



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

Select Board/Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting September 7, 2022; 6:00 p.m. 140 Worcester Street West Boylston, MA 01583 Board Meeting Room 2 nd Floor

Members Present: Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Chairman Christopher A. Rucho, Vice Chairman Marc Frieden, Clerk Patrick J. Crowley, Selectman Kristina Pedone, Selectwoman
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Members NOT Present:

Invited Guests: James Purcell, Interim Town Administrator Faye Zukowski, Municipal Assistant
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Others Present: Ken Cleveland, David Femia, Tom Z.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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:

- **July 6, 2022 Regular Session**

Motion Mr. Crowley moved to approve; Mr. Rucho second.

All in favor

Approved

- **July 6, 2022 Executive Session not be released**

Motion Mr. Rucho moved to approve; Mr. Crowley second.

All in favor

Approved

- **July 19, 2022 Regular Session**

Motion Mr. Crowley moved to approve; Mr. Rucho second.
All in favor
Approved

REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE WARRANTS FOR THE PERIOD COVERING AUGUST 18, 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 7, 2022: Town Payable Warrants FY2023-08, FY2023-09 and FY2023-10; Sewer FY2023-SE04; School Warrant FY2023-04 and FY2023-05; Town Payroll FY2023-04 and FY2023-05 and MLP FY2023 #5.

Motion Mr. Crowley moved to approve; Mr. Rucho second.
All in favor
Approved

BEVERLY GOODALE, HISTORICAL COMMISSION

- **Boston Post Cane Candidate Rita L. Mirante, 102 years young on September 17, 2022.**
Table for a future meeting.

KEVIN DUFFY, DPW DIRECTOR:

- **Weston & Sampson Bid Results and Recommendation of Award:**

Mr. Duffy stated in August the Sanitary Sewer System Operation and Maintenance bid was advertised, one bid was received. He stated Weston & Sampson is the current operator and was the only bidder. He explained year 1 is an 8.75% increase in cost from the year 3 of the prior contract. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked how the town can attract more bidders, Mr. Purcell stated in the past there was a competing bid from a firm in Texas and the bid proposal was higher. He stated Weston & Sampson has been working in town since 1995 and originally designed the system. He stated they help a proposal conference prior to bid and interested bidders could attend and Weston & Sampson was the only firm to attend. He stated the incoming Town Administrator Jennifer Warren-Dymont was able to attend. Mr. Purcell stated Weston & Sampson was deemed a responsible bidder prior to opening the price proposal. Mr. Duffy stated a requirement is that they are no more than a 30-minute drive to respond and they have that, Mr. Purcell stated Tom Frost is the Project Manager and lives in town. Mr. Duffy recommends the Board accept the bid from Weston & Sampson and enter in agreement for three years. Mr. Crowley stated there is a comment about insurance and would like to be sure this is resolved.

Motion Mr. Crowley moved to award the contract to Weston & Sampson for three years; Ms. Pedone second.

All in favor
Approved

- **Malden Street Paving Concerns, CR:**

Mr. Rucho asked is this project is completed, Mr. Duffy stated it is not but he emailed with Eversource on Tuesday and this trench restoration is on their list to be completed next week. Mr. Rucho had concerns with Eversource beginning the project within the five-year moratorium and is now outside of that and feels it should fall under the rules when they start the project. Mr. Duffy responded per the regulation it is two-years or to the end of the moratorium. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked how far up Malden is the sewer allowed, Mr. Duffy asked for an email.

Mr. Frieden asked about the repair of the railroad crossing on Temple Street, Mr. Duffy stated it is slated to begin on October 1st and 2nd. He stated he received an email with street opening permit this week, for all three crossings here in West Boylston. Mr. Purcell stated that some difficult crossings slow traffic down.

Mr. Rucho asked about the Playground opening, Mr. Duffy can provide at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Semi Annual Town Meeting Preliminaries:**

Mr. Purcell stated articles for town meeting were solicited and due September 2 and he presented a list of proposed articles. Mr. Purcell stated he is working the Municipal Assistant, Town Accountant and Finance Committee Chair. Mr. Rucho would like more details on the request for a shed from Parks Commission. Mr. Purcell stated he would like to place articles for Opioid Settlement Funds, the Town Account believes it may be premature. He stated there is pending legislation in a bill as well. Mr. Purcell stated the free cash has not yet been certified. Mr. Crowley asked if they still have the option to not draw down on the funds without losing them, Mr. Purcell stated he consulted with Town Counsel and does not believe so.

- **ARPA Request from Parks Facilities Committee for Mixter Field Project:**

Mr. Crowley explained the Parks Facilities voted to request \$262,337 from ARPA to cover the remaining balance of the proposed project. He explained they have \$625,000 from CPC, and \$150,000 from State budget. He stated they budgeted \$50,000 for site drainage costs and that is an unknown figure of true costs. He stated due to COVID and inflation they are looking for more funds.

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to allocate \$262,337 from ARPA funds to Mixter Field Project; Ms. Pedone second.*

Mr. Rucho feels this project should be put on the back burner as other fields need attention such as track, Woodland tennis courts, Woodland Field and Fields A & B. He does not think spending \$1 million on one field is not a priority. He would like to see them use the funds that have already been allocated to this project. Mr. Frieden agreed with Mr. Rucho. Ms. Pedone stated her concern is a master plan was developed a few years ago and to date none of the parks have had a project assigned to them or funded. Mr. Rucho feels some work has had work done by Parks department, Ms. Pedone stated that is maintenance. Mr. Crowley stated this park was on the master plan that was developed and funds have been appropriated for this park. Mr. Rucho would like to see maintenance on the fields that we already have. Mr. Crowley stated a million-dollar project will never be less. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated maybe the Parks Facilities Committee needs to go back and choose one of the alternate plans or maybe seek out local contractors. Ms. Pedone stated legally they cannot have local contractors completing this work and attaching to the town's drainage.

2-3-0

Approved

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Update on Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Multi-Family Zoning Requirements for MBTA Communities:**

Mr. Rajeshkumar stated information has now come out and he would like to have Trish Settles of CMRPC in to speak on this. Mr. Rucho does not feel we need to have her back in but would like to just have an update. Mr. Purcell stated when Trish was last in, they were waiting for the

rules to come out and now the state has released the guidance. Mr. Purcell stated maybe the Planning Board would like to have her in to their meeting to provide and update and assistance.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

- Mr. Purcell stated he has been with the town for 14 weeks and thank the Board.
- He explained he has worked on day-to-day operations, fiscal year transition, Fire Chief administrator transition. He stated the town has competent staff and has supported them when needed.
- He thanked and gave credit to Faye Zukowski the Municipal Assistant and has performed at a top tier level. He stated her role has expanded during this period of time and expects the duties she has taken over will become part of her job. He explained her prior years of municipal service are an asset to the town.
- Mr. Purcell stated Fire Chief transition was seamless and the more people interact with Chief Mark Sadowski the more impressed they are and will be.
- He stated Jennifer Warren-Dyment will begin on Monday September 6, 2022 and has immersed herself with on goings of the town and is ready to begin.

Mr. Rajeshkumar thank Jim Purcell on behalf of the Select Board for taking care of the town.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SELECT BOARD REPORTS:

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to adjourn at 6:58 p.m.; Mr. Rucho second.*

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Frieden, yes

Mr. Rucho yes,

Mr. Crowley yes,

Ms. Pedone, yes

Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes

All in favor

Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Chairman

Christopher A. Rucho, Vice Chairman

Marc Friedman, Clerk

Patrick J. Crowley, Selectman

Kristina Pedone, Selectwoman