**Town of West Boylston**

140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

**Select Board/Sewer Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

|  |  |
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| **Date / Time / Location of Meeting****October 6, 2021; 6:00 p.m.****Zoom** |  |
|  |  |
| **Members Present****Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman****Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Vice Chair****Patrick J. Crowley, Clerk****Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman****Kristina Pedone, Selectwoman** |  |
| **Members NOT Present:** |  |
| **Invited Guests:** **Nancy Lucier, Town Administrator****Faye Zukowski, Municipal Assistant** **Gary Kellaher, DPW Director** |  |

**Others Present**: Thomas McCormick, Rachel Brown, Katie Denis, Mark Bakarian, Pamela Frechette, Stacy, Andrea Allen, Colby Fiske, Karens iPhone, Danielle, Vicki Nett, Lisa Thompson, Jeff Valois, Leila, Diane H, Jasnumbs, BSalate, Gary Braxten, Keary Bartlett, Mario Fig, Nancy Skehen, Miss Lori, Kelsy Hogue, Patrick Brown, Kristina Srague, Jason Vitko, Bob O’Connell, Dennis Reid, Bill’s iPhone, Steve Feeley, 774-261-4010, Kevin Duffy, Aehera Weydt, Lacey Peterson, Galaxy 9, Cindy Macintosh, Jon, Missies iPhone, iPhone, Enovia, Cara, Ken Cleveland, Tamarafay, Rick, LR, Becky

Mr. Rucho convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m., roll call taken.

Chairman’s Statement was read by Mr. Rucho:

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of West Boylston Selectboard is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to view this meeting while in progress may do so by:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87882363963?pwd=ajVMVzNiMGVVanBTSGxnbUs5djgzdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 7155 1691

Passcode: 427238

Dial by your location

        +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

**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:**

* **September 15, 2021 Regular Session:**

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

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

* **September 22, 2021, Regular Session:**

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

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

**REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE WARRANTS FOR THE PERIOD COVERING SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 TO OCTOBER 1, 2021: Town Payable Warrants FY2022-12, 13 and 14; Town Payroll Warrant FY2022-06 and 07; Sewer FY2022 SE-07; MLP FY2022 #7; and School FY2022 S7.**

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

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

**6:15 p.m. Public Hearing on the Application of Brown Rice Thai 2, Inc. d.b.a Brown Rice 2, 184 West Boylston Street, West Boylston Ma 01583 for an On Premises, All Alcohol, Restaurant License:**

Mr. Crowley read the Public Hearing Notice. Achara Weydt, Managing Partner of Brown Rice Thai 2 stated they are planning to expand to a second location at 184 West Boylston Street and add alcohol drinks to go with full dining. Ms. Pedone asked if she has experience with alcohol service, she gave background experience with alcohol service in a restaurant in the past.

 ***Motion*** *Mr. Rajeshkumar moved to close the Public Hearing; Ms. Pedone second.*

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

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

Mr. Crowley asked for confirmation that there were not any issues with the Town Department, Ms. Lucier stated none.

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

**Town Clerk Elaine Novia:**

* **Reprecincting:**

Elaine Novia, Town Clerk updated the Board that she has been working with the Local Election District Review Commission (LEDRC) since April on the reprecincting. She stated the 2021 Federal Census was initially 8,169 and would have required the town to add a precinct due to the maximum number per precinct is 4,000. She explained the final census number was 7,877 and the town can remain at two precincts. She explained precinct two is larger by 1,229 residents. She presented the new precinct map and explained Precinct 1 will have 3,927 and Precinct 2 with 3,950 this will be effective December 31, 2021. She stated West Boylston has approximately 50 street and 30 of them have changed Precincts with only 8 streets being split between precincts. She stated once completed the State will notify the town and she will then notify residents. She requested the Board sign off and agree to the change. Mr. Rucho stated the only change for the residents is which line they sign in at when voting, Ms. Novia stated correct. Mr. Crowley asked how the final count was so different than preliminary, Ms. Novia stated they were told the final numbers could be quite different once final count was completed.

***Motion*** *Mr. Crowley moved to accept the reprcincting plan as presented by the Town Clerk; Ms. Pedone second.*

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

Ms. Lucier stated last Thursday she attended a Ceremony at the US Post Office; the Postmaster acknowledged the efforts of the Town Clerk during the 2020 Election. She explained a forever stamp was dedicated to the Town Clerk and a framed art of the stamp was presented to Elaine and Nancy would like to thank her. Mr. Rucho thanked the Town Clerk.

**Fire Chief Tom Welsh:**

* **Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program:**

Chief Tom Welsh stated he has concerns with staffing issues and will be applying for a Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. He applied for 2020 Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) which received a rejection but is working on finding out how they can improve grant application submission. He stated the roster does not change often with 21 Firefighters; 10 live in town, 3 are Firefighters/EMT’s, 5 make themselves available to respond to call backs, 3 have over 30 years of service, and 6 Firefighters in the area to respond but are delayed response. He gave an overview of staffing corrections that could be changed with grant if awarded. He stated the grant comes out in January 2022 and they have added $200 million to this program. He stated the town would have to pay the cost for PPE only there is not a match required. He stated if he is not awarded this grant, he will be coming back to the Town to fund these positions. He does not see the call volunteers as they used to and West Boylston is not alone. Mr. Crowley asked how many firefighters he would be requesting for, Chief Welsh stated two firefighters would answer the need to have three groups of three and if a third firefighter was added it would backfill the day shift. Mr. Crowley asked about the grant application request of two or three firefighters, Chief Welsh stated submitting for three would appear that the town is trying very hard to fill the need on the department. Chief Welsh stated after the three-year grant funding is up the goal would be to keep these people in the budget. Ms. Pedone asked if the Chief could collaborate with another Chief’s that have received this grant. Chief Welsh stated he has been speaking with other Chief’s and some have used grant writers to obtain this grant and they are also willing to help him. He will be also asking for assistance from FEMA also. Mr. Rucho asked for clarification on the need in the department if he needs two or three as if they become part of the budget this is a large increase to the town. Chief Welsh explained the shift coverage of how two versus three would correct staffing issues. Mr. Crowley asked about per diem staff, Chief Welsh explained where they would fit into the budget. Chief Welsh stated he is looking for support from the Board in order to apply for this grant. Ms. Lucier would like to being in the town’s volunteer grant writer to assist and come up with an application that fits the department.

***Motion*** *Mr. Crowley moved to support going after the SAFER Grant to add firefighter’s department, Mr. Kittredge second.*

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

**DPW Director Kevin Duffy:**

* **GPS in vehicles**

Mr. Duffy stated in his experience he has not had GPS in vehicles of the town. He stated there would need to be union bargaining if they will be used. Mr. Kittredge asked why this is being brought up, Ms. Pedone responded she requested and gave reasons; improved safety, increase in productivity, lower operational costs, and incentives from insurance. Mr. Kittredge gave examples of how the Highway makes frequent stops and does not know how the this would make efficiency in the town. Ms. Lucier will check with insurance to see if there are any benefits from MIIA. Mr. Duffy explained some of the trucks are not suitable for this as they require an idle. Ms. Lucier asked for clarification if this is just for DPW or town wide, Mr. Kittredge stated it would need to be town wide.

* **Plan for Stump Grinding**

Mr. Duffy stated he submitted for a grant to rent a stump grinder and was approved. He stated the grant will cover one month rental and they will begin working on stumps that are on a current list. He requested people submit on the website “Report a Problem” if they have stumps, they are concerned about. Mr. Rucho would like the Board to get the list of stumps and to have a plan for the use of the rental. Mr. Duffy stated he is hoping to rent the stumps removed in the spring, Mr. Kittredge agreed that is typically when they performed this work. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked why they are soliciting from residents to report stumps as there may be others away from houses. Mr. Duffy believes this is a good start for the stump program for the town and the list changes constantly. Mr. Crowley stated the MLP also takes trees down from time to time and they may also have a list of stumps. Mr. Rucho stated there should be lists in place from the trees the town has taken down.

* **Line Striping Project**

Mr. Duffy stated tonight phase I is being completed and will be a little more than half the town. Mr. Duffy stated the epoxy paint should have an eight-year life span versus one year water-based paint this would be a $60,000 savings over ten years. Mr. Duffy stated the cost for the whole town will be approximately $170,000 for 600,000 linear feet. Mr. Crowley believes the prior director gave them a price for only half the town. Mr. Duffy is unsure if the contract covers only phase I or if it covers the entire town. Mr. Rucho asked for clarification on how the town is billed, Mr. Duffy stated they have a meter and invoice the town based on linear feet painted. Ms. Lucier stated the contract is for one year, and if they wanted to complete phase II, they would need to go to town meeting in May for funding. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked how the roads are chosen, Mr. Duffy stated they are doing the Oakdale area to include Main Street. Mr. Rucho stated this is an odd situation in the town with only doing half the town. He asked what about crosswalks that are in need. Mr. Duffy stated the DPW will complete the crosswalks with water born paint, Mr. Rucho stated the Board wanted to have the epoxy paint on the crosswalks. Mr. Duffy stated he has not seen an inventory of crosswalk but this is something that can be looked at for the second phase next year. Mr. Rucho would like to get the cost of line striping in the past, Mr. Duffy stated he does not have past cost but current cost for water-based paint is $.06 per linear foot with using same linear foot estimates is $40,000 annually and includes Police detail and DPW cost to sweep roads prior to line striping and staffing the oversight. Mr. Rucho would like past costs to compare including overhead. Mr. Duffy stated at time the line striping gets rescheduled due to weather and the DPW may end up sweeping multiple times and requires a lot of coordinating.

* **MS4 Permit**

Mr. Duffy stated the Town has not been compliant with the MS4 Permitting. He explained September 28th the submitted the year three report on time and is working on getting the town in compliance for next year in working with Weston and Sampson.Mr. Crowley asked if the town has received confirmation that we are in good standings with the EPA, Mr. Duffy stated they received and email confirmation that the report was received.

* **Brush Dump**

Mr. Duffy stated the Brush Dump was successful with 115 individuals, he is proposing holding one extra brush dump this year in December. Mr. Rucho asked if there are funds in the budget to cover, Mr. Duffy stated they can cover it.

Mr. Rajeshkumar would like and update on the standing water on Goodale/Lee Street

Ms. Pedone would like to get an update on the outstanding road work on Route 12 in front of CVS from a past water break. Mr. Kittredge stated this would be a Water Department issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* + **Request for a Common Victualler License from Brown Rice 2, 184 West Boylston Street:**

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

Mr. Crowley asked for confirmation that there were not any issues with the Town Department, Ms. Lucier stated none.

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

* + **Acknowledge receipt of list of non-profit entities Ganesh Wellness is planning on donating it required Annual Charitable Non-Profit Contribution:**

Ms. Lucier stated the Host Community Agreement requires no less than $50,000 and each non-profit will receive $5,000. Ms. Lucier read the list of ten entities;

* Freedom Worship Center/ Freedom Worship Center Food Pantry
* Harold N. Keith American Legion Post 204
* Next Level Church
* The Freemasons of West Boylston
* Wachusett Earth Day, Inc
* West Boylston Elder Services, Inc
* West Boylston Fireman’s Association, Inc
* West Boylston Food Panty
* West Boylston Police Benevolent Association, Inc
* West Boylston Teacher’s Association

Ms. Lucier congratulated the non-profits and thanked Ganesh Wellness.

* + **Drawing for Adopt and Island Program – Application received from Twins Land Service of 235 West Boylston Street, West Boylston**
		- **Islands available: Crescent/Thomas Streets, Bunkerhill/Yorktown, Maple/Shrewsbury cement island**

Ms. Lucier drew Crescent/Thomas Street for the Adopt and Island, Mr. Rucho thanked Twins Landscape Service and all the other Island Adoptees for taking care of these locations.

* + - **October 16, 2021 Town Meeting Items:**
		- **Discuss and assign motions**

Ms. Lucier stated she received no requests for participation on Article 1 Reports of Board and Committees.

ARTICLE 1 - AUTHORIZATION TO HEAR THE REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND

COMMITTEES OF THE TOWN

Mr. Rucho

ARTICLE 2 - AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS FROM PREVIOUS

FISCAL YEARS

Mr. Crowley

ARTICLE 3 - AUTHORIZATION TO MODIFY FISCAL YEAR 2022 APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

Mr. Rajeshkumar

ARTICLE 4 – AUTHORIZATION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Ms. Pedone

ARTICLE 5 – VOTE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PURCHASES

Capital Board

ARTICLE 6 – AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE REVOLVING ACCOUNT

FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Kittredge

ARTICLE 7 – AUTHORIZATION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE

OPEB TRUST FUND

Mr. Rucho

ARTICLE 8 – AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FOR THE CEMETERY

SALE OF LOTS ACCOUNT

Mr. Crowley

ARTICLE 9 – VOTE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND PROJECT AS RECOMMEDED BY THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Community Preservation Commission

ARTICLE 10 - AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE TAX LEVY STABILIZATION FUND

Mr. Rajeshkumar

ARTICLE 11- AUTHORIZATION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO REDUCE THE

FY22 TAX

Ms. Pedone

ARTICLE 12 – AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE

 CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND

Mr. Kittredge

ARTICLE 13 – AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE

 STABILIZATION FUND

Mr. Rucho

ARTICLE 14 – AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE GENERAL BYLAWS

Mr. Crowley

ARTICLE 15 – REQUEST FOR ZONING CHANGE FOR 2 GOODALE STREET,

 WEST BOYLSTON

Mr. Rajeshkumar

ARTICLE 16 – AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP

Ms. Pedone

* + - **Consider endorsing articles**

Mr. Crowley would like to endorse Article 11 Authorization to Appropriate to Funds to Reduce the FY22 Tax.

***Motion*** *Mr. Crowley moved to endorse Article 11; Ms. Pedone second.*

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

* + - **Approve Town Meeting Mailer**

***Motion*** *Mr. Crowley moved to approve the Town Meeting Mailer; Mr. Rajeshkumar second.*

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

* + - **Pride Park Playground Access: Playground Open Daily to the Public:**

Ms. Lucier explained there was a question if Pride Park can be used during the day and she stated it is open to the public during the day.

* **Discussion and possible vote on a change of the makeup of the Board of Health (PC):**

Mr. Crowley gave background to the request to add to the agenda, he explained the Board of Health met on August 11th and voted in a mask mandate without having item listed on their agenda. He stated there was an open meeting law complaint filed and at the next Selectboard meeting the Chair of the Board of Health admitted to open meeting law violation. He stated on September 8th Board of Health meeting the Board provided a response to the open meeting law complaint that there had not been a violation, Mr. Crowley stated the Attorney Generals Office concluded there had been an open meeting law violation. Mr. Crowley stated the Board of Health shared with other Departments and public prior to the September 8th meeting that they would not be enacting a mask mandate, Mr. Crowley believes they would have had to discuss outside of a meeting which would be another open meeting law violation. He stated the conduct of the meeting did not allow discussion from the public if you were not in favor of the mandate and the Board was rude to the public. Mr. Crowley explained on September 27th, Karin Clark of Worcester Board of Health forward email to all of the towns within the Worcester Health Alliance requesting feedback. He stated Dr. Sullivan instructed the Assistant to the Board of Health to forward email to the Selectboard, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and the owner of Wachusett Country Club and no one else. Mr. Crowley stated the owner of Wachusett Country Club is the filer of the open meeting law complaint and filed a personal complaint against Dr. Sullivan that she was targeted and was singled out to receive this email from the Board of Health. Mr. Crowley explained the Selectboard does not have the authority to remove members of the Board of Health but this falls under the purview of the Town Administrator. He explained the Town Administrator has chosen not to take any action against the members of the Board of Health. He stated the only thing the Selectboard can do is reduce the number of members to the Board of Health. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated the Board of Health is a qualified members and thanked them for making a tough decision on the mask mandate and the work during this covid pandemic. He stated he was in attendance of the meetings an believes comments were allowed but maybe not equal time. He is not in favor of making any changes. Mr. Kittredge agreed with Raj and believes the town is lucky to have the experience of the members. He stated if open meeting laws were violated e feels it is up to the Selectboard to educate and offer training for them going forward and does not want to reduce the number of members. Mr. Crowley stated this is not about the mandate this is about the conduct of the Board of Health. Mr. Rucho stated the comments in the chat are not being accepted but requested they speak in the zoom. Ms. Pedone stated it is important to accept views from both sides and does not believe that had happened. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated all meetings are not always perfectly run. Mr. Rucho attended all the meetings was disappointed how it was run, Chair of the meeting was not clear and was hopeful an apology would have followed. The Board received comments from the public in support and not in support of the mask mandate, reduction of number of members, plan for the town from the Board, and the way the Board of Health meeting was run. Ms. Lucier gave background on the number of members to the Board of Health and when it was changed by a special act on May 10, 1995 and also that the appointing authority adjusts the number of members. Mr. Crowley does not believe that the appointing authority created the number of members after reading the bylaw. Mr. Rucho would like the Board of Health to answer what is the percentage of covid numbers the Board of Health needs to repeal the mask mandate. Mr. Crowley does not wish to make a motion to change the Board of Health at this time but wanted to have a public discussion and would like the Board of Health to work on having more professional meetings. Mr. Rajeshkumar feels the Selectboard should be in support of the Board and believes this is the wrong approach.

**APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

* **Concurrence on the appointment of Laura Hamel to the Town Common and Bandstand use Advisory Committee effective October 7, 2021 for a term to expire on April 30, 2024.**

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

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

* **Concurrence on the appointment of Laura Hamel to the Cultural Council effective October 7, 2021 for a term to expire on April 30, 2024.**

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

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

* **Concurrence on the reappointment of Michael Mulryan to the Celebrations Committee effective October 7, 2021 for a term to expire on April 30, 2024.**

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

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

* **Update on Town Clerk Search:**

The deadline for applications for our Town Clerk position was Monday, October 4th. The town received interest from 6 applicants and the town clerk and myself have already begun reviewing those applications. We are also finalizing our questions for the initial round and second round of interviews. We are on schedule with our plan which is to bring forth a candidate at the November 3rd Selectboard meeting.

* **Update on Trainings:**

Two complimentary virtual training sessions have been scheduled with town counsel.Brian Riley will be presenting both sessions. The first is Open Meeting Law scheduled for Tuesday, November 2nd at 6:30 p.m. The second is Board Roles and Responsibilities scheduled for Tuesday, November 9th at 6:30 p.m.

The trainings will be taped and posted on WBPA-TV for future use.

* **Launch A.D.A. Survey:**

On Friday, October 1st we launched our Public Input Survey on the Accessibility of Town Facilities, Programs and Services. Notice was provided on the light bills, the Library Newsletter, the Senior Center Newsletter, the electronic signboard and the town’s website. The survey portion of our Self-Evaluation process is to be followed by the development of the Transition Plan. As you know, the Town has engaged the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management to assist with the plan, which is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 (ADA). An important part of this planning process is providing opportunities for the public to offer input and voice concerns.

This survey is intended to gather preliminary data to assist the planning team in identifying any barriers to access for individuals with disabilities at Town facilities or within the programs and services it currently offers. Once the initial study is completed, the newly formed Disability Commission will solicit additional input on how to best address any deficiencies that are found. The Disability Commission is scheduled to have its organization meeting on Wednesday, October 27th.

The survey is open from October 1 through October 31. If you prefer to complete a paper survey, please visit Town Hall, the Beaman Memorial Library, or the West Boylston Senior Center.

* **Update on Grant Applications:**

The Office on Disability Grant for Phase 2 of the Playground Project is being submitted tomorrow The Christopher Reeves Foundation Grant is being submitted for October 8th. We were just informed of another mini-grant opportunity through the Community Health Inclusion Index that provides an opportunity for 4 communities to get $10,000 grants for making your community more accessible for people with disabilities including people with mobility limitations. We will be participating in the informational session on October 14th.

I completed the FY22 Earmark Contract for the $150,000 from the state for the Pride Park a/d/a Upgrade Project. The document was emailed and sent via the mail. Once received they will issue the first allotment in the amount of $75,000.

**MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

* **Friday, October 15th – 1:30 p.m. Movie Matinees at the Senior Center – Featured File – Nomadland and popcorn will be served.**
* **Saturday, October 16th – 10:00 a.m. Semi-Annual Town Meeting, ballfield of Middle/High School 125 Crescent Street**
* **Saturday, October 16th – 9:30 a.m. Select Board meeting prior to Semi-Annual Town Meeting, ballfield of Middle/High School, 125 Crescent Street**
* **Saturday, October 23rd – 12-6 p.m. Fall Festival**
* **Beaman Library – During the month of October daily in person scavenger hunts**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SELECTMANS REPORTS:**

* Mr. Kittredge would like a future agenda item DPW Budget and also DPW Expense report from Town Accountant.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Consider entering into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30a, Section 21(A), Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation 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 provision of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30a, Section 21(A), Part 3 to discuss litigation West Boylston v. Regional Industrial Services Corp.; Worcester Superior Court C.A. No. 1985CV01758, and Chair declares that an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, Mr. Rajeshkumar seconded and will adjourn following executive session.*

*Roll Call Vote*

*Mr. Kittredge, yes*

*Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes*

*Ms. Pedone, yes*

*Mr. Crowley, yes*

*Mr. Rucho, yes****All in favor***
***Approved***

Motion Mr. Crowley moved exit and to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Mr. Kittredge, second all in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Vice Chairman

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 Patrick J. Crowley, Clerk

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman

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 Kristina Pedone, Selectman