



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

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

<b>Date / Time / Location of Meeting</b> May 4, 2022; 6:00 p.m. 140 Worcester Street West Boylston, MA 01583 Board Meeting Room 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
---

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

<b>Members NOT Present:</b> Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman
--

<b>Invited Guests:</b> Nancy Lucier, Town Administrator
--

### **Others Present:**

David Femia, Robert Barrell,

**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 20, 2022 Regular Session:**

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to approve, Ms. Pedone second.*

*3-0-1 Mr. Crowley abstained*

*Approved*

**REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE WARRANTS FOR THE PERIOD COVERING APRIL 21, 2022 TO MAY 4, 2022: Town Payable Warrants FY2022-43, FY2022-44; Town Payroll Warrant FY2022-22; Sewer FY2022 SE-26; MLP FY2022 #22 and School FY2022 S21.**

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

*All in favor*

*Approved*

### **JONATHAN FITCH, MLP MANAGER:**

- **Energy Supply and Electrification**
- **Upcoming Building Project**

Mr. Rucho requested to pass over to a future meeting when Mr. Fitch could attend.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

- **Discuss Gateway Sign Policy:**

Ms. Pedone stated the Economic Development Task Force has proposed changes they would like to make. She explained currently there is a lottery every three months to choose who will be on the signs, she stated that is a lot of administrative work. She explained they would like to change it to once a year lottery and amend the policy to include the fee of \$500 for front and \$300 for back. Ms. Pedone stated there is enough interest that a new sign location is being considered. Ms. Lucier stated the signs have not been changed since March 2021. Ms. Lucier stated some businesses put a lot into the location when awarded and do not always end up with same location after lottery. Ms. Pedone stated they also discussed having forms available online for electronic submittal. Mr. Rucho stated Connor Sign had created the other gateway kiosks if they decide to add another location. Mr. Rucho would like to schedule a public hearing for a future meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Review makeup of Town Administrator Selection Committee:**

Ms. Pedone explained the search firm needs a committee to begin working on the selection process of a Town Administrator. Mr. Rucho asked if it would be held in public meeting under executive session, Ms. Lucier stated the meetings would be held in executive session until candidates are selected as finalists. The Board discussed the name of the committee and would like it to be Town Administrator Review Committee. Ms. Pedone stated the consulting firm recommended a department head, members of selectboard, superintendent of schools, and members of the public. Mr. Rucho would like the two members of the Select Board already involved in process remain, one resident, one Finance Committee member and one Department Head current or outgoing. Ms. Pedone would like to see the superintendent of schools on the committee as recommended by consulting firm. Mr. Rucho would like to advertise and vote on committee members at next meeting. Ms. Lucier recommends the committee reviewing all applicants at same time. Mr. Crowley agrees that the committee should be Kristina and Chris, a member of the Finance Committee, a department head and a member of public. Ms. Lucier stated people have to be available for the month of June evening meetings.

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to approve the two selectboard members on currently, one resident, one finance committee, and one department head; Ms. Pedone second.*

***All in favor***

***Approved***

- **Discuss Interim Town Administrator:**

Mr. Rucho stated the consulting firm has a few contacts that may be interested in the interim position. Ms. Pedone stated she was waiting to receive the list and will follow up. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked about Jim Purcell, Mr. Rucho stated they reached out to him and he is available. Mr. Rucho would like to suggest two days a week and this time a year is a slower time of year which is helpful. Ms. Lucier stated is year end and there is

a lot of things going on still. Mr. Crowley suggested two days a week with possibility of more. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated it would need to be filled until they hire a new Town Administrator.

- **Update on status of non-retail Marijuana Host Community Agreements:**

Ms. Lucier stated she reached out to Evergreen and they are working with DCR for a variance that is needed and is hopeful to have in a few months.

Ms. Lucier spoke with Humbled and cultivation has begun and will take 120 days and they are estimating the first quarter of 2023 they will bring in estimated \$36,000 in tax revenue and potentially quarter four of 2022.

Ms. Lucier spoke with Ganesh and they are planning to get their product manufacturing up and running by the end of the year.

- **Discuss Grant Writing: (KP)**

Ms. Pedone stated she has some concerns with Ms. Lucier retirement and her time spent on grants and would like to possibly consider hiring a grant writer. Ms. Lucier does not believe the town needs a grant writer, the town has a volunteer grant writer that works on grants and has been successful with a number of grants. Ms. Lucier gave an overview of Green Communities grant process. Ms. Pedone would like to be sure that a list of what grants are outstanding, Ms. Lucier has contacts for all grants that are currently open or coming up. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated some grant submittal deadlines change year to year.

- **Consider endorsing articles for May 16<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Town Meeting:**

Mr. Crowley stated this town meeting warrant is standard articles. Mr. Rajeshkumar would like to endorse the Senior Center chef article.

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to endorse Article 10; Mr. Crowley second.*

*All in favor*

*Approved*

Mr. Crowley discussed Article 17 and stated he did not think Finance Committee will approve. Mr. Rucho stated if anything comes up, they can discuss prior to town meeting.

## **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

- **Concurrence on the following April 2022 Town Administrator Appointments:**

<b>Board/Committee/Commission</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term End</b>
HISTORICAL COMMISSION:	Beverly K. Goodale	4-30-2022 (3 yrs)

*Motion Mr. Crowley moved to appoint; Mr. Rajeshkumar second.*

*All in favor*

*Approved*

BOARD OF HEALTH:	John Sullivan, MD	4-30-2022 (3 yrs)
------------------	-------------------	-------------------

*Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to appoint; Mr. Rucho second.*

Mr. Rajeshkumar discussed the background of Dr. John Sullivan and explained he supports the appointment due to his qualifications for this position.

*2-2 Mr. Crowley and Ms. Pedone voted no*

*Approved*

Mr. Rajeshkumar asked Ms. Lucier about this appoint that is a Town Administrator appointment being a tie. Ms. Lucier stated the vote requires a 4/5 vote to disapprove so a tie vote passes the motion.

- **Concurrence on the following April 2022 Selectboard Appointments:**

Board/Committee/Commission	Name	Term End
ZONING BD OF APPEALS		
ASSOCIATE MEMBER:	Andrew Feland	4-30-2022 Resident (5 yr)

***Motion** Ms. Pedone moved to appoint, Mr. Rajeshkumar second.*

***All in favor***

***Approved***

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **1. Update on Nip Bottle Recycling Bills**

Currently there are 3 bills awaiting action.

The first is **THE CLEAN ACT - NIP BOTTLE RECYCLING: H. 3284 - An Act relative to Containers, Litter, Ecology and Nips (CLEAN Act)**

Nip bottles or "minis" are a frequent source of litter across Massachusetts roadsides and waterways. This legislation would add 50-100ml miniature alcohol containers to our existing bottle deposit law system in order to promote recycling and reduce litter. The bill also gives DEP the authority to update existing bottle container definitions, increases the minimum handling fees, and pre-empts future (though not existing) municipal level regulations. It went before the Committee on [Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy](#) in September of 2021 and the bill is currently awaiting committee action. Committee had an extension until May 2 to take action on the bill, which was just extended to June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The second bill is **H. 3345 – An Act Promoting the Proper Disposal of Miniatures**, That Bill adds "miniatures", informally known as "nips", to the state's bottle deposit statutes. It also went before the Committee on [Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy](#) in September of 2021 and the bill is currently awaiting committee action. Committee had an extension until May 2 to take action on the bill, which was just extended to June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The third bill is **S. 2159 An Act relative to the proper disposal of miniatures**. This bill would expand the bottle bill include a 5-cent deposit on miniatures- i.e. nips- to promote recycling of these small bottles to cut down on littering in municipalities. It also went before the Committee on [Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy](#) in September of 2021 and the bill is currently awaiting committee action. Committee had an extension until May 2 to take action on the bill, which was just extended to June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Rucho states they began discussing this a few years ago. Mr. Crowley asked about feedback from liquor distributors and liquor stores, Ms. Lucier can ask Representative O'Day. Mr. Rucho stated someone must be against it if it is taking this long to be approved.

### **2. Update on color variation of Town of West Boylston trash bags**

I reached out to Waste Zero and they reported back that their on-hand inventory has been checked and they are not dark green. As previously reported the color variation comes from using recycled resin as well as when they change color between orders in extrusion when they convert resin to plastic film. The production team will be reviewing with extrusion operators on what to do when

this needs to be done so that they do not continue to pass the non-compliant film on to the converting department to run.

### **3. Town Meeting Updates**

Town Meeting Moderator Jon Meindersma is not going to be available for town meeting. He will be appointing a temporary moderator to serve for the meeting. Once that individual has been confirmed the Town Clerk and I will meet with him and go over the warrant town meeting procedures. We have reserved the school for Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> as a backup.

Mr. Rucho asked if the Board votes on the temporary moderator, Ms. Lucier will find out but believes the town clerk appointments.

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

- 1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, Wachusett Area Rotary will be doing a collection of recyclable plastics (those the town vendor will not pick up as part of our curbside collection program) at The Manor from 10:30 to 1:00. A flyer with suggested items is posted on the town's website**
- 2. Monday, May 16, 6:30 p.m. – special Board meeting prior to town meeting in the auditorium of the Middle/High School**
- 3. Monday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. – Semi-Annual Town Meeting Middle/High School auditorium.**
- 4. Friday, May 6, 3:00 p.m. – join Jessica on the Library lawn to begin the process of cultivating new garden beds. Plan to get dirty and bring along gardening gloves too. Participants will be awarded volunteer hours for their efforts!**

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

- Mr. Crowley reported from the Celebrations Committee the Easter Egg Hunt was a huge hit with over 200 kids and was funded by the Celebrations Committee Flag Pole Banner Program.
- Mr. Crowley reported the Memorial Day Celebration is being worked on by the Celebrations Committee. He explained the parade will begin near Darby's Bakery and intend to keep as a solemn parade. He stated they are actively looking for civic groups to march in the parade non-political.
- Ms. Pedone reported town wide cleanup day was successful and filled a 30-yard dumpster, she thanked the families and organizations that showed up to help. She thanked Kate Boston and Tony from the Mill for the donation of food.

**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:** Ms. Pedone 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 with the Cheryl St. Louis, Treasurer/Tax Collector, 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.

- **Roll call vote**

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

*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 7:40 p.m.; Ms. Pedone second.*

*All in favor*

*Approved*

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

---

Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

---

Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman

---

Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Vice Chairman

---

Patrick J. Crowley, Clerk

---

Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman

---

Kristina Pedone, Selectman