



**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**TOWN COUNCIL OPEN MEETING**  
**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE**  
**February 13, 2023**  
**7:00pm**

**CALL TO ORDER** The Southbridge Town Council met on Monday, February 13, 2023, in the Town Council Chambers of the Southbridge Town Hall. Chair Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Daniel led the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Roll Call:** 9 voting members present.

Member	Present	Staff Present	Present
John Daniel, Chair	Yes	Karen Harnois, Finance Director/Town Accountant	Yes
David Adams, Vice-Chair	Yes	Abi Theberge, ARPA Administrator	Yes
Joseph Daou	Yes	Richard Benoit, DPW Director	Yes
Scott Lazo	Yes	Paul Normandin, Fire Chief	Yes
Michael Marketti	Yes	Peg Dean, Economic Development Coordinator	Yes
Michael Montigny	Yes	Victor Roule, IT Director	Yes
Jasmin Rivas	Yes	Steve Gregoire, Water Manager	Yes
Jacquelyn Ryan	Yes	Eric Rumsey, Town Planner	Yes
George Steeves	Yes	Phil Harding, DPW Operations Manager	Yes
<b>Staff Present</b>		Margaret Morrissey, Library Director	Yes
Michael McCarthy, Town Manager	Yes	Noor El Gaderi, HR Specialist	Yes
Adriana Robaina, HR Director	Yes	Susan Peghiny, Recording Clerk	Yes

3. **Consider and accept the Town Council Meeting Minutes, Monday, January 30, 2023.**

***Motion:*** Councilor Steeves moved to approve the minutes of the Monday January 30 2023 Open Meeting of the Town Council. Councilor Lazo seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

4. **Consider and accept the Special Town Council Meeting Minutes, Monday, February 6, 2023.**

***Motion:*** Councilor Ryan moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023 Special Open Meeting of the Town Council. Councilor Steeves seconded, and motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

5. **Subcommittee Reports**

**General Government: Councilor:** Councilor Steeves reported that they met on February 8 and items from that meeting are on tonight's agenda. Another meeting is scheduled for February 21 at 6:30pm and outlined agenda topics for that meeting.

**Department of Public Works:** Councilor Marketti reported that they met on February 8 and outlined items from the meeting on tonight's agenda. No further meetings are currently scheduled.

**Education and Human Services:** Councilor Montigny reported that there have been no meetings and none are scheduled.

Planning and Development: Councilor Adams reported that agenda items on tonight's agenda are related to P&D and ARPA. P&D will meet on March 7, 2023 and ARPA will meet on March 9, 2023.

Protection of Persons and Property: Councilor Lazo said he has no report, but a meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2023 at 6:00pm.

## 6. Chairman's Announcements

- Chair Daniel thanked Mr. McCall for his years of service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

7. **Town Manager's Announcements.** Mr. McCall thanked the Town for its support during his tenure and spoke about the achievements of the Town. He wished all well in the future and said it has been an honor to serve.

## 8. Presentations

ARPA Presentation: Councilor Adams praised Ms. Theberge for her work and provided a short summary of the status of ARPA.

Ms. Theberge provided a summary of the ARPA money explaining that \$3,732,800.00 has been allocated and provided details on the projects that were granted funding. She also outlined the reporting that is required and how the information is used.

Council members asked various questions about the information which Ms. Theberge answered.

Councilor Lazo praised the work of the ARPA committee.

Councilor Ryan asked for more details of the reporting requirements, which Ms. Theberge provided.

Councilor Marketti expressed surprise that the United Way has not requested more funding, and Ms. Theberge explained the funding agreement with the United Way.

Councilor Adams outlined some expected upcoming disbursements.

A word from Karen Harnois: Ms. Harnois thanked the Town Councils and Town Managers throughout the years for their support during her tenure and said that the Town will always be in her heart. She shared some poetry about the Town.

9. **Citizen's Forum** – There were no Citizen comments.

10. **Vote to ratify the contract with the Interim Town Manager.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

***Motion:*** *Councilor Lazo moved to amend the motion by inserting "with Charles Blanchard as" before the words interim Town Manager. Councilor Montigny seconded, and the motion to amend passed unanimously by show of hands vote.*

Denise Clemence, 128 Country Club Place, asked what the term of the contract is, and Councilor Daniel responded that it is a 6 month contract.

*The amended motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.*

11. **Vote to approve the Town Manager's appointment of Richard Soto as Seasonal DPW Winter Plow Driver effective immediately through April 30, 2023, pending the successful completion of pre-employment screening and State Ethics.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

12. **Vote to accept the revised job description for DPW Deputy Director.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote this item.*

Councilor Steeves asked for Mr. Benoit's position on this proposed change. Mr. Benoit expressed support for the change and explained why.

Councilor Marketti explained his lack of support for this item, including the loss of equal opportunity because the position was not posted.

Councilor Steeves asked Mr. Benoit if he has thoughts on how he would like to see the DPW organized. Mr. Benoit said he has had very little time in the building or conversations, so did not want to offer an opinion.

Councilor Steeves asked if Mr. Benoit would like to wait to make the proposed change in order to have more time in the department. Mr. Benoit said he thinks this is the direction they will go, so changing the job description now will not matter. He and Council Steeves discussed this.

Councilor Lazo said that the issue of in-house or contracted engineering was discussed in Subcommittee, and asked Mr. Benoit if he was in favor of the Deputy DPW Director position. Mr. Benoit said yes. Mr. Lazo asked Mr. Benoit to do a review of the DPW organization and discussed his concerns and priorities.

Councilor Rivas asked about the cost-effectiveness of taking the engineering piece out of this position. Mr. Benoit said he would prefer to hire someone to do both jobs and that might be more cost effective although projects might still be outsourced. He added that because of the tight job market he thinks it very unlikely that they will find a candidate with the right experience who also holds an engineering degree.

Councilor Ryan said she preferred having the job description revised and posted before identifying a candidate in order to maintain transparency.

Denise Clemence, 128 Country Club Place, shared her many concerns about the change in the job description and the rush to make the change.

Councilor Daniel advised Ms. Clemence that she had used up her 3 minutes to speak.

***Motion:*** Councilor Lazo moved to waive the rules and extend Ms. Clement's speaking time by 2 minutes. Councilor Ryan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by show of hands vote.

Ms. Clemence continued to detail her concerns with the proposed change and asked the Council to postpone this item so DPW could look more closely into it and have a discussion with residents.

Jim Pioppi, 727 Tipton Rock Road and DPW Employee, agreed that the protocol of this process does not look good, and shared his concerns about the proposed change and asked the Council to take more time on this issue.

Michael Pollone, DPW Employee, said that last time a description was changed to fit someone it did not work. He would like the job to be posted as they have always been.

Rich Pollone, 227 Marcy Street, shared his concerns about the proposed change.

John Alicea, DPW Employee, also supported postponing this issue so the DPW Director has time to review this. He added that he thinks the position should be posted.

***Motion:*** Councilor Marketti moved to refer the issue back to the DPW Subcommittee. Councilor Ryan seconded.

There was a spirited discussion about how the revised job description was developed, and who was involved.

Mr. Pioppi discussed past problems with DPW leadership and supported posting the job and trying to find someone to fill the role as is currently defined in the job description.

Councilor Daou said that he thinks Mr. Harding has earned the job through his experience and that the opposition to his promotion is just jealousy.

There was a discussion of the history of the related positions.

Councilor Lazo expressed concern about referring the issue back to Subcommittee and pointed out that the DPW Director had just expressed support for the change in the job description. He also pointed out that the Acting Director was actively involved as well and does not want to delay this further.

Mr. Pioppi pointed out that Mr. Benoit said having someone to fill both roles is preferable but that the odds were very low of finding someone with those qualifications. He added that he believes a hasty move was still a bad move and would not be in the best interest of Southbridge.

There was a discussion of whether or not to refer the issue back to Subcommittee.

Mr. Benoit asked that the Council make their decision for everyone involved in the issue. He acknowledged that he has not been involved in the process and is feeling his way through this. He said that, after hearing the speakers tonight, it is probably in the best interest of all to delay this change to give him time to figure out what is happening.

Councilor Marketti expressed his concern about equal opportunity being lost by not posting the position.

Mr. McCall said he has been asked to promote and bring people up through the ranks and expressed frustration with this effort having so much opposition.

Mr. Pollone said they were told no promotions until the new DPW Director was filled.

Councilor Lazo spoke about Mr. Benoit's statement in support of delaying the issue. Mr. Benoit responded that that statement was directed to the DPW employees and how this issue could affect them. He asked for time to figure out how to proceed.

Councilor Rivas suggested postponing this to the next Council meeting to give Mr. Benoit the time he has requested but that the issue should not go back to Subcommittee.

Councilor Steeves asked how much time Mr. Benoit would like, and Mr. Benoit said a 2-meeting postponement would be preferable.

Councilor Daou said postponing will not change anything and suggested finishing it today.

Nancy Graf Harwood, 561 South Street, shared her understanding of what happened at Subcommittee and asked the Council to postpone, especially given Mr. Benoit's most recent comments and Ms. Robaina's comment at Subcommittee that the candidate deserved merit.

Ms. Clemence explained that the Subcommittee and Town Council meeting schedule did not allow much time for discussion of the change and encouraged the Council to refer the issue back to Subcommittee for further discussion, not to postpone.

Mr. Pioppi said the Charter gives the Director authority to appoint the Deputy Directors.

*The motion to refer back to the DPW subcommittee failed 4-5 by a roll vote with Councilors Lazo, Montigny, Rivas, Adams, and Daniel opposing.*

**Motion:** *Councilor Steeves moved to postpone to the March 13, 2023 meeting. Councilor Marketti seconded, and the motion passed 5-4 by roll call with Councilors Montigny, Adams, Daniel and Daou opposing.*

**Motion:** *Councilor Ryan moved to postpone Agenda Items 13 & 14 to the March 13, 2023. Councilor Steeves seconded, and the motion passed 6-2-1 by roll call with Councilors Montigny and Daou opposing and Councilor Lazo abstaining*

**Councilor Lazo left the meeting at this point. 8 Voting Members Remained.**

**13. Vote to accept the changes to Schedule 1 I Administrative Salary Schedule For Positions Not Covered By Collective Bargaining Agreements (Administrative Department Heads).** *This item was postponed.*

**14. Vote to approve the promotion of Philip Harding to the DPW Deputy Director position.** *This item was postponed.*

**Motion:** *Councilor Steeves moved to postpone Agenda Items 15, 16, & 17 to the March 13, 2023. Councilor Ryan seconded.*

**15. Vote to accept the revised job description for Senior Public Works Foreman.** *A motion was made by Councilor Adams and seconded by Councilor Montigny to vote this item.*

There was a discussion of whether or not these items should be postponed because they have the same issues as outlined in Agenda Item #12.

Ms. Clemence expressed her support for postponing.

*The motion to postpone failed by a tie of 4-4 by roll call vote with Councilors Montigny, Adams, Daniel, and Daou opposing.*

Mr. Pollone asked why the position is not salaried. Mr. McCall explained the why this position is hourly. This was discussed. He asked if the position would be posted, which was discussed.

Mr. Pioppi asked a question that Chair Daniel ruled out of order.

Ms. Harwood said she thinks Mr. Pioppi's question is not out of order. Chair Daniel explained why the question was out of order.

Mr. Alicea said it was important to get the DPW Director's input on this and why he believes the job description was changed.

Mr. Pollone supported giving the DPW Director more time.

Ms. Clemence asked who decided a Senior Public Works Foreman was needed, and who decided on the increased pay for this role and where was the money coming from. Mr. McCall explained the pressure to keep employees and how the Town tries to respond to these situations. This was discussed. Ms. Clemence encouraging waiting on this item as well.

*The original motion failed 2 in favor, 6 opposed by a roll call vote with Councilors Rivas, Ryan, Steeves, Adams, Daou, Marketti and Montigny opposing.*

***Motion:*** Councilor Rivas moved to postpone Agenda Items 16 & 17 to the March 13, 2023. Councilor Marketti seconded.

There was a discussion of why there should or should not be a postponement.

Councilor Adams asked if every job now has to be posted. Ms. Robaina responded from the audience.

*The motion to postpone passed 6-2 by a roll call vote with Councilors Montigny & Daou opposing.*

- 16. Vote to accept the changes to Schedule 1 VII PW Supervisory and PW Schedule For Trade, Craft, and Labor Positions Not Covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements.** *This item was postponed.*
- 17. Vote to approve the promotion of Glenn Ethier to the Senior Public Works Forman position** *This item was postponed.*
- 18. Vote to approve \$5,800.00 in ARPA funds in support of the Southbridge Fire Department's mental health program through the Westborough Behavioral Healthcare Hospital and distribution of such funds will be overseen by the town's ARPA Administrator.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

Councilor Ryan expressed her happiness that this is happening and praised the work of the Westborough Behavioral Healthcare Hospital.

Chief Normandin read a statement about mental health issues in public safety.

Councilor Rivas thanked the Chief for bringing this agenda item and issue forward.

***The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.***
- 19. Vote to approve \$100,000.00 in ARPA funds in support of the Jacob Edwards Library request for the design and build of their broadband network and distribution of such funds will be overseen by the town's ARPA Administrator.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Adams to vote this item.*

Councilor Adams explained the involvement of the ARPA Committee and library personnel.

Ms. Morrissey thanked the Council and ARPA Committee for the funding. She detailed the process for developing this project and potential funding, as well as how important connectivity is to the library services.

The Councilors expressed their reasons for supporting this project and Broadband access Town wide.

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 20. Vote to approve \$2,000.00 in ARPA funds in support of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) contract of Slums and Blights Survey and distribution of such funds will be overseen by the town's ARPA Administrator.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Steeve to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

Councilor Daniel praised Councilor Adams and the ARPA Committee for their work.

- 21. Vote to approve rescinding Town Council Agenda Item #28 from January 9, 2023 whose vote was to approve an application for \$20,000 from the MicroProjects Program to fund a marketing campaign to educate Southbridge residents on our existing community transportation resources, and allow the transfer of \$4,000 from Town Council Reserve Account #001132-578100, to Account: MicroProjects Program Grant Marketing for Community Transportation to ensure the Town can meet the 20% match requirement and to authorize the Town Manager to sign any related paperwork.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

Councilor Adams explained the purpose and history of this agenda item.

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 22. Vote to approve applying for \$20,000 from the MicroProjects Program to fund a marketing campaign to educate Southbridge residents on our existing community transportation resources using \$4,000 in ARPA funds for the 20% match and authorize the Town Manager to sign any related paperwork.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Adams explained that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> step of this funding process previously described.

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 23. Vote to approve entering into a contract for \$2,000.00 with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to help complete the Slums and Blights Survey needed for our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application activity Commercial Rehab to be funded by ARPA funds.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Adams explained that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> step of this funding process.

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 24. Vote to approve applying for the CDBG Mini-Entitlement FY2022 & FY2023 grants for \$1.65M for housing rehab, commercial rehab, code enforcement and a planning activity and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Adams explained this agenda item.

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

25. **Vote to rescind agenda item #16 from Town Council meeting 11/07/2022, "Vote to allow the Economic Development and Planning Department to accept the lowest quote to furnish and install (2) two awnings at 300 Main St. for not more than \$10,814.00 pending approval from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

Councilor Adams explained that this is being rescinded because the cost of the awnings is higher than expected and new funding is being requested in Agenda Item 26.

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

26. **Vote to accept the quote and enter into an agreement with Graphics Unlimited to furnish and install (2) two awnings at 300 Main St. for \$13,100.00 and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

27. **Vote to approve applying for \$50,000.00 through the Community Compact IT Best Practices Grant to complete a technology assessment and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Mr. Roule explained some of the needs to achieve the technology goals of the Town, and the assessment will start that process.

Councilor Daou asked how the requested funds will be allocated, and Mr. Roule explained that it is just for the feasibility study and what he hopes to learn from the study.

Councilor Montigny asked if getting Wi-Fi to low-income residents is part of the plan. Mr. Roule said this is the beginning of the process and the study will help achieve that.

Councilor Montigny asked about a matching grant, and Mr. Roule explained the funding.

Councilor Daou asked if an outside company would be used for the study, and Mr. Roule said yes.

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

28. **Vote to approve applying for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for no more than \$11M and commit \$750,000.00 in water and sewer enterprise funds to complete the project and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Ms. Dean explained the process for applying for this grant, the funding request level decision was made, and how the funds would be used. There was a discussion of the projects.

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

29. **Vote to approve the license agreement between the Town of Southbridge and the Southbridge Softball Association, Inc. for the use of Henry Street Field and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

Councilor Steeves explained that this agreement has been going for years, and costs the Town nothing.

Mr. McCall shared a statement from Michael Brunelle, the Recreation Director talking about the good work that the League does for the fields.

Councilor Marketti asked if the League always had the ability to use the fields until midnight. Mr. McCall said the agreement has always been that way. Councilor Marketti said the Bylaws indicate 10pm and how does the League get around that. Mr. McCall said he has only had 1 complaint.

Councilor Montigny explained that during playoffs, games can be scheduled late into the night.

Councilor Marketti said he would like to see the contract conform to the Bylaws, which say 10:00pm.

There was a discussion of the times in the contract.

*The motion passed 7-1 by a show of hands vote, with Councilor Marketti opposed.*

- 30. Vote to schedule a joint public hearing with the Planning Board to discuss amendments to the Southbridge Zoning Bylaw Sections 5, 9.1, and 10.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

Councilor Steeves said the Subcommittee had not discussed this.

Mr. Rumsey said the Planning Board proposed March 15, 2023 for the Public Hearing. He reviewed the topics for that meeting.

Councilor Steeves asked about the timing of votes, which Mr. Ramsey answered.

Councilor Marketti asked why changes were already being made to the Zoning Bylaw even though a great deal of money was recently spent to create it. Mr. Ramsey said Bylaws are living, breathing documents and then explained why they are proposing the changes.

Councilor Marketti said he would like to hear the Planning Board's recommending these changes. Mr. Ramsey said he will work with the Planning Board to provide an executive summary for the Council.

***Motion:*** *Councilor Steeves moved to amend the motion to add "The meeting will be held on March 15, 2023 at 6:45pm". Councilor Ryan seconded. The motion to amend passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

*The amended motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 31. Vote to award Tank Mixer Replacements which will replace storage tank mixer motors for Breakneck Rd and Mass Ave storage tanks to and enter into a contract with Underwater Solutions Inc. for \$29,991.80 and authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Mr. Gregoire explained the reason for this funding request.

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 32. Vote to approve the transfer for \$29,992.00 from #610450-583000-91250 Water Reserve Fund to #610450-583000-23580 Water System Capital to fund Tank Mixer Replacements in the Breakneck Rd and Mass Ave storage tanks.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Adams to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 33. Vote to approve the transfer for 90,000.00 from Fund #0842 Capital Stabilization Fund to Project #64847 DPW Purchase of Sweeper to cover increase cost of sweeper replacement.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

***Motion:*** *Councilor Adams moved to amend to by adding "and authorize the Town Manager to sign all related paperwork". Councilor Steeves seconded, and the motion to amend passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

Mr. Harding and Councilor Marketti explained why a new sweeper is needed.

*The amended motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.*

- 34. Vote to approve the transfer for \$86,032.00 from Fund #0842 Capital Stabilization Fund to Project #64849 DPW Clamshell Catch Basin Cleaner for Swaploader to cover increase cost for catch basin cleaner.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

***Motion:*** *Councilor Ryan moved to amend to by adding "and authorize the Town Manager to sign all related paperwork". Councilor Daou seconded, and the motion to amend passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

Mr. Harding explained that this request is due to a price increase for the item.

*The amended motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.*



35. **Vote to approve a transfer request for \$1,000.00 from #09400000-57400-0145 Insurance-Deductible to #09400000-57400 Insurance-Property & Liability to cover the cost of Fire Dept equipment added to the insurance policy.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*
36. **Vote to approve a transfer request for \$10,000.00 from #001145-511000 Treasurer/Collector Salaries to #001145-530000 Treasurer/Collector Specialized Services to cover the cost of January 2023 invoice from Strategic Municipal Services for Treasurer/Collector services.** *A motion was made by Councilor Steeves and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Steeves explained the reason for this funding request.

Mr. McCall provided further explanation for the request, and possible candidates for the permanent position.

Councilor Steeves asked if it is legal to appoint a firm rather than an individual to the post. Councilor Ryan explained it is being looked into and it may be possible.

Councilor Marketti highlighted the high cost of this service and suggested using the money to increase the salary if necessary. Mr. McCall said that the position has been vacant because of the tight labor market and this suggestion maybe worth discussing.

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

37. **Vote to amend the Southbridge Town Council Rules and Regulations as follows:**

- a) **To add to Rule 1 the word "elect: after "members" and before the word "shall".**
- b) **To add to Rule 4, "The Vice-Chairperson may be also assigned to a subcommittee as needed".**
- c) **To strike the sentence from Rule 4, "summer schedule and special situations are to be decided by a majority vote of the entire Council (5)".**
- d) **To change wording from Rule 5a under 3d, "Set the next meeting date: to "Adjournment".**
- e) **To change wording from Rule 5a under 3e, "New Business (as allowed by OML for items not anticipated by the Chairperson)" to "All posting shall include the following text: "It is possible a quorum of the Town Council may be present and discuss agenda items, but voting rights shall be limited to Subcommittee members in attendance".**
- f) **To change the wording from Rule 5a under 3f the word "Adjournment: to "At the end of each agenda the following will be added "The items listed as the agenda are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law."**
- g) **Strike Rule 5a under 3g in its entirety.**
- h) **To strike from Rule 10 the word "he" and replace with "the Chairperson".**
- i) **Add "Rule 23" which states, "The Southbridge Town Council Rules and Regulations shall be discussed, reviewed and voted on at the first regularly scheduled Town Council meeting annually".**

*A motion was made by Councilor name and seconded by Councilor name to vote this item. **Was there a motion made? I don't think so..there isn't one on the tape..... went right to amending.***

**Motion:** *Councilor Ryan moved to amend 37b to add "except that the Vice-Chairperson shall not serve as the Chair of a subcommittee" to the end of 37b. Councilor Marketti seconded the motion.*

A discussion of what would happen if no one wanted to be the Chair, the impact of accepting the amendment was held, the rules surrounding participation on Subcommittees, the role of Ex Officio members, and balancing the workload.

*The motion to amend failed 5 against, 3 in favor unanimously by a show of hands vote, with Councilors Montigny, Adams, Daniel, Daou and Steeves opposing.*

The original motion passed 7-1 by a show of hands vote, with Councilor Ryan opposed.

### 38. Councilors Forum

#### Councilor Marketti:

- Curbside Trash: About 1000 surveys have been returned, and he outlined the results and the discussion at Subcommittee. He explained the need for an RFP to determine what the cost would be for the preferred choice of a user fee (bags).
- Capital Planning Committee: They will be meeting on Thursday at 11am.

#### Councilor Montigny:

- Wished Mr. McCall good luck in the future.
- Explained why he supported the promotion on Agenda Item 12, and suggested that Tara Thibeault, the DPW Executive Assistant, also deserves a promotion because of all the hard work she has done.

#### Councilor Rivas:

- Thanked Mr. McCall for his service and wished him well.
- There will be a presentation at the Library on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 about changing the Massachusetts flag and seal because of its offensiveness to indigenous peoples.
- The first promo for "Youth Voices with Councilor Rivas" will be filmed tomorrow. The first show in about a month will be focused on leadership.

#### Councilor Ryan:

- Praised Mr. McCall and wished him well.
- Recognized Ms. Harnois' service and wished her well.

#### Councilor Steeves:

- Wished Mr. McCall and Ms. Harnois the best in the future and thanked them for their service.

#### Councilor Daou:

- Wished Mr. McCall and Ms. Harnois all the best.
- Told the residents that the Town is going in the right direction and to sit tight.

#### Councilor Adams:

- Next ARPA meeting is on March 9<sup>th</sup> and requests are due March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Town Manager Search Committee is meeting on Thursday to discuss the RFP.
- Wished Mr. McCall all the best and said that he has enjoyed working with him.
- Wished Ms. Harnois all the best and recognized her years of service.

#### Chair Daniel:

- Thanked Ms. Harnois for her help and Mr. McCall for his service.

### DISCUSSION OF NEXT MEETINGS

- February 27, 2023

### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** Councilor Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting of the Southbridge Town Council. Councilor Steeves seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:04pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny  
Recording Clerk