



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

Select Board/Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting
May 18, 2022; 6:00 p.m.
140 Worcester Street
West Boylston, MA 01583
Board Meeting Room 2nd Floor

Members Present
Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman
Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Vice Chair
Patrick J. Crowley, Clerk
Kristina Pedone, Selectwoman

Members NOT Present:
Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman

Invited Guests:
Nancy Lucier, Town Administrator
Faye Zukowski, Municipal Assistant
Kevin Duffy, DPW Director

Others Present:

David Femia, Siobhan Bohnson

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 27, 2022 Regular Session:**

Motion Mr. Crowley moved to approve, Mr. Rajeshkumar second.

All in favor

Approved

REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE WARRANTS FOR THE PERIOD COVERING MAY 4, 2022 TO MAY 18, 2022: Town Payable Warrants FY2022-46, Sewer FY2022 SE-28; MLP FY2022 #24.

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

All in favor

Approved

KEVIN DUFFY, DPW DIRECTOR:

- **Update on Crosswalk Painting Costs:**

K. Duffy explained they currently have water-based paint and they cannot cover with epoxy at this time. He explained the thickness of the paint is varied due to vehicles traveling over a certain area of travel lane. He explained it would not be worth the expense at this time and would cost approximately \$25,000 start up costs not including police details and they would have to grind the road prior to installation of epoxy. He is planning to complete the fog and center lanes in epoxy. P. Crowley asked if he has concerns with epoxy in the rest of the town, K. Duffy stated he does not and roads being completed have almost no stripping left. C. Rucho asked what the cost will be with water based, K. Duffy stated the DPW can complete inhouse and would be \$1,500-\$2,000 in materials and police details. He anticipates it will last 5-8 years and can be updated anytime since it will be done inhouse.

- **Update on Stump Removal Project:**

K. Duffy stated the one-month stump rental is completed which was paid for with grant funds. He explained the first few days was spent behind High School getting comfortable with equipment. He stated they removed 30 stumps behind school and another 20 along the roadway and only leaves a few to be completed. Ms. Lucier stated the town can apply for another Loss Control Grant next year and complete the stumps removal.

- **I & I Investigation:**

K. Duffy stated this is scheduled for May 31st due to a delay. He explained they have to CCTV the entire system for the required state reporting. He explained they will be working on the area around the Prospect Street and Woodland Street pump stations. He explained the work should take one week and will be overnight. He stated they will choose another segment of town to complete the work and will become an annual task.

- **Roadway Assessment Report:**

K. Duffy presented a draft of the new database pavement management program. He stated they are almost complete with exception of a few roads, location of hydrants, roadway signs etc. He stated the infra score which is compatible with the PCI (Pavement Condition Index) in 2015 was 61.6% in 2018 79.8% and currently 71.7%. K. Pedone asked if the data files will be owned by the town once complete, K. Duffy confirmed they will receive a data file. P. Crowley asked if the database will create a cost of repair with the information, K. Duffy stated it will not but they have other tools to identify the costs. B. Rajeshkumar asked if this report will be available on the DPW page of website, K. Duffy stated he does not know enough about the system right now. He stated this should be updated every three to five years.

- **RDP Grant Application:**

K. Duffy stated the RDP (Recycle Dividends Program) application is due June 15th and is a point system last year they received 15 point and anticipates 15-16 points this year which equivalates to \$6-8,000 in funding. He stated it will be used to purchase recycled products such as compost bins, picnic tables made from recycled materials.

- **Sewer Use Bill Abatement Policy:**

K. Duffy stated a commercial property in town had a large water leak and would like to submit for abatement. He explained the current policy created in 2001 excludes commercial property. P. Crowley stated anyone should be able to have the abatement process and would like to add to a future agenda item to hold a public hearing. P. Crowley asked if the Town Administrator can get clarification if they can retroactively approve the request for abatement, N. Lucier will contract Town Counsel. C. Rucho stated the sewer bill will need to be paid in order to be considered for abatement.

- **Public Works Week:**

K. Duffy stated this week is National Public Works week May 15th to May 21st and thanked the employees in the Public Works including the Municipal Light Department and Water District.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Consider voting on makeup of Town Administrator Selection Committee:**

Mr. Rucho and Ms. Pedone will remain on committee and received some interest from residents.

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to appoint Siobhan Bohnson; Ms. Pedone second.*

Mr. Crowley stated there were many qualified residents interested and he chose Siobhan due to being on selectboard in past and always asked the tough questions. Mr.

Rajeshkumar asked why is she interested in the appointment, Ms. Bohnson gave some background and feels she wants to continue to give back to the community.

All in favor

Approved

***Motion** Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to appoint George Tignor, Building Commissioner; Mr. Crowley second.*

Mr. Rajeshkumar feels he would do a good job. Mr. Crowley would like to see Rich Meagher due to overseeing more personnel and dealing with more decision making and more similar to a Town Administrator position. Mr. Rucho stated Mr. Meagher will not be available in June as required for the committee.

2-2

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to appoint Mr. Meagher; Ms. Pedone second.*

3-1-0

Approved

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to appoint Ray Bricault of Finance Committee, Ms. Pedone and Mr. Rucho; Ms. Pedone second.*

All in favor

Approved

Ms. Pedone stated the consultant would like to meet next week with the newly appointed Search Committee.

- **Discuss Interim Town Administrator:**

Mr. Rucho would like the Board to allow him to negotiate a contract with James Purcell as the Interim. Ms. Pedone would like to be part of the discussion along with Chris. Discussion on process and if there are requirements to hold executive session. Mr. Crowley would like to know what the requirements are for a two-member subcommittee. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked why the Board would not use the current Town Administrator to negotiate the contract with the Interim Town Administrator, Mr. Crowley stated they could.

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to appoint Chris and Christina to be a subcommittee for negotiation with James Purcell; Ms. Pedone second.*

3-1-0

Approved

- **Vote to approve employment contract with Cheryl St. Louis, Treasurer/Collector for the period covering June 14, 2022 until June 13, 2025:**

Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve contract; Mr. Crowley second.

All in favor

Approved

- **Consider voting to hire Emmanuel Ortiz for the position of Access Coordinator for WBPA-TV effective May 30, 2022 at Step 2 of Grade D, 19 hours a week, \$19.36 per hour.**

Motion Mr. Crowley moved to approve; Ms. Pedone second.

All in favor

Approved

- **Consider voting to hire Doug Brown as a Production Assistant for WBPA-TV effective May 30, 2022 at Step 2 of Grade B, 10-15 hours a week, \$15.80 per hour.**

Motion Ms. Pedone moved to approve; Mr. Crowley second. Motion withdrew and second
Mr. Rucho asked if they are guaranteed 10 hours per week and not open ended as needed, Ms. Lucier stated it was approved by the personnel board to be 10-15 hours per week. She stated if they do not need the hours, they only put in what they need. Mr. Rucho would like it to stated “not to exceed 15 hours a week”

Motion: Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve with “not to exceed 15 hours a week”; Mr. Crowley second

All in favor

Approved

- **Consider voting to hire Samuel Parker as a Production Assistant for WBPA-TV effective May 30, 2022 at Step 2 of Grade B, 10-15 hours a week, \$15.80 per hour.**

Motion: Mr. Crowley moved to approve with not to exceed 15 hours a week; Ms. Pedone second

All in favor

Approved

- **Concurrence on the appointment of David Femia to the PEG Board effective May 30, 2022 for a term to expire on April 30, 2025:**

Motion Mr. Crowley moved to approve; Ms. Pedone second.

All in favor

Approved

- **Concurrence on the appointment of Emily Lehman Miller to the Parks Commission as a Resident, effective May 30, 2022 for a term to expire on April 30, 2024:**

Motion Mr. Crowley moved to approve; Ms. Pedone second.

All in favor

Approved

- **Concurrence on the appointment of Emily Lehman Miller to the Conservation Commission as an Alternate Member effective May 30, 2022 for a term to expire on April 30, 2025:**

Motion Mr. Crowley moved to approve; Ms. Pedone second.

All in favor

Approved

- **Consider voting to recognize and accept the following donations o the Beam Memorial Public Library between January 31, 2022 and April 3, 2022:**
 - **\$142.00 from the public which was deposited in the Revolving Fund**
 - **\$824.86 for lost or damaged books and materials, general donations and memorial gift deposited into the Donation Account for the Library**

Motion Mr. Crowley moved to accept donations; Ms. Pedone second.

All in favor

Approved

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Wednesday – May 25 2022 11:30 am – 1:00 pm Wellness Clinic/ Ask the Nurse – Blood Pressure – questions about your medications, follow-ups from your doctor – ask Nurse Amy! Drop ins are Welcome at the Senior Center.**

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SELECTMANS REPORTS:

- Mr. Crowley announced the American Legion and Celebrations Committee is looking for volunteers for Saturday May 21st at 9 a.m. to place flags on graves stones in cemetery.
- Mr. Crowley stated the Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday and there are three services held annually. St. Luke's, High Plains Cemetery and parade ending on town common. He asked if there are any groups in town non-political interested in marching in parade to contact him at patrickjcrowley@yahoo.com or contact Town Administrators office. Mr. Crowley stated if it is raining, they are meeting at 11:30 a.m. at town common flag pole. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if there will be fireworks, Mr. Crowley stated there will not be.
- Mr. Crowley announced the American Legion is hosting its annual flag collection for unserviceable flags to be destroyed.
- Mr. Rucho stated the tables for meeting room will be delivered in June. Ms. Lucier asked if they will be addressing the issues with large table, Mr. Rucho stated they will be.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Consider entering into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30a, Section 21(A), Part 2 to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with non-union personnel and the Chair declares that an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

Motion: Mr. Crowley moved to enter into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30a, Section 21(A), Part 2 to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations for the position of Fire Chief, and the Chair declares that an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, Mr. Crowley seconded at 7:05 p.m.

- **Roll call vote**
Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Rucho, yes
Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes
Mr. Crowley, yes
Ms. Pedone, yes

- **Announce that the Selectboard will not reconvene in open session**

Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.; Ms. Pedone second.
All in favor
Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

Approved:

Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman

Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Vice Chairman

Patrick J. Crowley, Clerk

Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman

Kristina Pedone, Selectwoman