTICLE 26 - Petitioned Article

Mr. Rucho asked if the Board would like to make a statement. It was agreed that we would ask town counsel to make a statement on how this vote would impact the town.

Motion Mr. Crowley to include Articles 25 and 26, second by Mr. Hadley. Vote on the motion- Messrs. Rucho, Hadley and Rajeshkumar yes; Mr. Crowley and Ms. Bohnson no.

4. Board endorsement of Articles

With regard to Articles 25 and 24, motion Mr. Crowley to say that the Board is not in favor of these based on the fact that the town voted on them on two occasions at town meeting, second by Mr. Hadley. The Board would like town counsel to give the explanation to town meeting noting that the Attorney General's office previously found that the action of town meeting in the town of Charlton was unconstitutional based on the same fact pattern. Mr. Rajeshkumar noted that the vote could go either way and the Attorney General will make the decision. Ms. Bohnson pointed out that both

petitions were signed by the same 10 people. Mr. Crowley noted that in the Charlton case Attorney General Healey's office said because the town had already passed zoning around recreational cannabis, the town was prohibited from passing a subsequent ban through a general bylaw. If the general bylaw passes and the zoning bylaw fails, town counsel will have to tell us what it means.

Motion Mr. Crowley to come out against Articles 24 and 25, second by Ms. Bohnson; vote on the motion - Messrs. Rucho, Hadley, Crowley and Ms. Bohnson; Mr. Rajeshkumar no.

Motion Mr. Hadley to endorse articles 10, 11 and 12. Ms. Bohnson question the forest truck at \$87,500 for one special truck and asked when does it get used and is it needed. She also asked if we can adapt another truck. Mr. Bricault advised that if they have a quorum of members this evening they will address this, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Crowley to endorse article 9, the budget, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

Motion Ms. Bohnson to endorse Article 16, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor. Ms. Bohnson thinks it helps the town to understand what the Board went through.

Motion Mr. Crowley to endorse the OPEB Article, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

#### 5. Assign motions

Motions were assigned as follows: Mr. Rucho will move articles 1, 6, 12, 18, and 24; Mr. Hadley will move articles 2, 7, 13, and 17; Mr. Rajeshkumar will move articles 3, 8, 14, and 21; Ms. Bohnson will move articles 4, 15, and 22; Mr. Crowley will move articles 5, 9, 11, 16 and 23. Article 10 will be moved by the Capital Investment Board, article 19 will be moved by the Community Preservation Committee, article 20 will be moved by the Cemetery Trustees and articles 25 and 26 will be moved by the petitioners.

#### 6. Approve town meeting mailer

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

Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar at 7:04 p.m. to adjourn, second by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: May 8, 2019

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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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Siobhan M. Bohnson, Selectman

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John W. Hadley, Selectman