



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

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

**Date / Time / Location of Meeting**  
**November 2, 2022; 6:00 p.m.**  
**140 Worcester Street**  
**West Boylston, MA 01583**  
**Board Meeting Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Members Present:**  
**Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Chairman**  
**Christopher A. Rucho, Vice Chairman**  
**Marc Frieden, Clerk**  
**Patrick J. Crowley, Selectman**  
**Kristina Pedone, Selectwoman**

**Members NOT Present:**

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

**Others Present:** David Femia, Bob, Ken Cleveland, Ken Lombardi, Marcia Cairns, John Sullivan, Richard Meagher

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

#### **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.

### **REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE WARRANTS FOR THE PERIOD COVERING OCTOBER 18, 2022 TO NOVEMBER 2, 2022: Town Payable Warrants FY2023-17 and FY2023-18; Sewer FY2023-SE08 AND FY2023-SE09; Town Payroll FY2023-08 and MLP FY2023 #8**

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

***All in favor***

***Approved***

Mr. Crowley explained there are two designees that review and sign the warrants prior to being approved in an open meeting.

**6:05 PM PUBLIC HEARING:**

**In conformity with the requirements of the General Bylaws of the Town of West Boylston, ARTICLE XXIII - PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE, that the Selectboard will meet on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 6:05 p.m. for the purpose of considering amending the fee charged for Fire Permits Fees and Town Clerk Fees.**

Chief Sadowski gave the Board and overview of his requested fee changes and new fees added. He explained he has added fees for permits that they already issue but were never listed in a fee list or charged for. He explained he had a few fee changes but none were more than \$10 added to existing fee. He stated some fees increased to compensate for the size or scope of projects such as sprinkler systems and explained these inspections take more time to complete. Chief Sadowski explained he also added in all the 529 CMR Fire Codes associated with the inspections. Mr. Crowley asked about the smoke detector inspections. Ms. Pedone asked about the inspection fees for Angel Brook and Hillside. Chief Sadowski discussed the annual inspection of the smoke detectors at Angel Brook and Hillside Village and the department uses grant funds to subsidize the costs and it poses a financial challenge to the department budget. He explained this service is available to all residents not just these developments and he feels the cost of \$50 per inspection is reasonable and they provide you with a certificate of inspection. Mr. Rucho asked what was charged in the past, Chief Sadowski stated he cannot speak to that but understands that sometimes a fee was charged. Mr. Frieden asked what triggers the inspection, Chief Sadowski explained instances. Mr. Frieden asked about the Public Information Record fee and if this was charged in the past, Chief Sadowski responded it was not but they receive a lot of records requests from law offices and insurance companies and required time to research and costs to mail. Mr. Rucho does not believe there should not be a flat fee of \$5, Ms. Warren-Dyment recommends a \$5 minimum. Mr. Crowley agreed with a minimum of \$5. Mr. Frieden asked if this could be a waivable fee, Ms. Pedone stated they have done that in the past and the Chief is looking to get away from that. Mr. Rucho asked about the Public Information fee, and feels this fall under public record request and would like it removed. Ms. Warren-Dyment stated this can be removed and handled on a case-by-case bases similar to a public record request and the Chief will have more discretion. Ms. Warren-Dyment stated the Town Clerk is the Public Record Officer and she can advise more. Mr. Rucho would like to remove this item for now and let it fall under State public records law. Chief Sadowski stated they get these requests on a frequent bases from lawyers and insurance companies.

***Motion** Mr. Rucho moved to approve the Fire Permit Fees as presented with additional changes of Fire Prevention Systems (Sprinkler) 1-50 and Fire Combustible Liquid Storage 1-1000 and removal of the Public Information Records; Mr. Frieden second.*

***All in favor***

***Approved***

Ms. Warren-Dyment stated the Town Clerk Fees to remove the Voter List charge of \$25 and add Vital Records Amendment \$15.

***Motion** Mr. Frieden moved to approve the Town Clerk Fees as requested; Mr. Rucho second.*

***All in favor***

***Approved***

***Motion** Mr. Rucho moved to close the Public Hearing; Mr. Frieden second.*

***All in favor***

***Approved***

**6:15 PM West Boylston Municipal Light Plant Update to Select Board (Includes updates on Current Activities and Challenges, Emissions, Energy Supply, Rates and Electrification)- Presented by Jonathan Fitch, General Manager of West Boylston Municipal Lighting Plant:**

John Fitch, General Manager of the Municipal Light Department gives the Board and update. He explained the Light Department was established in 1909 and service about 3,800 customers about 5 to 700 of them are commercial-industrial customers the rest are all residential.

He reviews the current activities that we're planning for this next year 2023 and into 2024. He explained they will begin construction on a 5 Bay garage at 29 Prospect Street they gave the notice to proceed to the contractor and anticipate construction to begin in the spring and mid of mid-2024 to be finished. He explained they currently park one vehicle outside and newly ordered vehicles will not fit in current garage and this will allow for all vehicles to be parked inside and will allow for more office space.

They are working on a three-megawatt battery energy storage system to be installed adjacent to the flywheels and solar over on Paul X Tivnan Drive. He explained this has been approved and that should get installed between now and next June and will give them the ability to save energy or store energy during the day or early evening or early morning. He stated it can then discharge it at our peak hour which is generally five to eight pm and we'll do that

probably five or six times a month trying to make ourselves look smaller to the rest of the electric grid so that we'll build less and save someone some money on our expenses. Mr. Frieden asked what the size of the flywheel is, Mr. Fitch responded 125 kilowatts and battery storage system will be 3 000 kilowatts which is significantly and bigger.

He stated they will be installing two fast Chargers EV Chargers electric vehicle chargers at Goodale Park and will be five parking spots with level three Chargers all being paid for by a Grant. These will charge your vehicle in about 30 minutes and will be accessible with a phone app. He stated they received approval from the Park Commission to install these charge stations.

They will be installing new billing and accounting software for operations the existing software they had is 30 years old, this is a big project because changing billing and accounting software it typically takes about a year.

He explained they are working on their energy and capacity supply planning through 2050 and will need to be at a NetZero by 2050 but feels they are ahead of schedule.

They have hired an architect to review the public access to the main entrance of the building and will be working on updating the accessibility.

He discussed upcoming projects for the next two years. One project is utilizing the dark fiber that is in town and will be working with SELCO (Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations) and is also studying how Sterling is working out with the fiber they are using.

He explained Mass Saves are offering rebates, incentives and tax credits for residents for weatherization, heat pumps, and is all listed on their website.

He discussed the sources of electricity that they obtain, some from nuclear, wind and solar from many various sources.

Mr. Frieden asked about moving power underground, Mr. Fitch stated they are researching the option of underground but the overhead is very reliable.

The Board thank John for coming in and providing updates and proving great service to the town.

**6:25 PM Consider Voting to Approve the Senior Health Insurance Renewal Rates for Calendar Year 2023. Presented by Ken Lombardi, NFP.**

Ken Lombardi of NFP and Marcia Cairns, Chair of the towns Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC).

He stated the retiree's health insurance programs renew in January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. He explained the retirees are offered two plans through MIIA Health Care Trust; Medex 2 plan has 106 subscribers and Managed Blue for Seniors has 96 subscribers. He explained there was not increase on the Medex 2 plan but a slight increase of 1.16% for the Managed Blue for seniors. He stated both of these plans are a

supplement to Medicare. He stated the IAC has reviewed and voted to recommend the renewal without any changes.

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to approve the rates; Ms. Pedone second.*

***All in favor***

***Approved***

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Winter Parking Ban**

Will be a future agenda item with DPW Director.

- **Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Patrick Brown of 128 North Main Street, West Boylston, MA (October 17, 2022)- Acknowledge receipt of and review complaint; Authorize response by Town Counsel:**

Ms. Warren-Warren-Dyment-Warren-Dyment discussed with the Board the Open Meeting Law complaint received and is regarding Semi Annual Town Meeting with a variety of alleged violations in respect to accessibility. She stated Town Counsel has drafted a response for the Board and explained Town Meeting is not a public body is therefor no response is required. She explained the Town acknowledges certain areas of town buildings need repairs to achieve compliance for accessibility requirements, and has recently completed a ADA Self evaluation and transition plan with assistance from the Collins Center and will be working towards addressing areas to achieve compliance. Ms. Warren-Dyment requested the Board acknowledge they received the complaint; acknowledge they have reviewed the complaint and authorize Town Counsel to respond on the Board's behalf.

***Motion** Mr. Rucho moved to acknowledge receiving the complaint, acknowledge they reviewed complaint and authorize Town Counsel to send this response on behalf of the Board; Ms. Pedone second.*

***All in favor***

***Approved***

- **\*Discussion of Composition of Parks Facilities Committee- Vote(s) May Be Taken**  
**Mr. Rajeshkumar asked Mark Frieden if he would like to be on the Parks Facilities Committee.**

***Motion** Mr. Rucho moved to appoint Mr. Frieden to the Parks Facilities as the Selectboard Designee; Mr. Crowley second.*

***All in favor***

***Approved***

- **\*Consider approving an Annual Common Victualler for Brown Rice Thai, Inc dba Maken Zi Ramen & Rice Bowls located at 26 West Boylston Street**  
**\*consider having the expiration date of December 31, 2023**

***Motion** Mr. Rucho moved to approve the license with an expiration of December 31, 2023; Mr. Crowley second.*

***All in favor***

***Approved***

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Pride Park Update**

Ms. Warren-Dyment updated the Board that she and Kevin Duffy have met with Weston and Sampson Playground Division. She explained they have provided a proposal for services to Design and Engineering Services and they will be looking at overall accessibility and connections, reconfiguration of equipment, installing new swing sets, incorporating new equipment that has previously been purchased, and coming up new design that takes into considerations the slopes and storm water management and ADA compliance. She stated they have the \$100,000 from the CPC Fund and this plan will cost \$29,500. She stated Weston and Sampson will be checking in at the 50% to be sure they are on the right track and checking in again at the 90% point. She explained at the end they will have a real number for the cost and a design with documents ready to go out to bid. She stated this does not include new survey but the DPW Director is obtaining three quotes for a new survey. Mr. Crowley asked if they need to go out to bid for the plan, Ms. Warren-Dyment stated it does not as design services under \$30,000 are not required. Mr. Rucho asked if other places were contact, Ms. Warren-Dyment stated she wanted to go with a firm that is skilled in this expertise and feels this is the best choice. MS. Warren-Dyment stated they understand the current budget constraints of the town and will be looking at constructing a playground that could be added on to in the future. Ms. Pedone asked if they added to the playground will that void the warranty, Ms. Warren-Dyment stated cutting the surface will void warranty but they are able to install a limit line you can add on at that point. Mr. Crowley has concern with Parks Facilities Committee that will generally work with contractors so he would like to know who from the town has the oversight. Ms. Warren-Dyment stated Pride Park Committee was advisory to the Town Administrator and they have weighed in and have been heard. She stated the issue is the funds are extremely limited and does not believe the town is looking to appropriate more funds and as the Chief Procurement Officer she is taking over the oversight of this project. She stated she has reached out to the Parks Facilities Chair and has made unsuccessful contact and she met with the Parks Commission last night. Mr. Crowley stated Parks Facilities was established for this purpose, Ms. Warren-Dyment stated Parks Facilities is advisory to the Parks Commission and does not feel the procurement components should handled in committee. Ms. Pedone has concern with the lack of project management and oversight, Ms. Warrant-Dyment stated West and Sampson will provide project management. Mr. Crowley would like to see Parks Facilities involved in this process and believe the Pride Park Committee was an ad hoc committee. Mr. Frieden would like to be sure that input from teachers and public are heard. Ms. Warren-Dyment stated the park may be and look different than it does now and does not believe the appetite of the town is not to spend a couple hundred thousand dollars more.

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

1. **Shrewsbury Street Paving:** Residents may have noticed that work on Shrewsbury Street has begun. The roadway has been milled and roadway castings are being adjusted. Paving began and will be completed today, Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Request police presence for speeding in areas of concern. Mr. Frieden would like to add GPS Truck Route for Pierce Street as a future agenda.

2. **Salt Shed Update:** Following a storm on October 2021, damage to the salt shed roof at the DPW was observed. The damage was reported to the Town's insurer MIIA who suggested that, based on the extent of damage, a full roof replacement would be necessary. The temporary restoration to the roof and full roof replacement is being completed by BluSky under the direction of MIIA. Demolition began on November 1, 2022 and the job is scheduled to be completed the week of November 21, 2022.

Mr. Rajeshkumar would like the sand for residence to be posted available and include new location.

3. **Snowplow Contractor Update:** In August of this year, the Select Board had the foresight to raise the snowplow contractor rates. The DPW Director has been speaking with potential contractors and we anticipate that we will be executing contracts with one contractor that has five trucks and another contractor that has two trucks in the very near future.
4. **Snow and Ice Preparations:** Snow and ice preparations are well underway. We recently convened a meeting with the DPW, Police, Fire, and School to discuss winter preparations and cross-departmental communications in preparation for and during snow and ice events. As a result of this meeting, several amendments to the Snow and Ice policy will be proposed to the Select Board at the next meeting.
5. **Yard Waste Reminders:** The Laurel Street Yard Waste facility is open just for a few more days this year. The site will be open on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 7AM – 12 PM and Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 8AM – 1PM. Residents are reminded that no plastic bags are allowed and all brush and branches must be under 6" in diameter.
6. **Early Voting Update:** As of today, there have been eleven days when voters could come to Town Hall and "vote early", including two Saturdays. As of yesterday, 237 residents have participated in early voting, 1448 residents have voted by mail, and 48 residents have voted by absentee ballot. The last two days of early voting will be on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8AM – 4PM and Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, from 8AM – 4PM. Election day will be Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 7AM – 8PM with all ballots being cast at the Senior Center.
7. **New Business- Big Lots:** The Building Commissioner has informed me that a building permit has been issued for the retail chain "Big Lots". They will be renovating the former Salter College at Wachusett Plaza.
8. **Council on Aging/Senior Center Updates:** I attended the last meeting of the Council on Aging. As the Board is aware, the position of Food Service Manager was created and has been posted for some time to no avail. We discussed re-working the position description to make the job more attractive for potential candidates. The COA voted to raise the rate from \$17.57 to \$18.25 and to modify the job description, which will be going before the Personnel Board.  
The Center will also be hosting their "Thank You Veterans Breakfast" on Friday, November 11, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. Please RSVP by calling (508) 835-6916. A Men's Breakfast group and caregivers group have also been started. There will also be a free pancake breakfast on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM- seating is limited.
9. **Attendance at Community Events:** My wife and I have enjoyed getting to know more of the West Boylston community. We attended the Fall Fest on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and were incredibly impressed by how well the event was run, the turnout, and the community spirit. We have also been attending many of the West Boylston Lions football games. For those in the community that are not aware, the Football Team is currently ranked first statewide in their Division!

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

- Mr. Crowley reminds everyone to clear hydrants in the event of snow.
- Mr. Crowley stated the Fall Festival was a giant success and thanked everyone involved especially Sharon Emond and the National Honor Society for help set up and breakdown.
- Mr. Rucho Facilities Implementation Committee has not met but feels they should be working on a plan, Ms. Warren-Dymont would like to be part of that group.

- Mr. Rucho would like to see the Senior Center open to the public Election Day, Ms. Warren-Dymont state the Director will be available for tours and questions if they have any.
- Mr. Crowley stated the Select Board is meeting for a Goal Setting Session on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 11 am.

***Motion*** Mr. Rucho moved to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.; Mr. Frieden 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:

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Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

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Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Chairman

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Christopher A. Rucho, Vice Chairman

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Marc Friedman, Clerk

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Patrick J. Crowley, Selectman

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Kristina Pedone, Selectwoman