



MINUTES
of the
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
June 26, 2023
7:00pm

CALL TO ORDER The Southbridge Town Council met on June 26, 2023, in the Town Council Chambers of the Southbridge Town Hall. Chair Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

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

Roll Call: 8 voting members present.

Member	Present	Staff	Present
John Daniel, Chair	Yes	Charles Blanchard, Interim Town Manager	Yes
David Adams, Vice-Chair	Yes	Shane Woodson, Police Chief	Yes
Joseph Daou	Yes	Richard Benoit, DPW Director	Yes
Scott Lazo	Yes	Chief Hulyk, deputy Fire Chief	Yes
Michael Marketti	Yes	Michael Brunelle, Recreation Director	Yes
Michael Montigny	Yes	Victor Roule, IT Director	Yes
Jasmin Rivas	Yes	Paul Normandin, Fire Chief	Yes
Jacquelyn Ryan	Excused	Kristine Russell, Town Accountant	Yes
George Steeves	Yes	Susan Peghiny, Recording Clerk	Yes

3. Consider and accept the Town Council Meeting Minutes, Monday, June 12, 2023.

Councilor Lazo moved to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023 Town Council meeting. Councilor Rivas seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

4: Subcommittee Reports

Department of Public Works: Councilor Marketti reported on the activities of this committee and items on tonight’s agenda from this subcommittee.

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 on tonight’s agenda from this subcommittee.

Planning and Development: Councilor Adams reported on the activities of this committee and items on tonight’s agenda from this subcommittee.

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

5. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair Daniel spoke about Councilors Ryan and Steeves, who will be leaving the Council as this is the end of the current session. He thanked them for their service and wished them well.

He thanked residents for their support during his Chairmanship, and other Councilors for their support. He thanked Jack Jovan and Councilor Adams for their work and collaboration.

6. **Town Manager's Announcements.** Mr. Blanchard reminded everyone that the bids for the Animal Shelter are due this coming Friday.

7. **Presentations:** None

- 8 **Citizen's Forum:**

Nicole Duffey, Worcester Street: Asked why her reappointment was postponed at the past EHS meeting. Chair Daniel said this will be discussed after the meeting. Ms. Duffey also asked for information on any discussions before the EHS meeting was held. There was a discussion of Ms. Duffey's comments and Councilor Montigny explained what happened at the meeting.

George Chenier, Theresa Ave: Thanked voters who voted for him and said he hopes to live up to their expectations. He explained what will be happening to the Dudley Fire and Police Departments due to cuts, and the impact on Webster emergency services because of the Mutual Aid agreements and expressed his concern about the situation.

Larry Carey, Mill Street: Expressed his concern about having to pay the same amount for trash collection as households that generate much more trash. He felt that the fee should be per bag rather than per household. He also spoke about his concerns with the marijuana shops and how the income from those businesses is used. He expressed concern for the level of the Town budget and its impact on taxes.

Kevin Buxton, Everett Street: Thanked the people who voted for him and spoke about some issues he saw with the election. He said he planned to speak truth to power at future Council meetings and spoke about his experience on the Curbside Committee.

Councilor Adams moved to extend Mr. Buxton's time to speak. Mr. Lazo seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Buxton continued sharing his views on the trash collection issue.

9. **Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Casandra Acly to the Planning Board 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 Daou to vote this item.

Councilor Adams spoke in support of Ms. Acly's appointment.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

Councilor Steeves moved to suspend the rules so Agenda Item 53 can be moved to this point in the agenda. Councilor Lazo seconded, and the motion passed 7-1 with Councilor Marketti opposing.

53. **Vote to approve a resolution in support of changing the State flag and Seal of Massachusetts.** A motion was made by Councilor Rivas and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.

Liz Coldwind-Santana-Kiser, a representative of the Nipmuck Tribe, spoke about indigenous peoples and land and asked that the Council support the resolution to change the State Flag and Seal.

There was a spirited discussion of the resolution and whether or not the Council should support the resolution.

Councilor Steeves read the resolution to the Council (text located at the end of this document).

The discussion of the resolution continued.

Ms. Coldwind-Santana-Kiser spoke about her perspective on US history.

There was more discussion of the Council supporting the resolution.

Councilor Adams moved the question. Councilor Lazo seconded, and the motion passed 7-1 with Councilor Rivas opposed.

The motion failed 4-4 by roll call vote with Councilors Daou, Lazo, Marketti, and Montigny opposing.

The Council went into recess at 8:00pm and returned to open session at 8:09pm.

- 10. Vote to approve Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Katelyn Jewell as Parking Enforcement 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 Lazo and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

Councilor Steeves asked why this appointment is for one year. Chief Woodson explained that this could be adjusted. It was decided to change the appointment so it would coincide with the appointment of the Animal Control Officer.

Councilor Montigny moved to amend the motion so the appointment will be a two-year term effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. Councilor Daou seconded, and the motion to amend passed unanimously by show of hands vote.

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

- 11. Vote to confirm the Town Manager's reappointment of Katelyn Jewell as Animal Control Officer 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 Adams to vote this item.*

Councilor Lazo moved to postpone this item indefinitely. Councilor Adams seconded.

Chief Woodson explained why this appointment is being postponed.

The motion to postpone passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

- 12. Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Nghi Lam to the Parking Ticket Clerk 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 Steeves to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 13. Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint James Dyer to the Jacob Edwards Library Board of Trustees 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 Steeves to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 14. Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Margaret Morrissey as the ex-officio member of the Jacob Edwards Library Board of Trustees 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 Steeves to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

- 15. Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Keith Roberts as Veterans Graves 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 Lazo and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

Councilor Montigny moved to amend to a 2-year term through June 30, 2025. Lazo seconded and the motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

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

- 16. Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Denise Clemence to the Cable Advisory Board 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 Steeves to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

17. **Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Kevin Christo to the Board of Registrar 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 Steeves to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*
18. **Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Michael Daniels to the Liquor Licensing Board 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 Montigny to vote this item. The motion passed 6-1-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Daou abstaining and Councilor Rivas opposing.*
19. **Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Melissa Hilli to the Local Historical District Study Committee 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 Steeves to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*
20. **Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Virginia Rapo to the Council on 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 Steeves to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*
21. **Vote to approve the Town Manager's recommendation to reappoint Paul Tetreault to the Airport Commission 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 Daou to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*
22. **Vote to ratify the contract with the YMCA of Central Massachusetts for the exclusive use of the Petro Pool on Tuesdays from 9:00AM-12:00PM from July 11, 2023 through August 8, 2023.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

Councilor Marketti asked why the Recreation Department was being charged \$750 to use a pool that is owned by Southbridge.

Councilor Marketti moved to amend the motion to waive the fee. Councilor Steeves seconded.

Mr. Brunelle explained that the fee pays for lifeguards and maintenance of the pool.

There was a discussion of the contract and waiving the fee.

Councilor Lazo moved to postpone this item to July 10, 2023 for further review. Councilor Steeves seconded.

Chief Woodson shared the history of the management of the pool.

Councilor Lazo withdrew his motion to postpone, and Councilor Steeves withdrew his second.

Councilor Marketti withdrew his motion to amend and Councilor Steeves withdrew his second.

Mr. Brunelle explained the finances of the program and fee and there was further discussion.

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

23. **Vote to approve award of 129 Worcester St Abatement and Demolition to Costello Dismantling Company, Inc and authorize the Town Manager to sign the contract and any and all related documents.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

Chief Hulyk explained the bidding process and this bid.

Councilor Marketti moved to amend the motion include the cost of \$394,000 in the motion. Councilor Steeves seconded. The motion to amend passed unanimously.

Councilor Marketti commented on the cost of the fire station.

There was further discussion of the project.

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

24. Vote to approve waiver of all permit fees for the construction of the Bridge of Faith Youth Center at 45 Charlton St. *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

Councilor Adams spoke about staff that are in support of the motion and provided an update on the construction project.

There was discussion of the project and if there is a policy for waiving fees.

Councilor Rivas expressed her concerns about a crisis pregnancy center that she was told by personnel from the pregnancy center would be opening *inside* the Bridge of Faith Youth Center, and especially the implication of the wording “all permits”.

Rev. Esteban Carrasco, Jr. assured the Council that there will not be a health clinic in the youth center, but that they will have office space available to them like other organizations. There was further discussion of this issue with Councilor Rivas urging Rev. Carrasco to clarify the situation with his partners.

The motion passed 6-2 by a show of hands vote with Councilors Steeves and Rivas opposing.

25. Vote to accept the Community Compact Best Practice for a Curbside Collection Analysis for \$35,000, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign any related paperwork. *A motion was made by Councilor Steeves and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

Councilor Adams explained what information this study would look at. Councilor Marketti provided additional information.

Councilor Marketti moved amend the motion to read “Curbside Collection Enterprise Fund Analysis”. Councilor Montigny seconded.

There was a discussion of the grant that will fund this analysis and the amendment.

The motion to amend passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

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

26. Vote to accept the Community Compact Best Practice for a municipal fiber feasibility study for \$50,000, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign any related paperwork. *A motion was made by Councilor Steeves and seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote this item.*

Mr. Roule explained the purpose of this grant. There was a discussion of the scope of study.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

27. Vote to approve the Water Department's request to designate as surplus 2 Allen-Bradley PLC-5's (Programable Logic Modules) as they have been in storage since an upgrade project in 2012. Items to be actioned at a later date. *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Montigny to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

28. Vote to approve the installation of speed bumps on Theresa Ave. *A motion was made by Councilor Steeves and seconded by Councilor Adams to vote this item.*

Chief Woodson explained why speed bumps are being recommended for Theresa Ave.

Mr. Benoit explained that they decided to first install temporary speed bumps to see if the outcome is positive and then decide how to move forward.

Chief Woodson outlined the messaging that will be used to notify residents about the speed bumps.

There was a discussion of speed bump requests and installations.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

29. Vote to approve the installation of a 4 way stop sign at the intersection of Pleasant/River/Walcott Streets. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.

Chief Woodson explained why this site was chosen for the stop signs, which was discussed.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

30. Vote to approve adding signage in the area of 64 Oliver Street for a child with autism. A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

31. Vote to approve the Fire Department's request to apply for the Joseph P DiBemadro Foundation Grant in the amount of \$11,990.00 for the purchase of person escape systems to be added to personal protected equipment. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.

Chief Hulyk explained why they would like to apply for this grant, and the enhanced safety it will provide. This will purchase 22 units, and 15 more units would be purchased using other funding.

Councilor Adams moved to amend the motion to add the text "and authorize the Town Manager to sign any related paperwork". Councilor Steeves seconded, and the motion to amend passed unanimously by a show of hands votes.

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

32. Discuss/review a Health Department transfer Request for \$800.00 from #001132-578100 Town Council Reserve to #001512-530000 Special Services to cover the expenses for emergency tick control at Henry St. Field. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.

There was a discussion of why this was under the Health Department, rather than DPW.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

33. Vote to approve a Change Order for a Time Extension for the West Street Infrastructure Improvement Project. A motion was made by Councilor Marketti and seconded by Councilor Adams to vote this item.

Mr. Marketti said the DPW Subcommittee asked why an extension is needed when it appears that there is no work being done. Mr. Benoit explained why work has stopped and when it will resume. He added that there is no cost to this change order. This was discussed as well as an issue with a broken pipe due to the project.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

34. Vote to appropriate \$1,119,000.00 from Free Cash for:

Capital Stabilization Fund	\$500,000.00
FY24 MS4 Program	\$150,000.00
Health Insurance Account Deficit	\$119,000.00
Animal Shelter Additional Funds	\$350,000.00

A motion was made by Councilor Adams and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.

Mr. Blanchard explained why each of these recommendations are being made.

Councilor Marketti asked several questions and made several comments about this request.

Councilor Marketti moved to refer this item to the General Government Subcommittee. Councilor Daou seconded.

There was discussion of the various requests in this agenda item and the appropriate level of Free Cash that should be maintained and when to do that.

Councilor Daou withdrew his second to the motion to refer.

Councilor Lazo seconded the motion to refer.

George Chenier, Theresa Ave: asked for clarification of what will happen to Free Cash on July 1, and Mr. Blanchard provided an explanation.

There was further discussion of the motion to refer and the use of Free Cash.

Ms. Russell explained that the health insurance account bills have already been paid, so there is a true deficit in the account that must be fixed before the end of the Fiscal Year.

Councilor Montigny moved to amend the amendment to refer only the Capital Stabilization Fund to subcommittee. Councilor Lazo seconded.

Councilor Montigny explained why he made this amendment and how it would impact Free Cash. There was further discussion of how to proceed.

Councilor Rivas moved the question. Councilor Steeves seconded, and the motion to move the question passed 7-1 with Councilor Marketti opposing.

The motion to amend the amendment to refer only the Capital Stabilization Fund portion to subcommittee passed 6-2 by a show of hands vote with Councilors Marketti and Daniel opposing.

The amended motion to refer only the Capital Stabilization Fund portion to subcommittee passed 7-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.

There was a discussion of the amended motion.

Councilor Lazo moved to amend the animal shelter portion to \$250,000. Councilor Montigny seconded and the motion to amend passed 7-1 with Councilor Marketti against.

The amended motion to appropriate \$519,000 from Free Cash for FY24 MS4 Program at \$150,000; Health Insurance Account Deficit at \$119,000; and Animal Shelter Additional Funds at \$250,000 passed 7-1 by a roll call vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.

35. Vote to appropriate \$89,966.49 IMA Payment to Town of Charlton for FY22 of \$89,966.49 from Water Retained Earnings Acct. 610450.569300 for the Charlton IMA Payment. *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

Mr. Blanchard explained why some of these requests came in late, how this appropriation request was determined, and what further payments would be needed and how they would be financed. There was a discussion of the request and the agreement with Charlton.

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

36. Vote to appropriate \$659,719.51 from Water Retained Earnings Acct. 610450.569300 to the Water Stabilization Fund. *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

Councilor Steeves moved amend the motion to read \$659,719.25 (instead of \$659,719). Councilor Adams seconded, and the motion passed 7-1 with Councilor Marketti opposing.

The amended motion passed 7-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.

37. **Vote to approve a DPW transfer request for \$1500.00 from #001499-521000-0499 Electricity-DPW, \$200.00 of which will transfer into #001499-521000-0001 Electricity-Various, and \$1300.00 into #001499-521000-0425 Electricity-Town Hall. A motion was made by Councilor Steeves and seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote this item.**

There was a discussion of the work on an updated transfer policy.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

38. **Vote to approve a DPW transfer request for \$81,000.00 from #001499-51100 Salaries and Wages to #420000-530000-63750 South St water transition main to cover Amendment #3 for the project and reserve funds for road improvements. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item. The motion passed 7-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Marketti opposing.**

39. **Vote to approve a DPW transfer request for \$160,000.00 from #001499-51 JOO Salaries and Wages to #003499-589900-9133 Road improvements fund to reserve funds for road improvements. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.**

40. **Vote to approve a DPW transfer request for \$3000.00 from #01499-553600 Maintenance of Streets and grounds to #001499-524000 Repair and Maintenance of equipment to cover DPW generator repair. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.**

41. **Vote to approve a Fire Department transfer for \$500.00 from #01220-534600 Recruitment to #01220-548000 Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories to cover cost of vehicle parts required for the end of FY23. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.**

Councilor Marketti asked why HR was requesting recruitment money from Council Reserve when there are leftover recruitment funds at the department level that could have been used for the HR request. Chief Normandin provided information on this request and Councilor Marketti's question.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

42. **Vote to approve Accounting transfer request for \$9.32 from #001135-571100 Conference & Meeting to #001135-542000 Office Supplies to cover missed supply invoice. A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.**

There was a discussion of the Council handling these small requests, and why some agenda items did not go through subcommittee. Chair Daniel and Councilor Steeves addressed these issues.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

43. **Vote to approve an Accounting transfer request for \$5,000.00 from #001132-578100 Town Council Reserve to #01900000-530000 Special Services Audit to cover additional charges incurred due to compliance testing for 6 major federal grant programs for the FY22 Single audit, instead of the normal 3-4 as originally budgeted and planned for. A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.**

44. **Vote to approve an Accounting transfer request for \$21,000.00 from #001132-578100 Town Council Reserve to #01900000-534300 Postage to cover postage invoices through the end of FY23. A motion was made by Councilor Steeves and seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote this item.**

Councilor Marketti said some of the postage was for water or sewer mailings, and asked if the funds should come from the enterprise funds instead of Council reserve. Mr. Blanchard explained the funding the enterprise funds pay the Town Manager's office for this type of support.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

45. **Vote to approve an Assessor transfer request for \$350.00 from #001-001141-530200 Data Processing to #001-001141-542000 Office Supplies Special Services to cover necessary office supplies and office chair.** *A motion was made by Councilor Steeves and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*
46. **Vote to approve a Clerks transfer request for \$500.00 from #00161-530500 Book Repair/Bind to #00161- 525100 Repair Main Equip to cover the cost of typewriter maintenance.** *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.*
47. **Vote to approve a Town Council transfer request for \$32.48 from #001111-578000 Miscellaneous Expenses to #001111-542000 Office Supplies to cover office supplies for proclamations for Town Council.** *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.*
48. **Vote to approve a Town Manager transfer request for \$723.82 from #001123-5 I9300 Other Personal Service Tuition to #001123-571100 Conferences & Meetings to cover the cost of interim Town Manager's MMMA Spring Conference.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

Councilor Marketti asked Mr. Blanchard to share his learnings from the conference. Mr. Blanchard provided a quick summary and agreed to provide a report.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

- 49 **Vote to approve a Treasurer/Collector transfer request for \$53,500.00 from #001145-511000 Treasurer/Collector Salaries and Wages FT to #001145-530000 Treasurer/Collector Special Services to cover invoices for Strategic Municipal Services LLC for Interim Treasurer/Collector services February through end of FY23.** *A motion was made by Councilor Lazo and seconded by Councilor Steeves to vote this item.*

At Councilor Marketti's request, Mr. Blanchard explained why this service is still needed and how long the service will continue. There was a discussion of the request.

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

50. **Vote to approve a Special Articles transfer request for \$7,100.00 from #003135-589900-9061 Special Appropriation - Medicaid Billing to #003135-589000-8121 Special Appropriation - Ambulance Billing to cover April through June ambulance billing charges.** *A motion was made by Councilor Steeves and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item.*

Ms. Russell explained why these funds are being requested and why these accounts are involved. Chief Normandin explained what services this funding provides.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

51. **Vote to approve a Human Resources transfer request for \$2,300.00 from #001132-578100 Town Council Reserve to #001911-514500 Basic Life Insurance to cover unexpected increase in plan enrollment for FY23.** *A motion was made by Councilor Adams and seconded by Councilor Daou to vote this item. The motion passed 7-1 by a show of hands vote with Councilor Daou opposing.*

52. **Vote to approve an Accounting transfer request for \$500.00 from #001135-573000 Dues & Subs and \$1,000.00 from #001135-514100 Longevity, totaling \$1,500.00 to transfer into #001135-511000 Salaries & Wages FT to cover FT Salary expenses for March through June of FY23.** *A motion was made by Councilor Daou and seconded by Councilor Lazo to vote this item. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.*

53. This item was moved to earlier in the agenda. Please see discussion above.

54. 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 Daou and seconded by Councilor Montigny to vote this item.

Councilor Montigny explained why this item is on the agenda after it was previously postponed due to concerns about the availability of programming for Latino residents.

Councilor Rivas expressed concern that Latino seniors were told that the program would be cancelled when the goal is to expand programming. She shared some comments from the minutes of the previous meeting where this was discussed and spoke about the effort to be equitable and provide opportunity.

There was a lengthy discussion of the issue.

Councilor Montigny moved the question. Councilor Lazo seconded, and the motion to move the question passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

Councilors Forum

Councilor Marketti:

- Explained the postponement of the appointment to the Board of Health (this topic came up during Citizen's Forum).
- Congratulated the new Council and wished Councilors Steeves and Ryan good luck going forward.

Councilor Montigny:

- Congratulated the Councilors who were elected and thanked those who supported Question 1.
- Thanked Councilors Steeves and Ryan for their service.
- Made a statement in Spanish.

Councilor Lazo:

- Congratulated Chair Daniel on his wedding anniversary.
- Congratulated the winners of the election, especially Ariel Ortiz who is 26 years old.
- Said there was an 86% vote to take the schools back and spoke about the Receiver's response.
- Wished Councilors Ryan and Steeves the best of luck and spoke about their service.
- Thanked Chair Daniel for his service as Chair.

Councilor Rivas:

- Spoke about Ms. Duffey's reappointment to the Board of Health and shared her service to the Town.
- Spoke about some community events that she attended and what occurred at them.
- Also made a statement in Spanish.
- Thanked Councilors Steeves and Ryan for serving on the Council.
- Congratulated Councilor Daou and the new Councilors.

Councilor Daou:

- Congratulated Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Chenier on their elections to the Council, and thanked Councilors Steeves and Ryan for their service and wished them luck in the future.

Councilor Steeves:

- Thanked the Councilors and said he would still be involved and shared some thoughts on his time as a Councilor.
- Spoke about some community events that he attended and some upcoming events in the area.
- Asked residents to become involved in Town government.
- Congratulated the winners of the election and wished the new Councilors good luck.
- Spoke about working with Councilor Ryan and her service to the community.

Councilor Adams:

- Congratulated Councilor Daou and the new councilors.
- Thanked Councilor Ryan for her service and wished her the best going forward.
- Thanked Councilor Steeves for his service.
- Spoke about the accomplishments of the Council and moving forward.
- Thanked the staff that stepped up when there were several key resignations.
- Thanked the Council for their work.
- Spoke about Boards and Committees needing volunteers.
- Recognized Chair Daniel's work and thanked him for his service.
- Reviewed the status of host agreements for dispensaries in Town.

Discussion of Next Meetings

- July 10, 2023, immediately after the Reorganization meeting.
- July 12, 2023 for Town Manager Candidate Interviews

Adjournment

***Motion:** Councilor Steeves moved to adjourn the meeting of the Southbridge Town Council. Councilor Lazo seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21pm.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny

Recording Clerk

Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag & Seal of Massachusetts

Whereas the history of the State of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the State of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived on their shores;

Whereas the Colonial broadsword brandished above the head of the Native man on the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Wampanoag leaders who resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Native man in the Flag and Seal were modeled from a Native skeleton kept in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from a Native man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and his facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian," though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in 1675, their subsequent enslavement in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Native men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Native adult males by 1722, half that amount for Native women and children;

Whereas Native Americans were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2005, when that law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the colonists at Plymouth Plantation in the year 2020, afforded every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an awareness of the possibility of a better relationship between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas Native Americans have long suffered the many abuses of racism, the appropriation of their symbols for public schools and sports teams, the loss of their ancestral lands and the encroachment of their cultural lifeways;

Whereas the area now known as the Town of Southbridge shares a rich Native history with modern tribal Nations such as the Nipmuc and Mohegan, who have lived in this area for thousands of years before the first colonial settlers arrived in 1730;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Southbridge hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of the Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2021 and appointed by the Governor to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and **in support of a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth** that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home. The town clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Sen. Ryan Fattman and Rep. Peter Durant, with the request that they support the work of the aforementioned Special Commission and advocate for a new seal and motto for the Commonwealth.