



**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE**  
**June 12, 2023**  
**7:00pm**

**CALL TO ORDER** The Southbridge Town Council met on June 12, 2023, in the Town Council Chambers of the Southbridge Town Hall. Chair Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Daniel led the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** 9 voting members present.

Member	Present	Staff	Present
John Daniel, Chair	Yes	Charles Blanchard, Interim Town Manager	Yes
David Adams, Vice-Chair	Yes	Peg Dean, Economic Development Coordinator	Yes
Joseph Daou	Yes	Michael Julian, Building Inspector	Yes
Scott Lazo	Yes	Susan Peghiny, Recording Clerk	Yes
Michael Marketti	Yes	Rachel Carney, Principal Assessor	Yes
Michael Montigny	Yes	Adriana Robaina, HR Director	Yes
Jasmin Rivas	Yes	Steve Gregoire, Water Manager	Yes
Jacquelyn Ryan	Yes	Michael Brunelle, Recreation Director	Yes
George Steeves	Yes	Shane Woodson, Chief of Police	Yes
		Paul Normandin, Fire Chief	Yes
		<b>Others</b>	
		Mike Scipione, Weston-Sampson	Yes
		Dave Rivera, 30 Charlton Street Owner	Yes

**3. Consider and accept the Town Council Meeting Minutes, Monday, April 10, 2023.**

*Councilor Ryan moved to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023 Town Council meeting. Councilor name seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

*Councilor Adams moved to amend the motion to read “**May 22, 2023**” instead of April 10, 2023.*

*Councilor Daou seconded and the motion to amend passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

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

**4: Subcommittee Reports**

Department of Public Works: Councilor Marketti reported that there will be meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:00pm in the Rice Conference Room.

Education and Human Services: Councilor Montigny reported on the activities of this committee and items on tonight's agenda from this subcommittee.

General Government: Councilor: Steeves reported on the activities of this committee and items that will be brought to the Town Council agenda.

Planning and Development: Councilor Adams reported that there will be a meeting on June 20, 2023 at 6pm in the Veteran's Room.

Protection of Persons and Property: Councilor Lazo reported on the activities of this committee and items on tonight's agenda from this subcommittee.

**5. Chairman's Announcements:** Chair Daniel reported that:

- Quinsigamond Community College announced its Bridges to College program, and Chair Daniel provided details which are available by emailing [baraya@qcc.ma.edu](mailto:baraya@qcc.ma.edu).
- He attended the graduation ceremony for Southbridge High School and spoke about the success of the event and wished the graduates success.
- The Town of Spencer experienced the loss of a church to fire, and sent his best wishes to the Town. He explained that Southbridge Fire Chief happened to be in area, responded, and took command and set up a command post. Chair Daniel spoke about the Chief's outstanding performance at the fire. He praised Chief Normandin's professionalism and performance. He also expressed his gratitude to the entire Fire and Police Departments for their dedication and service.

**6. Town Manager's Announcements.** Mr. Blanchard reported that:

- The Animal Shelter project has been opened for bids and provided details of the process.
- Bids for the abatement and demolition of 129 Worcester Street have been received and are being evaluated.
- They are drafting RFP for a firm to do a cost/benefit analysis on creating an Enterprise fund for Curbside Trash and explained that the funding for this came from a State grant.

**7. Presentations:**

Update on 30 Charlton Street: Mr. Julian reported that the repairs were done as indicated by the architect and added that Mr. Rivera has netted some other areas where there were concerns. He said he is satisfied that the building will hold together, that Mr. Rivera is complying, and he does not recommend demolishing the church.

Councilor Steeves asked what a timeline for completion of the work would be if one were established. Mr. Julien said before next winter would be wise. There was more discussion of the condition of the church and if it could withstand extremely severe weather.

Councilor Steeves asked Mr. Rivera what future repairs are planned. Mr. Rivera said he hopes to have this information two other buildings in another month or so. He added that he is not sure if he will repair or demolish the church and is looking into it. Mr. Rivera explained his approach to the project which was discussed.

Councilor Lazo said the next Protection of Persons and Property Subcommittee meeting should schedule a discussion of the plans for the church.

Councilor Adams asked about the status of the taxes, and Mr. Rivera said he is working on it and should be up to date soon.

- 8. Citizen's Forum:** John Pulawski, Old North Woodstock Road, asked the Council to have the School Committee run the schools. He spoke about his experience on the BayPath School Committee, and the training he received to evaluate the Superintendent. He expressed his concern that the School Committee does not evaluate the Receiver, which means the State has no feedback on his performance. He asked if the Council would consider expressing confidence in the current School Committee as an expression of support to regain control of the schools.

9. **Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Theodore Bartlett to the Council of Aging for a three-year term effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026, state ethics in good standing.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Marketti expressed his displeasure that there was nothing about the appointment recommendations in tonight's packet.

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

10. **Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Evelyn Rivera as Municipal Hearing Officer for a one-year term effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, state ethics in good standing.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item. The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Lazo opposing.*

11. **Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Anna Smith as the Landfill Monitor for a one-year term effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, State Ethics in good standing.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

Councilor Adams said the Casella Contract goes to the end of March 2024, and asked if the date should be March 31, 2024.

*Councilor Marketti moved to amend the motion to March 24, 2024. Councilor Ryan seconded.*

Councilor Lazo explained that the Subcommittee discussed how this position will be adjusted as this issue evolves.

Councilor Steeves pointed out that there are other jobs in that office that are also paid by Casella, and this funding needs to be clarified.

*The motion to amend passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Montigny opposing.*

Kevin Buxton, Everett Street, asked if there was information on how much time Ms. Smith is spending on each role. Councilor Lazo said the Health Director will work this out, but the Landfill Monitor role will eventually be eliminated. A new job description and funding will need to be determined.

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

12. **Vote to approve the reappointment of Alan Jeskey as a Constable for a three-year term effective immediately through June 30, 2026.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Marketti asked if this is a Traffic Constable or Constable and was told Constable.

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

13. **Vote to approve the Police Chiefs recommendation to appoint Tony Theodoss as a Special Traffic Constable for a 3-year term effective immediately through June 30, 2026.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

14. **Vote to approve the Police Chiefs recommendation to appoint Candido Diaz Jr. as a Special Traffic Constable for a 3-year term effective immediately through June 30, 2026.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

15. **Vote to approve the Police Chiefs recommendation to appoint Rafael Ortiz as a Special Traffic Constable for a 3-year term effective immediately through June 30, 2026.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Lazo explained that the Chief reviewed and recommended all of these candidates.

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

**16. Vote to authorize the Town Manager to sign PILOT agreements that have been revised per the settlement of the ATB case previously approved by Town Council in settlement of the ATB case. A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.**

Mr. Blanchard explained that the documents were revised to comply with the agreement made with the Appellate Tax Board.

Ms. Carney explained that these are new PILOT agreements.

Councilor Marketti asked how much would have paid in taxes rather than under the PILOT agreement. Ms. Carney said it is about what they would have paid in taxes, and explained why solar organizations prefer a PILOT. She outlined the process that was used to reach these agreements.

Councilor Marketti said he would like the flood damage to be repaired, especially on private land, and said that flood mitigation should be done to avoid future problems.

Councilor Steeves said PILOTs are generally discussed in Executive Session before voting. There was a discussion of the process that was used to bring the contracts to the Council.

*The motion passed 7-2 by a show of hands vote with Councilors Marketti & Steeves opposing.*

**17. Contingent upon the final review of Town Counsel, vote to accept the contract with Casella for Curbside Trash and Recycling Pickup and authorize the Town Manager to sign any related documents. A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote this item.**

Mr. Blanchard explained the process that was used to reach this proposed contract and explained why he was recommending approval.

Councilor Marketti expressed concern about the Council signing another contract with Casella because of past issues, and reviewed the history, promises, and failures of the contract and relationship. He urged the Council to vote no on this contract, and recommended contracting with Waste Management.

Kevin Buxton, Everett Street, supported Councilor Marketti's review of the contract problems with Casella. He said this recommendation has not been reviewed by residents and asked for time for this to happen.

Councilor Rivas said that residents have shared their concerns about Casella with her, and she asked if there are any mechanisms that could be used to better protect the Town so this contract could go forward.

Councilor Steeves agreed with Mr. Buxton's comments and pointed out that this contract has not gone through Subcommittee or been reviewed by the Council in Executive Session. He also expressed his lack of trust in Casella.

Councilor Daou said that the old contract was apparently not done right but this contract seems better and will save residents money. He asked why this is being presented at the last minute and without prior review.

Councilor Montigny said he does not want to go with a more expensive option which might cause more people to opt out. He added that Casella seems to have been operating well for the last six years.

Councilor Lazo reviewed the history of the management of the landfill and the signing of the original Casella contract. He said the failure of the past contract is a reflection of the poor communication between a prior Town Manager and the Council. He expressed the desire for cost-effective trash collection.

Mr. Blanchard explained the history of the contract process, and that Mr. Scipione helped put safeguards into the contract.

Mr. Scipione explained the components of the contract that will protect the Town, with the major ones being liquidated damage clauses, and a performance bond.

Councilor Ryan said she shared Councilor Marketti's concerns but appreciates that this option is \$600,000 less than the next bid. She does not feel she can justify paying that much more for the services. She recommended that Casella be carefully monitored and that issues be addressed immediately.

John Pulawski, Old North Woodstock Road, said that the problem was not the contract, but rather the that the Town let Casella walk all over it. He also said that Casella has not been performing well in the past 6

years and that the Town gave away millions in services. He recommended that Council do due diligence and expressed concern about the recycling fee.

*Councilor Adams moved to extend Mr. Pulawski time to speak. Councilor Lazo seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

Mr. Pulawski reviewed his history of involvement with the problem. He recommended hiring a previous consultant, Mr. Georgio, to renegotiate the new contract to get what was promised in the first contract. He then shared some concerns he has about the details of the contract and encouraged the Council to take more time to review this issue.

Councilor Daou asked why Councilors have not raised their concerns and issues before. He said he feels the contract is well-written and will save money.

Mr. Blanchard pointed out that going to curbside collection is a large savings, and that the price being offered by Casella is very competitive.

Councilor Montigny shared his experience as a department head in Town and the discussions that were held about this issue during that time. He said he was surprised by the lack of preparation by the Town to address the loss of income because of this issue.

Councilor Steeves agreed that there is a distinction between the landfill and trash collection and combing them was a problem. He asked why the Town would knowingly do business with a company that has done what Casella has done.

*Councilor Steeves moved to send this agenda item to General Government review, and Town Counsel for legal review. Councilor Rivas seconded.*

Councilor Lazo explained why he is comfortable using Casella again, especially given the work done by Mr. Scipione to protect the town.

Councilor Adams shared his experience with this issue in Subcommittee and discouraged delaying this issue any further.

Councilor Rivas said she sees no harm giving residents more opportunity to share their feelings on the subject and for Council and Town Counsel to review this further.

There was more discussion of sending the issue to Subcommittee and the involvement of the Curbside Committee, with Councilor Marketti explaining the role of the Curbside Committee.

There was a discussion of having Town Counsel review the contract to ensure that the Town is protected. Mr. Blanchard assured the Council that Town Counsel would review the contract before he signs it.

*Councilor Adams moved the referral question. Councilor Lazo seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

*The motion to refer the item to the General Government Subcommittee failed 4-6 with Councilors Adams, Daniel, Daou, Lazo, Montigny and Ryan opposing.*

Mr. Pulawski expressed his frustration that this issue is not going to be reviewed by Subcommittee and recommended that the Town return to picking up its own trash.

*Councilor Adams moved to extend Mr. Pulawski time to speak. Councilor Lazo seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

Mr. Buxton asked several questions about the contract, and said the Curbside Committee was informed that the totes belong to the Town. He then asked about the funding part of this contract.

Councilor Adams pointed out that residents have the right to use another hauler if they are not happy with Casella.

There was a discussion about adding a probational period to the contract, with Mr. Blanchard explaining the obstacles to doing this.

*Councilor Montigny moved the question. Councilor Ryan seconded, and the motion passed 8-1 with Councilor Marketti opposing.*

*The motion to accept the contract with Casella passed 6-3 by a show of hands vote with Councilors Marketti, Ryan and Steeves opposing.*

The Council went into recess at this time (7:45pm) and returned to open session at 9:00pm.

- 18. Vote to approve entering into a 99-year lease agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation for Property ID 34-179-1 in the Assessors' Parcel Map and authorize the Town Manager to sign any related documents.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Steeves pointed out that this parcel will be used for the rail trail, and that it is only the section of the parcel that will hold the trail.

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

- 19. Vote to appropriate \$350,000.00 from #610450-583000-23583 Technical Support Capital Budget to fund "raw water quality improvement" project.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Marketti explained that the Subcommittee had requested an account number to receive the funds.

Mr. Gregoire said the destination account number is 420000-530000-64485. He went on to explain the purpose of this request and the project that will improve the raw water quality. There was a discussion of this potential project.

*Councilor Adams moved to amend the motion to read "to fund 420000-530000-64485" before "raw water quality improvement project. Councilor Lazo seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by show of hands vote.*

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

- 20. Vote to award the engineering design, bid, and DEP permitting of the polymer feed station to Tighe and Bond for a fee of \$38,500.00 to be paid from project account "Water Filter Plant Polymer station upgrade," account number pending.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

*Councilor Adams moved to amend the motion to replace "account number pending" with "from fund 410000-530000-64536" after Water Filter Plant Polymer station upgrade. Councilor Ryan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by show of hands vote.*

*The amended motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.*

- 21. Vote to appropriate \$600,000.00 from Free Cash for:**

<b>Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund</b>	<b>\$350,000.00</b>
<b>Town Matching funds for DPW site cleanup</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
<b>Treasurer Tax Title Taking Expenses</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
<b>School Maintenance Truck with Snow Plow</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>

*A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote this item.*

*Councilor Steeves moved to address each item separately. Councilor Ryan seconded, and the motion passed 6-3 with Councilors Daou, Adams, and Daniel opposing.*

**Vote to appropriate \$350,000 from Free Chase for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund.** Councilor Ryan moved, and Councilor Adams seconded to vote this item.

Councilor Steeves explained why he does not support this item.

Councilor Marketti pointed out that none of these, except the School Maintenance Truck, have come before Subcommittee.

At Councilor Marketti's request Councilor Steeves provided more details on why he does not wish to support the OPEB request.

Mr. Blanchard explained that he was not aware that these items needed to go to Subcommittee, and explained why he brought them to the Council, and explained why the Town must fund this future liability and the risks of not doing so.

*The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Steeves opposing.*

**Vote to appropriate \$50,000 from Free Chase for the Town Matching funds for DPW site cleanup.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote this item.

Mr. Blanchard explained the reason for this request, which was a discussion.

Councilor Marketti expressed his displeasure that this item did not go to Subcommittee, and that he had no information on this request. Mr. Blanchard addressed his concerns.

There was more discussion of this request.

*The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.*

**Vote to appropriate \$100,000 from Free Chase for Treasurer Tax Title Taking Expenses:** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.

Councilor Steeves expressed his concern because of a recent Supreme Court decision regarding tax title takings. Mr. Blanchard said that he is not sure that decision applies to Massachusetts and explained that there are 42 properties under consideration, and he would like to get the process going.

*The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.*

**Vote to appropriate \$100,000 from Free Chase for School Maintenance Truck with Snow Plow:** A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.

Councilors explained why they would or would not support this request.

Councilor Marketti explained that the main issue previously discussed regarding this truck was the high price of the vehicle. The price of the truck requested was discussed.

Councilor Adams requested that the Capital Committee have all requests submit the required documentation in the future.

*The motion passed 7-2 by a show of hands vote with Councilors Marketti and Ryan opposing.*

**22. Vote to approve a Library transfer request for \$68.00 from #001610-573000 Dues, Subscriptions to #001610-571000 Mileage to cover a training opportunity with an in-person component.** 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.

**23. Vote to approve a Community Center transfer request for \$37.00 from #001549-543000 M & I Building to #001549-523000 Water & Sewer to cover a water/sewer bill.** A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.

Councilor Lazo said he hoped that a policy might be considered so the Council does not have to be involved in these small transfers. Councilor Adams said a policy recommendation should be available in July.

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

- 24. Vote to approve a proposed Senior Exercise Program to take place three times per week at the Casaubon Senior Center to be paid from the State Formula Grant and authorize the Town Manager to sign related documentation.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

Councilor Rivas asked what days of the week the program will be implemented. Mr. Brunelle said Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Councilor Rivas said that in order for the program to be equitable the program should be offered at least 4 times per week, as the current schedule does not provide access for many residents.

There was a discussion of Councilor Rivas' comments, and the funding of the program. Chair Daniel said he does not believe that the Council can change the particulars of the grant or make requests to the program.

Councilor Rivas explained that the Spanish-language program is only offered Tuesday and Thursday, and that information about the program is not regularly available in Spanish. She explained why this is not equitable.

There was a discussion of postponing this item to gain time to review the program offering.

There was further discussion of how and if equity could be achieved for the programs, and whether or not to postpone the item.

*Councilor Rivas moved to postpone this item to June 26, 2023 to allow for further review. Councilor Ryan seconded.*

There was a further discussion of whether or not to postpone the item and the item itself.

*The motion to postpone passed 6-3 with Councilors Montigny, Lazo, and Daou opposing.*

- 25. Vote to ratify service contract with Solitude Lake Management for the remainder of FY23 and authorize the Town Manager to sign related documentation.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Marketti asked why the Res is continuing to be treated since there are no activities there anymore.

Mr. Brunelle explained that he had reached out to several Town departments to ask about their use of the Res and found that no departments directly asked for it to be serviced. He talked about possibly using the Res for programs but had nothing firm to recommend.

There was a discussion of whether or not to continue treating the Res, with Mr. Brunelle speaking about the work that would need to be done to make the facility useable.

*The motion passed 7-2 by a show of hands vote with Councilors Marketti and Steeves opposing.*

- 26. Vote to ratify service contract with Solitude Lake Management for FY24 and authorize the Town Manager to sign related documentation.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item. The motion passed 7-2 by a show of hands vote with Councilors Steeves and Marketti opposing.*

- 27. Vote to approve a Cable Department transfer request for \$5,880.00 from #001159-558000 Misc. Materials to #001159-576100 Other Legal to cover law service invoices.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

Councilor Marketti asked if the cable contract will come before the Council. Mr. Blanchard said it should be available to the Council soon and updated the status of the agreement.

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



- 28. Vote to approve a Human Resources transfer request for \$9,600.00 from #001132-578100 Town Council Reserve to #001152-534600 Recruitment to cover recruitment expenses including pre-employment physicals and job ads.** *A motion was made by Councilor Ryan and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

Councilor Steeves explained that the cost has gone up because of the many hires in the Police and Fire departments as well as other staffing changes.

Councilor Marketti said he had asked at Subcommittee what recruitments have been done because not much information was provided to Subcommittee.

Ms. Robaina explained what each of the charges are for

*The motion passed 7-1-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Daou opposing and Councilor Ryan temporarily absent.*

- 29. Vote to approve the Inspections Department request to pursue the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) Grant for FY24, and to designate the Town Manager signatory of the RDP Grant Agreement.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item. The motion passed 8-1-0 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Ryan temporarily absent.*

- 30. Vote to waive all permitting and inspection fees for the Town Animal Shelter pro.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Chief Woodson explained what this request is for.

Councilor Steeves recommended creating a policy to address these types of requests and project.

There was a discussion of the project and timeline.

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

- 31. Vote to approve a Police Department transfer request for \$12,400 from account #001210-511000 Salary & Wages to account #001210-515000 Holiday to cover the additional costs for holiday coverage for the remainder of the fiscal year.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

Councilor Marketti said some of the requests could be put off until the next fiscal year and said that control of the budget will not be achieved unless these transfers are stopped.

Councilor Steeves asked why there are always holiday pay transfers when the holidays are known in advance. Chief Woodson explained that staffing fluctuates and provided some examples of the issue. He then shared the challenges he faces during the budget process that force him to make transfers at the end of the year.

There was a discussion of the issues with the budget process.

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

- 32. Vote to approve a Police Department transfer request for \$800 from account #001210-511000 Salary & Wages to account #001210-527100 Gear & Uniforms to cover the costs associated with purchasing the required equipment for candidates who are currently attending the police academy.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 33. Vote to approve a Police Department transfer request for \$6,000 from account #001210-511000 Salary & Wages to account #001210-548000 Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories to purchase an adequate supply of police issue tires so our vehicle fleet continues to have available pursuit rated tires.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Chief Woodson said he will work to more accurately budget for tires next year.

*The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.*

**34. Vote to approve a Police Department transfer request for \$7,600 from account #001210-511000 Salary & Wages to account #001210-530000 Specialized Services to cover the costs associated with the upgrade to computer software in our communications center. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.**

**35. Vote to approve a Police Department transfer request for \$3,000 from account #001210-511000 Salary & Wages to account #001210-546000 Buildings & Grounds to cover the costs associated with the purchasing of a storage trail. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.**

**36. Vote to approve a Police Department transfer request for \$12,000 from account #001210-511000 Salary & Wages to account #001210-550300 Safety Patrol Supplies to cover the costs associated with the purchase of five (5) public safety rated portable radios. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.**

**37. Vote to approve a Police Department transfer request for \$5,400 from account #001210-511000 Salary & Wages to account #001210-558200 Prisoner Maintenance to cover the costs associated with the purchase of an audio microphone system for the cell block. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.**

Chief Woodson explained that this is part of the accreditation process.

Councilor Steeves asked why this is not being treated as a capital expense. Chief Woodson said it falls under the minimum for a capital expense, plus he has just learned about this requirement.

*The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.*

**38. Vote to accept the donation of \$10,000.00 from the Fraternal Order of Eagles to purchase new Automated External Defibrillators (AED's). A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.**

Chief Woodson spoke about his appreciation to the Order of Eagles for the donation.

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

**39. Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer request for \$10,410.80 from fund# 0842 account 842960-596300 Capital Stabilization Fund to account #400220-583000-64633 New Ambulance & Related Equipment to cover the surcharge of \$10,313.00 for an increase in the chassis and component prices relevant to the purchase of a new Ambulance and to cover a difference of \$97.80 from the USDA. A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.**

Councilor Marketti asked why the cost of the ambulance was increased, and if Southbridge could charge them for late delivery.

Chief Normandin explained that the previous Town Manager negotiated the price increase, and what would happen if the increase were not approved. He said the next contract will have language to protect the Town from overages.

*The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.*

**40. Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer request for 2,600.00 from account #001220-511700 Salaries & Wages/Part Time to account #001220-515000 Holiday Pay to cover the final holidays of FY23. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.**

41. **Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer request for \$12,000.00 from account #001220-585600 Safety Equipment to account #001220-527100 Uniforms & Gear to cover costs for an immediate need of turnout gear for a new employee.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*
42. **Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer request for \$500.00 from account #001220-585600 Safety Equipment to account #001220-27000 Rentals and Leases to cover costs of rental gear for new firefighter.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*
43. **Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer request for \$600.00 from account #001220-585600 Safety Equipment to account #001220-543000 Maintenance & Improv Building to cover emergency repairs to garage bay door.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.*
44. **Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer request for \$200.00 from account #001220-585600 Safety Equipment to account #001220-525100 Maintenance & Repair of Equipment to cover the costs for flow testing equipment.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item. The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote Marketti opposing.*
45. **Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer request for \$850.00 from account #001220-569000 Licenses/Permits & Taxes to account #001220-585100 Furniture & Furnishings to cover the costs for new chairs for the kitchen and conference room.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed 8-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.*
46. **Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer request for \$550.00 from account #001220-519300 Tuition to account #001220-519200 Uniform Allowance to cover the cost for half of the uniform stipend for new employee.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*
47. **Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer request for \$1000.00 from account #001220-534600 Recruitment to account #001220-519200 Uniform Allowance to cover costs for Call Department uniform shirts.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*
48. **Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer request for \$100.00 from account #001220-585600 Safety Equipment to account #001220-545000 Janitorial/Housekeeping to cover costs for additional needed janitorial supplies for FY23.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Ryan to vote this item.*

Councilor Ryan thanked Chief Normandin for his efforts at the Spencer church fire.

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

#### 49. Councilors Forum

##### Councilor Daou:

- Said a well-established business is relocating to Southbridge was told it would take weeks if not months to be approved. He said this compromises the efforts to have Southbridge be more welcoming to businesses. He asked that a new standard checklist be established for new businesses.
- Reminded people to vote at the election on Tuesday.

##### Councilor Lazo:

- Congratulated the 2023 Southbridge High graduates.
- Thanked the Eagles for the generosity.

- Spoke about how the Town responds to requests and made suggestions on how to improve this.
- Wished the candidates good luck and spoke about Ariel Ortiz and endorsed his candidacy.

Councilor Marketti:

- Wished the candidates the best of luck on the elections and encouraged residents to vote.

Councilor Montigny:

- Attended the Southbridge High graduation and thought it was very nice.
- Spoke about the meeting with DESI and about learning from them that the vote on Question 1 will likely be ignored. He said he had released a video asking for the State to hear what the Town is saying.
- Encouraged residents to vote.

Councilor Rivas:

- Thanked the attendees of the Wellstorm Inc Serenity Games on Saturday.
- She will be doing yoga on the common on Family Fun Day on June 24th and spoke about the activities being offered to residents and their families.
- Spoke about watching the graduation online, and congratulated the graduates and wished them good luck.
- Reminded residents to vote and said she would endorse candidates on Facebook tomorrow morning.
- Ruth Wells Art Center will have their festival on Saturday, June 17th.
- Wished the candidates good luck and expressed her appreciation that there are so many people running and participating.

Councilor Ryan:

- Congratulated the Class of 2023
- Thanked Southbridge for sending her to Town Council and spoke about her time and work as a Councilor.

Councilor Steeves:

- Thanked Southbridge for electing him to Town Council, thanked his fellow Councilors, and spoke about the accomplishments of the Town over the past 9 years.
- He expressed hope that more people would become involved in Town government, especially recent graduates as the Council needs to include younger voices.
- The Dudley Grange is having the Strawberry Festival on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.
- The Morris Street Yard Sale is on June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Encouraged residents to think about who they will support and offered some guidance on this.

Councilor Adams:

- Wished the candidates good luck at the election.
- Wished future Councilors the best of luck.
- Said many Subcommittees are behind in their minutes and recommended looking at an AI system to help capture meetings.
- Spoke about the number of seniors who graduated from Southbridge High and the rumors that had occurred about this. He asked that residents avoid these types of rumors and take responsibility to tell the truth.
- Spoke about the meeting with DESI and said he was glad to get them and the Receiver to the table to have a conversation. He said there were some promises made by DESI but they also said they have responsibilities that they must follow.
- Reminded residents that Question 1 is a non-binding vote but understood the importance of this vote.
- Thanked the Council for attending the Memorial Day events and spoke about success of the day and the organizations that participated.
- The ARPA Committee will reopen in July as funds that had been set aside for curbside will be available.

## DISCUSSION OF NEXT MEETINGS

- June 26, 2023 at 7:00pm.
- July 10, 2023 at 7:00pm Reorganization Meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

*Councilor Lazo 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 10:47pm.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny

Recording Clerk