

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Present: John Margie, Chairman; David Sheedy, Vice Chairman; William Dowling, Clerk; and Ly Nguyen, Senior Clerk.

Pledge of Allegiance

Open Forum

Interim Town Clerk, Susan Gillpatrick was present to advise the residents of East Bridgewater that Absentee Ballots are now available for Annual Town Election. Ms. Gillpatrick stated there are only three reasons to submit an absentee ballot, 1) You physically cannot get to the polls 2) Religious reasons 3) Out of town on the day of election. The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Election is Friday, March 16, 2018 at Town Hall from 8:30am-8pm. Ms. Gillpatrick stated the residents of East Bridgewater should return their census forms as soon as possible as there are still 1,100 outstanding. Any questions or concerns to please call the Town Clerk's Office at 508.378.1606 .

Appointment

Emergency Operations Center leaders, Police Chief, Scott Allen; Fire Chief, Tim Harhen; and DPW Director, John Haines were present. Mr. Margie mentioned that the EOC leaders have done an outstanding job on the recent March 3-5, 2018 storm.

Fire department responded to a total 160 calls starting Friday, March 2, 2018 at 7:30am to Monday, March 5, 2018 until 5:30pm. Most calls consist of trees and wires down which 121 calls were serviced. He mentioned an abundance of basement flooding as residents had no electricity for sump pumps. He explained warming centers were opened at Town Hall on Saturday, March 3, 2018 through Monday, March 5, 2018 led by CERT. Approximately 10 people utilized the warming center. Chief Harhen commended Allen Hiltz, CERT team leader and David Repeta, CERT coordinator who trains CERT members for organizing warming center under such short notice. He explained at the height of the storm 84% of the town was without power. A meeting was held at Chief Harhen's office Sunday, March 4, 2018 with National grid and John Marie, Chairman. National Grid presented a weather predication map, what was predicated actually happened. National Grid crews from Quebec, North Carolina and Tennessee actually were scheduled to come to town before the storm hit. Chief Harhen praised the communication EOC leaders and BOS had with one another.

Mr. Haines stated the town has a capable and qualified tree department within the DPW, led by Foreman Jay Doherty. Employees of the tree department worked closely hand in hand with National Grid and utility crews. Mr. Haines explained how all employees are trained in electrical hazardous awareness and are certified to work around electrical wires. Having these certified individuals, power was restored 6-10 hours sooner than having to wait for resources that would typically be required. By 5:00pm Saturday, March 3, 2018, all roads were accessible and passable. Mr. Haines commended his crew for a job well done.

Police department received 181 calls for service on the previous March 3-5, 2018 storm. Most calls consist of trees and wires down. He mentioned information was relayed to the public to the best of their ability. He stated he would like to see communication being relayed to the residents through other means like reverse 9-1-1. He explained the town of Abington, MA is utilizing a software program "Nixel" which East Bridgewater could benefit from. "Nixel" pushes out one time messages through reverse 9-1-1 via text, email and social media automatically. Chief Allen explained police officers were dispatched to the 55+ complexes. He proposed the town should set up a data base using "Nixel" for "at risk individuals" and advise there are 1,500 household over 60+. Chief Allen highly praised the police department, fire department and DPW for their work.

There was a discussion on how these notifications through "Nixel" would be distributed to the 55+ communities. Mr. Allen explained what he envisions. Getting an officer with board director of each association, having the board directors be the point of contact in "Nixel" and utilizing them as the liaison. He plans on setting up an informal meeting with Ms. Nancy Hill, Director of Council on Aging.

Appointment

Susan Silva, President and Executive Director of EB Hope was present to give an update. Susan Silva stated there are two great things she wanted to bring forth. 1) Commended Senator Walter Timilty, Senator Michael Brady, State Representative Geoff Diehl, earmark funds they set forward through Fiscal MA State Budget was approved. EB Hope is awarded \$25,000 through the fiscal budget. Ms. Silva highly praised the police, school and council on aging departments' partnership with EB Hope. She explained how EB Hope are able to give back to the departments for some initiative they want to set forth to the community in the next coming year. 2) Explained on March 14, 2018 an exhibit "Weeding through

the Myths" loaned from South Shore Hospital is to bring good education to the community before the April 7, 2018 vote on recreational marijuana. EB Hope is also partnering with a forum which consist of two keynote speakers, Dr. Marisa Silveri and Kevin Rosario. Dr. Silveri has done a number of speaking engagements at other towns about neurobiology of brain development and consequences of drug abuse. Mr. Rosario, a person in long term recovery who also works for Gosnold, Inc. as a clinician, speaks about introducing marijuana into his system and what would it look like for him and people in recovery. Ms. Silva mentioned she sent an email to Town Administrator about 3% sales tax/local tax on marijuana at what it means to East Bridgewater, awaiting feedback.

Action Items

M/Dowling, s/Sheedy, a unanimous vote, to approve, to appoint Patrick Franey to the Federal Handicapped Compliance Program effective March 12, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

M/Dowling, s/Sheedy, a unanimous vote, to approve authorization for the Town to enter engagement to represent with law firm Levin, Papantonio, Thomas, Mitchell, Rafferty & Proctor PA on contingent fee basis to pursue civil remedies against those in the chain of distribution of prescription opiates responsible for the opioid epidemic.

Chairman John Margie explained lawyers across the nation started a suit against the drug manufacturers and distributors and are suing them on how opioids are marketed and problems they cause in communities. The town of East Bridgewater will join the suit not as a class action but on as a contingency basis. There is no cost to the town and the town could recover not only monetary damages but also funding for programs that will help stop opioid epidemic.

M/Dowling, s/Sheedy, a unanimous vote, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2018 6:30 pm meeting.

M/Dowling, s/Sheedy, a unanimous vote, to approve the amendments to the draft of the special act to be submitted to the General Court regarding the sewer district as approved by Article 10 of the October 30, 2017 Special Town Meeting.

Vice Chairman David Sheedy briefly explained monthly meetings are held on how much the connections and ongoing charges will be. After connection on Route 18 to see what the future will be on other connections in other areas.

M/Margie, s/Sheedy, a unanimous vote, to approve, the request from Julien Osborne, East Bridgewater Class of 2020 for the use of the Town Common on Sunday, April 29, 2018 for a Class of 2020 yard sale fundraiser. Time of the event will be 8:00 am – 2:30 pm. Rain date if needed, Saturday, April 28, 2018.

M/Margie, s/Sheedy, a unanimous vote, to approve, the request from Diane Carey of EB BASE for the use of the Town Hall parking lot on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm for the purpose of a practice run setting up Victoria Snelgrove Mobile skate park equipment.

M/Margie, s/Sheedy, a unanimous vote, to approve animal control officer Lisa McKay as inspector of animals effective May 1, 2018 until April 30, 2019.

M/Margie, s/Sheedy, a unanimous vote, to approve state of emergency March 3, 2018 beginning 8:15 am through March 5, 2018 ending 8:15 am.

M/Margie, s/Sheedy, a unanimous vote, to close state of emergency March 3, 2018 beginning 8:15 am through March 5, 2018 ending 8:15 am.

M/Margie, s/Sheedy, a unanimous vote, to approve state of emergency March 13, 2018 beginning 12:00 am through March 15, 2018 ending 12:00 am due to impending weather.

Town Administrator Report

Staff Reports

Board Discussions

M/Dowling spoke with Town Administrator about winter budgets. -\$255,000 on track compared to other winters.

M/Margie, s/Sheedy, motion to adjourn.
VOTE: Yes – Margie, Sheedy, Dowling a unanimous vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm



Board of Selectmen Clerk