**Select Board’s Meeting Minutes**

**March 26, 2024.**

**Board Members Present:** Carmen E. Lone, Chair; Robert J. McHatton Sr., Vice-Chair; Paul A. Tworog; Kenneth J. Murphy; Carrye Castleman-Ross

**Administration Present:** Town Manager Robert Peabody; Deputy Town Manager Georgiann Fleck; Executive Assistant Nikki Hodgkins; Deputy Town Clerk Jamie L. Ferguson; Public Services Director David Madsen; Public Services Administrative Assistant Mariah Hawkins; Police Chief Phil Jones; Fire Chief Glen Garland; Finance Director Holly Heyman; Deputy Finance Director Jenna Domer

1. Call to Order

Chair Lone called the meeting and workshop to order at 4:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the “Pledge of Allegiance.” Police Chief Phil Jones introduced new hire, Officer Robert Wright.

3. 4:00 P.M. Workshop – RHR Smith & Company Sewer Financial Presentation FY 2024

Chair Lone asked that item 7. FY audit presentation be brought forward and take place at this time as well. Ron Smith of RHR Smith & Company addressed the board and presented the Sewer Financial Presentation FY 2024 and the FY 2023 Audit.

4. Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2024

Vice-Chair McHatton made a **motion** to approve the March 12, 2024, Select Board Meeting Minutes. **Second** by Member Murphy. 5 approve/0 opposed.

5. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Kevin Raday, of Bridgton, Me, addressed the board asking about commercial hauler fees. Town Manager Robert Peabody advised that was already on the agenda.

6. Committee/Liaison Reports

None.

7. New Business

a. Awards and Other Pertinent Information

1. Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) General Assembly Delegates 2024

Chair Lone made a **motion** to appoint Chair Lone and Member Castleman-Ross as delegates, with Mr. Peabody as alternate. **Second** from Vice-Chair McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose.

2. Grant Writer

Vice-Chair McHatton feels it is time to put a full-time grant writer on staff. Discussion ensued. Kevin Raday, Chair of the Community Development Advisory Committee, addressed the Board on his thoughts about Bridgton’s need for a grant writer. Vice-Chair McHatton made a **motion** to hire a full-time grant writer. **Second** from Member Tworog. 1 approve/4 oppose.

3. Fire Apparatus Reserve

Fire Chief Glen Garland addressed questions from the Board. Chair Lone made a **motion** to approve the use of $33,000 from the fire apparatus reserve for the down payment to hold two pumpers until the Town Meeting approval of the budget. **Second** from Member Tworog. 5 approve/0 oppose.

8. 5:30 P.M. Public Hearing

a. To accept oral and written comments on a new liquor license application from Pondicherry House restaurant with under 50 seats located at 2 Cottage Street, Unit 1.

Christine & Mike Rosa, owners of Pondicherry House, addressed the Board and detailed their business plan.

b. To accept oral and written comments on a renewal special amusement permit application from Sundown Lounge located at 18B Depot Street.

9. Action Items Following Public Hearing

a. New liquor license application from Pondicherry House restaurant with under 50 seats located at 2 Cottage Street, Unit 1.

Chair Lone made a **motion** to approve the new liquor license application from Pondicherry House restaurant. **Second** from Member Tworog. 5 approve/0 oppose.

b. Renewal of special amusement permit application from Sundown Lounge located at 18B Depot Street.

Chair Lone made a **motion** to approve the special amusement permit for Sundown Lounge. **Second** from Member Tworog.

10. New Business (continued from item 7)

b. Permits/Documents requiring Board Approval

1. Select Board Approval of the 2024/2025 FY Budget

Discussion ensued. Chair Lone made a **motion** to approve the 2024/2025 FY Budget. **Second** from Member Murphy. 5 approve/0 oppose.

2. Victualer’s License for restaurant with under 50 seats (new) Pondicherry House located at 2 Cottage Street, Unit 1; Victualer’s renewal Sundown Lounge Located at 18B Depot Street.

Member Tworog made a **motion** to approve both Victualer’s License applications. **Second** from Vice-Chair McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose.

3. Medical Marijuana Caregiver Retail Store License (renewal) to Maine Only Cannabis located at 316 Portland Road.

Vice-Chair McHatton made a **motion** to approve the license renewal for Maine Only Cannabis. **Second** from member Murphy. 5 approve/ 0 oppose.

c. Select Board Comments

**Member Murphy** commended the Public Works Department for the tremendous work they did during the storm. He also called for a moment of silence for Baltimore.

**Member Castleman-Ross** commended not only Public Works, but her neighbors as well for coming together to help each other.

**Member Tworog** commended his neighbors for clearing his parking spot while he was away.

**Vice-Chair McHatton** asked the Board to put two questions forward to the voters; to see if the taxpayers would like the Transfer Station to return to their former hours, and to see if the taxpayers would like the Town Office to be open Fridays. Discussion ensued. Vice-Chair McHatton made a **motion** to add a non-binding informational question to the Town Meeting regarding Transfer Station hours and Town Office hours. No second, the **motion** dies.

**Chair Lone** would like to consider, for future meetings, to move Public hearings to the top of the agenda.

d. Town Manager’s Report/ Deputy Town Manger’s Report

**TOWN OF BRIDGTON**

**DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

**March 26, 202****4**

**General**

There was a great response to the **vacant Town Clerk’s Position** and interviews are currently taking place. I would like to thank the front office Deputy Clerks; Sean **Day, Jamie-Lee Ferguson, and Deb Flanagan** for their continued support and knowledge of the Department to assure there is no lack in services to the Citizens of the Town of Bridgton. Also, thank you **Veronica LaCascia** for accepting the position of Interim Town Clerk while the process of reviewing and interviewing takes place to fill the position.

**Community Development**

The Town of Bridgton **Comprehensive Plan** update has moved into Phase 2! The Comprehensive Plan will guide future growth and policy decisions for the Town over the next decade. Your input it crucial to developing a plan that reflects the values and priorities of the community. Be sure to check out the Town of Bridgton Comprehensive Plan Update website by visiting the Community Development page at bridgtonmaine.org, to see how you can get invovled.  **Police Department**

**Officer Lee** is progressing well at the Academy and will graduate in May. **Officer Wright**, our new full-time Officer, began work for the Police Department yesterday. Interviews are currently taking place for **two summer** **Park Rangers** and the Police Department currently has **one full time Patrol Officer** vacancy.

**Public Works Department**

There is nothing like a single **Spring snowstorm generating more snow** than we’ve had all season! Our Public Works Department sprang into action and their dedicated team worked diligently to ensure a swift and thorough cleanup. Main Street has been cleared of snow and the team is continuing to work on storm cleanup and on other storm realted issues throughout town.

**Bridgton Recreation**

Bridgton Recreation is seeking your feedback regarding the Phase 1 Ham Complex Project! Please join us for a **Public Input Meeting on Thursday, April 4th, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the Downstairs Conference Room** of the Municipal Complex.

**Summer Day Camp 2024 registrations** open on Monday, April 1st, 2024. Elementary School (K-5) and Teens (6th-9th) are welcome to register. Camp begins on Monday, June 24th, 2024.

**Bridgton Recreation is now hiring for Summer Recreation Staff**, **Lifeguards, and Water Safety Instructors**. Any interested applicants should submit a resume or a completed Town Application (can be found at bridgtonmaine.org) to [rec@bridgtonmaine.org](mailto:rec@bridgtonmaine.org).

Please refer to our website [bridgtonmaine.org](http://www.bridgtonmaine.org) for more information on these events and more and to subscribe for alerts. Also, check out Greater Bridgton Chamber of Commerce, [www.gblrcc.org](http://www.gblrcc.org) for these events and more !

Until next time.…be safe and be well  
 Respectfully submitted,   
 Georgiann M. Fleck, Deputy Town Manager

11. Old Business

a. Project Status Updates

Mr. Peabody gave an update on the Wastewater Project

b. Commercial Hauler Fees

Public Services Director David Madsen addressed the board on commercial hauler fees. Discussion ensued. Kevin Raday addressed the board about his thoughts on commercial haulers. Discussion ensued. Vice-Chair McHatton made a **motion** to impose a fee schedule of $0.08 per pound for commercial haulers. No **second**, the motion dies. Discussion of fee schedule may be added to a future agenda.

12. Treasurer’s Warrants

Member Murphy made a **motion** to approve Treasurer’s Warrants 289, 290, 291. **Second** from Chair Lone. 5 approve/0 oppose.

13. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None.

14. Chair Lone Adjourned the meeting at 6:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.

Jamie L Ferguson

Deputy Town Clerk