

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting of Wednesday, October 6, 2021. Present were Anthony J. Kinahan, Chairman; Meredith L. Anderson, Vice Chairman; and Denise R. Reyes, Clerk. Also present was David L. Gagne, Town Administrator. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Eldon F. Moreira Board of Selectmen Meeting Room.

Also Present:

Ralph Robbins & Family, 331 North Elm Street

Chris Newman, Historical Commission

Joan McAndrew, Historical Commission

Thomas McAndrew, Historical Commission

Tim Churchill, 2 Corner Stone Lane

Marci Lee, 28 Glenmere Street

Paul DeCosta, 1 Richardson Drive

Paula Bunker, 123 North Elm Street

Chairman Kinahan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Kinahan stated that the meeting would be recorded and that some or all parts of the meeting may be used by our local access company to be shown on local access along with internet feeds and clips which may be used separately from the video of the entire meeting. A full recording of the meeting will be posted on the West Bridgewater Community Access Video On Demand website at <https://wb-cam.org/vod/>.

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Kinahan stated first on the agenda was the Boston Post Cane Ceremony. Chairman Kinahan stated the Boston Post Cane was being presented to Ralph Robbins, as he is the eldest resident in West Bridgewater.

Ms. Newman read the history of the Boston Post Cane aloud. Ms. Newman thanked Mr. Robbins and his family for attending the meeting.

Mr. Robbins introduced himself and his family.

Ms. Reyes read aloud the Boston Post Cane Certificate and presented the Certificate and a bouquet of flowers to Mr. Robbins.

Chairman Kinahan presented the replica Boston Post Cane to Mr. Robbins.

At 6:36 p.m. the Board entered into a brief recess for pictures with Mr. Robbins and his family.

At 6:42 p.m. the Board returned from the brief recess.

Chairman Kinahan stated next on the agenda was approving the meeting minutes of July 7, 2021.

Ms. Anderson **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes of July 7, 2021, Ms. Reyes seconded and so voted unanimously.

Chairman Kinahan stated next on the agenda was accepting the meeting minutes of August 4, 2021 for review.

Ms. Anderson **MOVED** to accept the meeting minutes of August 4, 2021 for review, Ms. Reyes seconded, and so voted unanimously.

Chairman Kinahan stated next on the agenda was ratifying the GIS Administrator's Contract.

Mr. Gagne stated there are two contracts before the Board for ratification. Mr. Gagne explained that one contract was for the remainder of this year and then the other is a 3-year contract starting in July of 2022.

Ms. Reyes **MOVED** to ratify the GIS Administrator's contracts, Ms. Anderson seconded, and so voted unanimously.

Chairman Kinahan stated next on the agenda was discussing and voting on updating the annual fee for Transfer Station stickers and a time period of implementation.

Mr. Gagne stated there is a chart included in the meeting packet that notes current Transfer Station sticker statistics. Mr. Gagne explained that at \$85 West Bridgewater's Transfer Station sticker fees are far below any surrounding towns'. Mr. Gagne stated the Transfer Station should fund itself through the Transfer Station fees, and looking at the chart, one can clearly see that is not currently happening. Mr. Gagne state the fee should cover the service and therefore should be increased. Mr. Gagne suggested having the increase start as of July 1, 2022.

Chairman Kinahan stated he is in favor of increasing the Transfer Station sticker fees. Chairman Kinahan stated he agrees that the fee should fund the operations. Chairman Kinahan suggested increasing the fee by \$20/\$25 each year until the fees and the cost of operation break even.

Ms. Anderson agrees that the fee increase should be in small increments year after year. Ms. Anderson stated she likes the idea of the fee covering the cost of service and the Town should aim to break as close to even as possible.

Chairman Kinahan suggested increasing the fee by \$20 over the next 4 years.

Ms. Anderson **MOVED** to increase the Transfer Station sticker fee on January 1, 2022 to \$105, on January 1, 2023 to \$125, and to reassess the fee increase in July of 2023, Ms. Reyes seconded, and so voted unanimously.

Chairman Kinahan stated next on the agenda was discussing the events at the Board of Assessors meeting of September 22, 2021. Chairman Kinahan stated during the Board of Assessors meeting there was a confrontation between Principal Assessor, John Donahue, and a resident that was there to discuss his tax bill. Chairman Kinahan stated the Principal Assessor approached the

resident several times in an aggressive manner threatening violence and asking him to step outside. Chairman Kinahan stated the Board of Selectmen feel as though that was inappropriate and unacceptable behavior for a Town employee. Chairman Kinahan stated they have received a number of complaints and the Town Administrator has issued several no trespass orders for residents who are concerned with having the Principal Assessor on their property, which prevents him from doing his job of assessing property. Chairman Kinahan stated due to the Principal Assessors' actions he believes the Board of Selectmen should formally request his resignation. Chairman Kinahan stated the matter is being formally investigated.

Chairman Kinahan **MOVED** to request a formal resignation from the Principal Assessor, Ms. Anderson seconded, and so voted unanimously.

Ms. Anderson stated she agrees that the behavior at the meeting was unacceptable and very concerning.

Ms. Reyes stated she also agrees and believes the behavior was very unprofessional and they cannot risk that happening again in the future.

Chairman Kinahan stated next on the agenda was voting on the fifth amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Escrow Agreement Amendment for Outfront Media LLC.

Ms. Reyes **MOVED** to approve the amendments as presented, Ms. Anderson seconded, and so voted unanimously.

At 6:59 p.m. Chairman Kinahan opened the public comment period.

Chairman Kinahan stated next on the agenda was the Town Administrator's report.

Mr. Gagne stated State Rep. Michele Dubois filed several earmarks on behalf of the Town. Mr. Gagne stated one was for \$20,000 of Conservation related work, which was recently signed. Mr. Gagne stated he will execute the grant and the Conservation Commission will have until the end of the year to decide how to utilize the funds. Mr. Gagne stated the idea is to reinvest into some of the local trails or informational kiosks.

Mr. Gagne stated every year he is required to notify the School Department as to what their net school spending is. Mr. Gagne stated net school spending is a combination of Town funding and other school related expenses paid by the Town. Mr. Gagne stated the Town's contribution to the School totals a little over \$20,000,000. Mr. Gagne stated he has filed this information with the school.

Mr. Gagne stated he has worked with the Town's electrical aggregation company to continue saving the residents money on their electricity bill. Mr. Gagne stated National Grid's new rate has been locked in at \$.1482 per kW and the aggregation price has been locked in at \$.1135 per kW, which is still a significant savings for those enrolled in the program.

Mr. Gagne stated MassDOT has approved the Town's request for a Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion on Scotland Street. Mr. Gagne requested that the Board take a vote to include the Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion in the Town's Traffic Rules and Regulations.

Ms. Anderson **MOVED** to add the Scotland Street Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion to the Town's Traffic Rules and Regulations, Ms. Reyes seconded, and so voted unanimously.

Mr. Gagne stated last on his report was an FYI to the Board that the Conservation Agent, John Delano, submitted the Town's 2021 MS4 report to the Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Gagne stated he commends Mr. Delano on always doing such a great job and noted that Mr. Delano is paid a \$8,000 stipend while other neighboring Towns spend over \$25,000 for an outside vendor to do their MS4 reporting.

At 7:03 p.m. Ms. Anderson **MOVED** to adjourn, Ms. Reyes seconded, and so voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lorna J. Carroll, Confidential Secretary.

List of Documents included in the October 6, 2021 meeting packet.

- *Boston Post Cane Order of Ceremony*
 - *History of the Boston Post Cane*
 - *Boston Post Cane Certificate presented to Mr. Robbins*
- *July 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes*
- *August 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes*
- *GIS Coordinator's Employment Agreements*
- *Solid Waste – Analysis FY17-FY22 Chart*
- *Memo from Town Administrator to Principal Assessor re: September 22, 2021 Board of Assessors Meeting*
- *Fifth Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Town and Outfront Media LLC*
 - *Escrow Agreement Amendment between the Town and Outfront Media LLC*
- *Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Standard Contract Form re: Conservation Department Earmark*
- *Estimates for Town side of expenditures relating to Net School Spending*
- *Public Notice re: The Town of West Bridgewater's Community Choice Power Supply Program Consumer Notification*
 - *Letter re: West Bridgewater's Energy Program Rate 23% Below Winter Basic Service Rate*
- *MassDOT Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Traffic Regulation Permit*
- *Year 3 Annual Report Massachusetts Small MS4 General Permit Reposting Period: July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021*