

**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022**

A meeting of the Southbridge Town Council was held on Monday, May 9, in the Council Chambers. Council Chair Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**AGENDA ITEM #1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Council Chair Daniel led the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM #2. ROLL CALL.** Present: Adams, Daniel, Daou, Jovan, Lazo, Marketti, Steeves, Ryan. Absent: Cotrona (8 present)

**AGENDA ITEM #3. CONSIDER AND ACCEPT THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, MONDAY, APRIL 25 2022.** A motion was made by Councilor Lazo, seconded by Councilor Daou to vote on this item. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS** (relevant minutes to be read at each agenda item).

**a. GENERAL GOVERNMENT.** Subcommittee Chair Ryan had a meeting that resulted in two items on tonight's agenda.

**b. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.** Subcommittee Chair Marketti summarized a recent meeting in which they discussed several items on tonight's agenda. The next meeting is 5/17.

**c. EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES.** Subcommittee Chair Jovan has a meeting 5/17.

**d. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.** Subcommittee Chair Adams summarized a recent meeting that resulted in two items on tonight's agenda. The next meeting is 5/17

**e. PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY.** Subcommittee Chair Lazo will be scheduling a meeting in the coming weeks.

**AGENDA ITEM #5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** None.

**AGENDA ITEM #6. TOWN MANAGER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- They conducted a walk down Main Street with several engineers and others involved with the paving. They're discussion options to remedy the situation based on Lynch's verbal commitment to fix some of the outstanding issues
- There was a MEMA mock drill that several municipal employees were part of last week
- Green Meadows paid their first installment of impact fees last week for \$163,000.00
- The positivity rate is equivalent to that of Fall 2021 and they need to keep an eye on their safety protocol
- He attended Mary Darling's play "On Our Terms" last week and enjoyed the experience

**AGENDA ITEM #7. PRESENTATION: UPDATE ON ARPA SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES.** Councilor Adams summarized the work the committee has done thus far and thanked Councilor Steeves, Councilor Marketti, and Town Manager McCall

- They've met four times and have another one scheduled for 5/19
- They've documented wants and needs of the community and various departments
- Councilor Steeves suggested spreading the total amount of ARPA funding across multiple avenues to ensure the needs of the community are adequately met
- They'll be bringing several items to the Town Council in the near future and look forward to continue to meet to assess the best use of these funds

**AGENDA ITEM #8. CITIZENS FORUM.** None

**AGENDA ITEM #9. VOTE TO ACCEPT THE FY2022 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR GRANT AWARD AND ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote on this item Deputy Chief Hulyk summarized the grant process and looks forward to utilizing the funding. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #10. VOTE TO APPROVE THE TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT KATELYN SPENCER OF WARREN, MA AS A SPECIAL TRAFFIC CONSTABLE FOR A 3-YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024.** A motion was made by Councilor Lazo seconded by Councilor Daou to vote on this item. Chief Woodson spoke highly of Ms. Spencer and recommended her for this. He noted that there are currently 24 traffic constables if this appointment gets approved. Town Manager McCall is seeking updated guidance on making sure these positions are properly designated due to changes in guidance. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #11. VOTE TO APPROVE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TRANSFER REQUEST FOR \$10,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT #001210-511000 SALARY TO ACCOUNT #001210-548000 MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS & ACCESSORIES TO COVER ANY OTHER UNEXPECTED EXPENSES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISCAL YEAR, AND ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.** A motion was made by Councilor Lazo, seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote on this item. Vote by a show of hands. Chief Woodson explained that there is a small balance in this account, therefore they'd like to transfer funds to cover unexpected repairs. He noted that any funds not used would be returned to the town general fund. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #12. VOTE TO APPROVE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TRANSFER REQUEST FOR \$7,500.00 FROM ACCOUNT #001210-511000 SALARY TO ACCOUNT #001210-524100 REPAIR & MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLE TO COVER ANY OTHER UNEXPECTED EXPENSES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISCAL YEAR,**

**AND ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.** A motion was made by Councilor Lazo, seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote on this item. Chief Woodson said this is similar to the previous item, but this is for in house repairs. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #13. VOTE TO APPROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT TRANSFER REQUEST FOR \$25,500.00 FROM ACCOUNT #001210-511000 SALARY TO ACCOUNT #001210-585500 OFFICE EQUIPMENT TO COVER THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REPLACEMENT/UPGRADING OF THE COMPUTERS AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.** A motion was made by Councilor Lazo, seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote on this item. Chief Woodson said there was a serious IT issue at the station in February and they are now working with a private IT vendor that has made recommendations to ensure their operations are secure. This money is available because they are budgeted for 38 full-time police officers and have not had that amount in quite some time, therefore they'd like to put the money to good use. Councilor Marketti understands and supports the need, but recommended they look to fund capital expenses in the future. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #14. VOTE TO APPROVE APPLYING FOR THE 2022 MASS TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION FOR \$500,000 TO HELP DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT THE QUINEBAUG VALLEY RAIL TRAIL AND ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote on this item. CDBG Coordinator Peg Dean noted that this item compliments the EDA grant they applied for that they are still awaiting approval for. It is expected they apply for this one as well, which is why they are pursuing this grant. Councilor Marketti said the rail trail design and construction numbers keep changing every time they discuss it and he is still hesitant since the town is accepting all liability of the project. Councilor Adams feels they've been adequately briefed on how the money is being used and where it is coming from. Councilor Steeves asked when they could expect to hear back on this grant decision, Ms. Dean believes they will hear back in November. Councilor Jovan clarified that the project cost is \$4.1M. Ms. Dean thanked the State for stepping up to help Vote by roll call. Councilors in favor: Adams, Daniel, Daou, Jovan, Lazo, Steeves, Ryan. By 7-1 the motion was carried with Marketti opposing.

- AGENDA ITEM #15. AMENDMENTS TO SOUTHBRIDGE ZONING MAP TO CHANGE THE FOLLOWING:**
- A. CHANGING 333 EAST MAIN STREET THROUGH 505 EAST MAIN STREET FROM MANUFACTURING TO GENERAL BUSINESS.**
  - B. CHANGING 1, 6, AND 28 SANDERDALE ROAD AND MAP 44, LOT 17 FROM MANUFACTURING TO GENERAL BUSINESS.**
  - C. CHANGING 23, 27, 31, AND 35 GOLF STREET FROM MANUFACTURING TO R2.**
  - D. CHANGING 39 OLD WOOD STOCK ROAD FROM MANUFACTURING TO R2.**

**E. CHANGING 70, 78 JENNISON STREET FROM OFFICE RESEARCH TO R2.  
F. CHANGING MAP 44, LOT 29, AND 37 (KINGSLEY STREET) FROM OFFICE RESEARCH TO R2. G. CHANGING 72 DOUTY STREET, AND MAP 44, LOTS 47, 55, AND 56 (DOUTY STREET) FROM OFFICE RESEARCH TO MANUFACTURING.  
H. CHANGING 66, 73, 94, 105, 121, 126, 134, AND 234 ASHLAND AVENUE FROM OFFICE RESEARCH TO MANUFACTURING.**

**FIRST READING 05/09/2022**

Councilor Marketti noted that several people spoke up with concerns at the public hearing, but he didn't see some of those changes reflected in this bylaw. Town Planner Eric Rumsey said the Planning Board met on April 20 and voted to revert the proposal on 53 and 59 Golf Street to have them remain in manufacturing. They looked at 23 Golf Street, but the votes were not there to keep it as Manufacturing for several reasons including the neighborhood, lack of parking, and lack of amenities. He also noted that it would create spot zoning, which is something they were trying to remedy with these changes. George S. of Theresa Ave spoke in opposition of the change from manufacturing to residential for the whole area and said many other residents did as well. He's concerned with the fact that the residents in the neighborhood were complaining about the lack of being informed on the changes, not so much with the changes themselves. It is his belief that the board has created spot changing here and asks that the Council refer this back to the Planning Board or the appropriate subcommittee for further discussion. Councilor Lazo isn't in favor of bringing this back to the subcommittee because he thinks the Council should work through it now since the Planning Board has already done their part. He believes the more you get rid of manufacturing and the more you go into residential, it leads to problems on the industrial side for businesses to come into Southbridge. Councilor Daou supports the work the Planning Board did and thinks it looks very clean. Councilor Steeves made a recommendation for isolating an area for general business North of Golf Street. Councilor Lazo understands the suggestion but said that the neighborhood has a facility built for manufacturing from when Stanco originally built it. He doesn't believe they should take the zoning away from that building that was structured for that specific purpose. Councilor Jovan is glad they were able to get more information on this tonight, he believes himself and others may need to digest the information and do some research themselves before making changes to this at the next meeting/ reading of the Bylaw.

**AGENDA ITEM #16. VOTE TO ACCEPT THE WARRANT FOR THE TOWN ELECTION ON TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2022.** A motion was made by Councilor Lazo, seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote on this item. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #17. ORDERED: THAT \$570,000.00 IS APPROPRIATED TO WEST STREET WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS THAT TO MEET THIS APPROPRIATION THE TREASURER WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE TOWN MANAGER IS AUTHORIZED TO BORROW \$570,000.00 UNDER CHAPTER 44 OF THE GENERAL LAWS, OR PURSUANT TO ANY OTHER ENABLING AUTHORITY, AND TO ISSUE BONDS OR NOTES THEREFORE. ANY PREMIUM RECEIVED BY**

**THE TOWN UPON THE SALE OF ANY BONDS OR NOTES APPROVED BY THIS VOTE, LESS ANY SUCH PREMIUM APPLIED TO THE PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS OR NOTES, MAY BE APPLIED TO THE PAYMENT OF COSTS APPROVED BY THIS VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 44, SECTION 20 OF THE GENERAL LAWS, THEREBY REDUCING THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED TO BE BORROWED TO PAY SUCH COSTS BY A LIKE AMOUNT.**

**2/3 ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED**

A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote on this item. Ms. Blakeley said this item is for bonding of the water portion of the project. Ms. Blakeley said there is a water bond, sewer bond, request for free cash, approved CDBG funds, and a few other funding sources for this project. Councilor Marketti said the project in its entirety did go to subcommittee but the next four agenda items were not on the DPW subcommittee agenda and he'd prefer they refer all of them back to the subcommittee to be fully vetted. Ms. Blakeley said these are time sensitive and they have a bid that can only be held for a number of days. Since pricing can go up fast, she'd recommend they move on this contract fast for that purpose and the purpose of moving this along at an efficient rate. Councilor Lazo agrees with Councilor Marketti, but will vote to approve these time sensitive bids to move them forward. Councilor Jovan noted that these items are just written out to approve the funding mechanisms since the DPW did vote favorably on the project itself. There was discussion on how to handle items and funding mechanism discussions in the future.

Motion: Vote to move the question. A motion to move the question was made by Councilor Jovan, seconded by Councilor Ryan. Vote by show of hands. By 6-2 the motion carried with Lazo and Marketti opposing.

Vote by roll call on the item. Those favor: Adams, Daniel, Daou, Jovan, Lazo, Steeves, Ryan. By 7-1 the motion was carried with Marketti opposing.

**18. ORDERED: THAT \$500,000.00 IS APPROPRIATED TO WEST STREET SEWER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS THAT TO MEET THIS APPROPRIATION THE TREASURER WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE TOWN MANAGER IS AUTHORIZED TO BORROW \$500,000.00 UNDER CHAPTER 44 OF THE GENERAL LAWS, OR PURSUANT TO ANY OTHER ENABLING AUTHORITY, AND TO ISSUE BONDS OR NOTES THEREFORE. ANY PREMIUM RECEIVED BY THE TOWN UPON THE SALE OF ANY BONDS OR NOTES APPROVED BY THIS VOTE, LESS ANY SUCH PREMIUM APPLIED TO THE PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS OR NOTES, MAY BE APPLIED TO THE PAYMENT OF COSTS APPROVED BY THIS VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 44, SECTION 20 OF THE GENERAL LAWS, THEREBY REDUCING THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED TO BE BORROWED TO PAY SUCH COSTS BY A LIKE AMOUNT.**

**2/3 ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED**

A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote on this item. Councilor Marketti asked for more clarification on this item, Town Manager McCall explained that they already have secured some funding for this and they are looking for additional funds

Vote by roll call on the item. Those favor: Adams, Daniel, Daou, Jovan, Lazo, Steeves, Ryan. By 7-1 the motion was carried with Marketti opposing.

**AGENDA ITEM #19. VOTE TO APPROVE THE WATER DEPARTMENT TRANSFER REQUEST FOR \$365,000.00 FROM FUND 0610 WATER RETAINED EARNINGS TO PROJECT #63700 WEST STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT INCREASING AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE WEST STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AND ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Daou to vote on this item. Vote by roll call on the item. Those favor: Adams, Daniel, Daou, Jovan, Lazo, Marketti, Steeves, Ryan. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #20. VOTE TO APPROVE THE WATER DEPARTMENT TRANSFER REQUEST FOR \$500,000.00 FROM FUND 0001 FREE CASH TO PROJECT #64846 WEST STREET INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS INCREASING AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE WEST STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TO ALLOW FOR THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, AND ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Daou to vote on this item. Town Manager McCall said initially they thought they would fund this with ARPA funds, but they felt utilizing free cash would be the best avenue for now and return it in the event that they do get ARPA funds for it in the future. Councilor Adams said they will be addressing this at the next ARPA ad hoc committee meeting on May 19. Vote by roll call on the item. Those favor: Adams, Daniel, Daou, Jovan, Lazo, Steeves, Ryan. By 7-1 the motion was carried with Marketti opposing.

**AGENDA ITEM #21. VOTE TO RATIFY THE CONTRACT WITH LUDLOW CONSTRUCTION FOR WEST ST INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR \$3,108,577 TO BE FUNDED FROM WATER, SEWER, CDBG, AND CHAPTER 90 AND ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ASSOCIATED CONTRACT DOCUMENTS ONCE COMPLETED.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote on this item. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #22. VOTE TO RATIFY CONTRACT WITH BSC GROUP FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR RIVER & CRANE ST INFRASTRUCTURES IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$255,000 AS SUBMITTED IN THE QUOTE DATED APRIL 27, 2022. FUNDING TO BE PROVIDED FROM WATER CAPITAL AND CHAPTER 90.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote on this item. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #23. VOTE TO APPROVE USING EXCESS FUNDS IN THE DPW SALARY AND WAGE ACCOUNT 01499-511000 TO HIRE FOR THE NEW POSITION OF MAINTENANCE MAN/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR INCLUDED IN THE FY23 BUDGET CONTINGENT OF FUNDING OF THE POSITION. THE COST TO FUND**

**THE NEW EMPLOYEE FROM MAY 24 TO THE END OF JUNE, WOULD BE \$5731.20 (6 WEEKS) BASED ON THE CURRENT UNION CONTRACT.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Daou to vote on this item. Councilor Marketti voted against this at the subcommittee because he thinks hiring decisions should come before the Town Council first and that the documentation should include a name, resume, and more details before the vote on hiring. Town Manager McCall noted that the cost to fund the employee through the end of the fiscal year is included here and the FY23 budget will be voted on at the next regular meeting. They do have a candidate they're interested in moving forward with, therefore if this was approved they would look to hire that person. Councilor Jovan is concerned with voting on this item, only because it is contingent on the passing of the budget and if the position does not end up funding they would be on the hook for unemployment if they were unable to continue to employ that person. He recommended they include this item on the May 23 meeting to make sure they have it funded for the upcoming year. There was discussion on what the right process should be for an item like this and several members felt voting yes on this would not be a good practice. Ms. Blakeley said they've been very honest in communicating with this candidate that they would not make an offer until they vote on the budget, so postponing this until the next meeting would not make a difference in how they move forward right now.

**Motion: Vote to postpone this item until the next regular Town Council meeting on May 23 with the agenda item to take place after the adoption of the budget.** A motion was made by Councilor Jovan, seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote on this item. Vote by a show of hands. By 7-1 the motion carries, with Daou opposing.

**AGENDA ITEM #24. VOTE TO APPROVE IMA PAYMENT TO TOWN OF CHARLTON FOR FY 21 OF \$123,208.34 FROM WATER ACCOUNT 610450.569300 TOWN OF CHARLTON IMA PAYMENT AS REQUIRED BY THE CHARLTON IMA.**

A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote on this item. Councilor Marketti and Ms. Blakeley clarified that the IMA requires the Town to look at their retained earnings and to calculate a percentage of revenue for Charlton every fiscal year. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #25. VOTE TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER REQUEST FROM WATER RETAINED EARNINGS ACCOUNT TO 610450.569300 TOWN OF CHARLTON IMA PAYMENT FOR \$123,208.34 TO PAY THE FY 21 IMA FEE AND ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.**

A motion was made by Councilor Steeves, seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote on this item. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #26. VOTE TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO 2 FOR THE SOUTH ST TRANSMISSION MAIN IMPROVEMENTS AND ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT WITH LUDLOW CONSTRUCTION FOR A TIME EXTENSION ONLY AS A RESULT OF DELAYS FOR PIPE AND WATERMAIN MATERIALS DUE TO MANUFACTURE DELAY ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH COVID AND ALLOW THE**

**TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.** A motion was made by Councilor Jovan, seconded by Councilor Daou to vote on this item. Ms. Blakeley said this change order is just an extension of time due to the delays with getting materials, therefore this will be paved in the fall. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #27. VOTE TO APPROVE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS OF UP TO \$1,000,000 AS PROPOSED IN THE DPW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2022 PAVING PROJECTS DATED APRIL 20, 2022 TO INCLUDE ELLIS RD, MECHANIC & NORTH ST, MOON ST, AND COOMBS ST.** A motion was made by Councilor Jovan, seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote on this item. Councilor Marketti said the Town Council voted on a road improvement program last year where they also supported a best first approach. He said the pavement preservation list was presented in March 2021 that had four categories of work to be done with a total of 85 roads. He's pushed for a plan for this year and finally got one for 5 roads this year and wants to know why the number is such a steep decrease. He noted that the Council made a financial commitment and bonded money for roads, therefore he isn't sure why there aren't more roads on this list. He is trying to stick to the plan they mapped out when they voted on it as a Council. Ms. Blakeley said they have an existing crack sealing contract and not all of the roads on the list last year were completed, therefore those will be worked on this year which totals about \$60,000 of work. She will be coming to the Council with an additional transfer from snow and ice for the road improvement account in the near future as well. She said they picked a manageable amount for right now for several reasons, including the fact that the DPW will have vacant positions and they will be very overburdened. She also noted that there is a sharp increase in the cost of pavement which is why they had to go with a smaller list this year. Several Councilors thanked everyone involved with moving the road improvement plans forward. Town Manager McCall cautioned them that they may not see the projected marijuana revenue they were counting on because not all four facilities are operational. They had projected they'd have around \$1M by now, however they've only received about 25% of that. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #28. VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR IT DIRECTOR POSITION.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote on this item. Town Manager McCall said they are looking to fill this position to ensure they have an in-house individual monitoring the technical needs and overseeing cyber security of the town. They wouldn't have a difficult time finding a part-time candidate for this role, therefore they're looking to go back to having a full-time employee. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.

**AGENDA ITEM #29. VOTE TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF GRADE A10 TO SALARY SCHEDULE 1 FOR IT DIRECTOR POSITION.** A motion was made by Councilor Steeves, seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote on this item. Vote by a show of hands. By 8-0 the motion carries.



### **AGENDA ITEM #30. SEWER DISCUSSION**

Town Manager McCall stated that the IMA with Sturbridge will be expiring in early 2023 and himself and Ms. Blakeley have been in discussions with their Town Administrator. Both towns have KP Law as counsel, however they can't represent them both for these negotiations unless both communities decide to use the same legal counsel. Sturbridge will be looking elsewhere, therefore they will also be going with other representation. He may come back for authorization to use special onsite counsel for the negotiation of the future of this contract. This contract will continue year to year once it's expired and there are some other legalities, therefore they need to determine the next steps. Councilor Marketti asked that in the future they provide more details for agenda items like these so the Council knows more about what will be discussed.

### **AGENDA ITEM #31. COUNCILORS FORUM**

- Councilor Marketti
  - Received a call from a constituent concerning the cable bill and hopes the new contract is underway soon to help protect citizens from increasing rates
  - Inquiry for Town Manager: Please provide an update on the Town Hall carpets
  - 5/13 and 5/14 book sale at the Jacob Edwards Library
  - 6/11: Morris St. Yard Sale
- Councilor Steeves
  - Town Manager: Please provide an update on Hunter's Ridge
  - 5/31- Town Council Candidate forum and intro to School Committee candidates
  - 5/25- last day to register to vote for 6/14 election
  - Encouraged Council to put pressure on the state for funding and to support H1223 and S665
  - Today is Victory day in Europe and those who served should be remembered
- Councilor Ryan
  - 5/14- Beautify Southbridge Day!
- Councilor Lazo
  - Has also received calls regarding high cable bills for seniors, he would love to see some sort of negotiations that spread the increases to younger people
  - Thanked Councilor Steeves and Maureen Doyle for putting on the debate this year to highlight the democratic process
  - He hopes they continue to trust and verify processes like they were able to tonight for one item
- Councilor Adams
  - 5/30- Memorial Day Parade at 10:00 AM beginning in front of the Town Hall, heading down to the Honor Roll, and then end at the Gold Star Mothers

Response to cable inquiries: Town Manager McCall said they continue to reach out to their representatives at Charter and have included their issues with rates for seniors and other issues they'd like to address. They have been very diligent in their outreach, but continue to have a lack of response from Charter. Councilor Steeves recommended they reach out to other communities

to do some sort of cooperative approach to cable contracts. They may want to contact whoever regulates this company since they have failed to respond to municipalities.

**AGENDA ITEM #32. DISCUSSION OF NEXT MEETING DATE – MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022 - 7:00 PM.**

**AGENDA ITEM #33. VOTE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO MGL CHAPTER 30A §21, (3) TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING REGARDING ALL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNITS, WHICH IF DISCUSSED IN AN OPEN MEETING MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE BARGAINING POSITION OF THE PUBLIC BODY. TOWN COUNCIL WILL ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND WILL NOT RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote on this item. Vote by roll call, those favor: Adams, Daniel, Daou, Jovan, Lazo, Marketti, Steeves, Ryan. By 8-0 the motion carries.

The meeting entered executive session at: 9:25 PM

The Council adjourned from Executive Session at: 10:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Darling  
Recording Clerk

Documents used:

- Draft of the Town Council meetings minutes, dated 04/25/22
- FY22 Automated external defibrillator award, item #9
- K. Spencer application, item #10
- Police Transfers for items #11-13
- Mass Trails memo, item #14
- Map amendment package, item #15
- Warrants for local election, item #16
- Water transfers for items #19 & 20
- West St. Bid information, item #21
- BSC Group Proposal, item #22
- FY21 IMA calculations and payments items #24 & 25
- Change order No.2 time extension, item #26
- FY22 paving projects, item #27
- IT director position, item #28
- Salary schedule, item #29