

Charles B. Ryan  
President  
At Large

Sean E. Powers  
At Large

Shannon L. Hume  
At Large

Thomas W. Whalen  
District 2

Thomas M. Bowes  
District 3



CHARLES C. Kokoros  
Vice President  
District 1

Stephen C. O'Brien  
District 4

David M. Ringius, Jr.  
District 5

Timothy P. Carey  
District 6

## OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

# April 30, 2018 MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council was held in the Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Monday, April 30, 2018 beginning at 7:00p.m.

Council President Ryan was in the chair.

Clerk of the Council, Susan Cimino conducted the roll call.

Present: Charles Ryan, President  
Charles Kokoros, Vice President  
Thomas Bowes  
Timothy P. Carey  
Shannon Hume  
Stephen C. O'Brien  
Sean Powers  
David M. Ringius, Jr.

Not Present: Thomas W. Whalen

Also Present: Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor  
Joseph Reynold, Chief of Staff  
Ed Spellman, Finance Director  
Dr. Frank Hackett, Superintendent of Schools  
James Arsenault, DPW Director  
Karen Shanley, Director Human Resources  
Marybeth McGrath, Director of Municipal Licenses & Inspections  
Shamila Biswas, Director Elder Affairs  
Kate Naughton, School Committee  
Cyril Chafe, School Committee  
Michael Brumbar, resident

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- None

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN BOARDS**

- 012 18 Mayor: FY2019 Budget Submission

Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor per our Town Charter he is required to submit a budget by May 1<sup>st</sup> to the Town Council for their consideration and review. A special thanks to Ed Spellman, Director of Municipal Finance for his efforts, due diligence and focus every day. Joe Reynolds, Chief of Staff has been very helpful in offering guidance as well and each member of our executive team including each department head. The Mayor presented his \$134,883,370 budgetary document. We have fully documented as to the reasons why. The Mayor stated this document includes all of the collective bargaining agreements. Thank you to the citizens and civic engagement in town who keep an eye on us. We are now in our 11<sup>th</sup> year of our new form of government. There are unforeseens that come our way that we always need to respond to like the 2010 floods, 2015 blizzard, 2016 evidence room, 2018 wind storms. These all have a financial cost. We have a double A plus rating. We were not there 10 years ago. We maintain a very healthy reserve of nearly 10% of our operating budget of \$12.7 million dollars currently in reserve to offset the unforeseen. Our municipal financing through the property tax, the local meals tax, excise tax, and all fees for town services and permitting exceeds 80% of our revenue. Our state aid is approximately 18%. Thank you to Senator Keenan, Senator Timilty and Representative Cusack for their advocacy on our behalf. We are making progress in terms of building a Tri-Town water supply. In Braintree we have the second lowest property tax rate in Norfolk County. The average cost of a home today is \$432,000. Ten years in 2008 the average cost per home was \$380,000. This is a \$52,000 gain.

Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor stated with this budget we will begin the funding of the largest school construction project in the history of our town. This budget underscores our commitment to education. Our 100 roads program is fully funded at \$2.7 million. In this budget is additional traffic calming techniques. This budget will fully fund 11 new police officers for our upcoming year. We are nearly complete with our state of the art evidence room. It will be complete this summer. The BPD will emerge as a leader in evidence room management and technology. Thank you to Chief Shastany and all the members of the Braintree Police Departments in their efforts to make this happen.

Our Fire Department is fully staffed with 88 firefighters. We now have Marine One. This is our boat that will patrol the 4 river basin area to give us additional protection.

The DPW and Jim Arsenault will be addressing the mandated EPA Storm Water mitigation measure. This is required. We need to be vigilant and sensitive to is ADA compliance programs and our Community Partnership program. After 54 years of discussion and debate we will build Captain Peterson's wish with a pool for the children of Braintree. We are looking at a July ground breaking this summer with completion of Fall 2019. We appreciate the partnership we have with our business community. Economic growth attracting new businesses in Braintree is important. Three organizations are planning to come to Braintree: Channel Fish, Zima Bio Citro Labs and Amazon has filed plans. Company officials note their attraction to Braintree is they felt it to be a friendly business climate but also a strategic location. The Town of Braintree has a new website - [braintreema.gov](http://braintreema.gov). Residents can sign up for communications and alerts for all departments within the Town.

Councilor Kokoros stated thank you to the Mayor for presenting a balanced budget which is based on proper spending.

Councilor Bowes stated last week our outside auditors Powers & Sullivan presented a great report of the FY2017 Financial Audit Reports. As Mayor you have presented a fiscally prudent approach to our budget and we thank you as well as Ed Spellman, Joe Reynolds and the department heads.

Councilor Powers stated this budget is a blueprint for the year ahead. It is great Amazon is looking toward Braintree. Amazon is exactly the type of high tech company we want to see come to Braintree that can be a catalyst for other companies to take a look at Braintree. Recently a real estate agent in town was asked

why is Braintree so attractive. They stated: low tax rate, quality of schools and location and proximity to Boston.

Council President Ryan stated thank you for the 100 Roads Program. We have done hundreds of roads over. (367 roads) You are dedicated to the roadways and I appreciate that.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **• 18 022 National Grid Petition: Grove Street or take up any action relative thereto**

Council President Ryan referred to Councilor Kokoros, Vice-Chairman for the Committee on the Department of Public Works for a recommendation. Councilor Kokoros stated the committee met earlier this evening and stated due to an email concern where BELD observed a contractor digging into a BELD line when advance notification was requested with the National Grid Petition final approval, a new procedure has been put in place and agreed upon with James Arsenault, DPW Director:

Once National Grid Petitions are approved by Council they are put on the Town Council website. Moving forward **ALL** Contractors will be **REQUIRED** to go to the Town Clerk's office for a **CERTIFIED COPY** (each page stamped: True Copy Attest/town seal) which will need to be **attached to their permit before they receive approval by the highway staff.**

Councilor Kokoros stated for 18 022 National Grid Petition: Grove Street or take up any action relative thereto the committee voted favorable recommendation to the full Council on the following motion with staff recommendations:

To install and maintain approximately 500 feet of 4 inch gas main from Columbian Street easterly to the end of the main at #625 Grove Street.

**BELD:** No underground electric utility conflicts or special requirements within the proposed scope of work.

**DPW:** Grove Street is not under moratorium, but about half the length of the proposed extension is within the State Highway Layout and so will require MassDOT permission. We'd recommend that the petition be granted under the normal conditions, with emphasis on the requirements that the gas main be laid outside of the trench of the water mains in service and that the trench pavement not be left low for any length of time; We also recommend that the following requirement be added to the permit, if it is to be granted:

"Neither National Grid nor any of its contractors is authorized to close any street or to close a direction of travel to facilitate their work without authorization from the Director of the Department of Public Works or the Highway Superintendent. The Chief of Police can also authorize a closure for a police or fire emergency. Construction zone traffic safety issues are to be addressed by using appropriate traffic control signs and devices and the use of police officers for traffic control to safely guide traffic through the work zone. If a closure is authorized by the DPW, it shall not be implemented until signs and police officers (where needed) are properly in place in conformity with the written plan prepared by the contractor's engineer and approved by the DPW and Police Department."

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros to approve Order 18 022 National Grid Petition: Grove Street

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

• **18 023 Mayor: Supplemental Appropriations #4 or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)**

Motion by Councilor Kokoros to Open Public Hearing for Order 18 023

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

Council President Ryan referred to Councilor Bowes, Chairman for Committee of Ways & Means for a recommendation. Councilor Bowes stated the committee met earlier this evening and is a favorable recommendation to the full Council. Thank you to Marybeth McGrath for her presentation. This is to repair roofs at South and Ross schools. The second motion is to approve the Department of Public Works - Snow and Ice.

Council President Ryan asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 18 023?

Councilor O'Brien stated thank you to all involved in this project. A job well done.

Councilor Powers stated this was almost like a hurricane that affected two of our schools. I went by both schools and there were folks there 24 hours a day including custodial staff to try to limit water damage to the schools. They were going above and beyond.

Councilor Hume stated great effort by all working together to get this done in a short time. I especially want to thank the custodial staff at the schools and the principal of Ross who was out picking up debris. A special thanks needs to go out to BELD. We can truly appreciate the work they do with their tree trimming practices and being proactive.

Councilor Kokoros stated this approach was business in nature. The Town acted quickly and got things done. I commend everyone involved.

Council President Ryan asked if there is anyone else wishing to speak? Hearing none.

Motion by Councilor Kokoros to Close the Public Hearing for Order 18 023

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

Councilor Kokoros read the following motion:

- 1) Department of Public Works – Facilities School repair article

**MOTION:** That the sum of \$363,181 be transferred from the Fiscal Year 2017 certified Free Cash to the Department of Public Works / Program 2 – Facilities school repair article

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros to approve Order 18 023 (1)

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

Councilor Kokoros read the following motion:

2) Department of Public Works - Snow and Ice

**MOTION:** That the sum of \$517,769 be transferred from the Fiscal Year 2017 certified Free Cash to the Department of Public Works / Program 11 – Snow and Ice, and further, that the Director of Municipal Finance be authorized to allocate said sums to and among the various line items affected thereby.

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros to approve Order 18 023 (2)

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

- 18 024 Mayor: Funding Request for School Roof Replacement or take any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)

Motion by Councilor Kokoros to Open Public Hearing for Order 18 024

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

Council President Ryan referred to Councilor Bowes, Chairman for Committee of Ways & Means for a recommendation. Councilor Bowes stated the committee met earlier this evening for a favorable recommendation. This request is for \$3 million dollars. The insurance will cover some of this.

Council President Ryan asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 18 024?

Mayor Sullivan stated the severe rain, snow, and wind storm that impacted us on March 2, 2018 caused storm damage at both the South Middle and the Ross Elementary Schools requiring emergency repair work to the roofs to prevent further damage, as well as some interior repairs necessary in order to allow the schools to reopen. This emergency work was completed.

The town is now seeking a bond authorization appropriation for the permanent replacement for school roofs at Ross Elementary and South Middle School. The preliminary estimates are \$2.5-3 million dollars for this work. These roof projects will go out to bid. We are planning to have the work done over the summer when there will not be students in the schools. The Town qualifies for insurance coverage on these roof projects and the insurance proceeds will reduce the total project cost.

Dr. Frank Hackett, Superintendent of Schools stated this is full replacement of the entire roof of South Middle and Ross Elementary. Damage was substantial enough that the entire roofs will be replaced. This includes all re-engineering due to codes have changed which contribute to the overall costs.

Marybeth McGrath, Director of Municipal Licenses & Inspections stated 75-80% of both roofs rubber membranes lifted off the roof decking.

Councilor O'Brien stated thank you for the Marybeth McGrath and also the company who came to step up to fix the roofs and get the kids back to school.

Council President Ryan stated great job to all involved.

Council President Ryan asked if there is anyone else wishing to speak? Hearing none.

Motion by Councilor Kokoros to Close the Public Hearing for Order 18 024

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

Councilor Kokoros read the following motion:

ORDERED:

That the Town of Braintree appropriates the sum of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) to pay costs of replacing the Ross Elementary School roof and the South Middle School roof, each of which was severely damaged during the March, 2018 winter storms, making miscellaneous repairs to damage in each of such buildings resulting from the roof damage caused by the March, 2018 storms, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. The amount authorized to be borrowed pursuant to this Order shall be reduced to the extent of any grants, gifts or other funds, including insurance proceeds, received by the Town on account of these repair projects. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this order, 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 order in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros to approve Order 18 024

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

- 18 030 Mayor: Appointment to Conservation Commission – Christopher Hayward or take up any action relative thereto

Council President Ryan referred to Councilor Bowes, Chairman for Committee of Ways & Means for a recommendation. Councilor Bowes stated the committee met earlier this evening for a favorable recommendation. Mr. Hayward's resume is outstanding.

Motion read by Councilor Kokoros:

To Approve in accordance with sections 3-3 of the Town Charter, the Appointment of Christopher Hayward to the Conservation Commission.

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros to approve Order 18 030

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- None

Councilor Kokoros read the following Motions for referral to committee(s):

### **Refer to the Committee of Ways & Means**

- 18 026 Mayor: FY2019 Operating Budget or take up any action relative thereto
- 18 027 Mayor: FY2019 Budget – Community Preservation Committee or take up any action relative thereto
- 18 028 Mayor: FY2019 Revolving Accounts or take up any action relative thereto
- 18 031 Mayor: Conservation Commission Land Purchase - Middle Street or take up any action relative thereto

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

Councilor Kokoros read the following Motions for referral to committee(s):

### **Refer to the Committee on Ordinance & Rules**

- 18 026 Mayor: FY2019 Operating Budget or take up any action relative thereto

**Motion:** by Councilor Kokoros

**Second:** by Councilor Powers

**Vote:** For (8), Against (0), Absent (1 - Whalen), Abstain (0)

Council President stated Thank you to BCAM and Bill Needham for televising the meeting tonight.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:13p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino

Clerk of the Council

## **Documents provided for Meeting**

- 012 18 Mayor: FY2019 Budget Submission
- 18 022 National Grid Petition: Grove Street or take up any action relative thereto
- 18 023 Mayor: Supplemental Appropriations #4 or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 18 024 Mayor: Funding Request for School Roof Replacement or take any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 18 030 Mayor: Appointment to Conservation Commission – Christopher Hayward or take up any action relative thereto
- 18 026 Mayor: FY2019 Operating Budget or take up any action relative thereto
- 18 027 Mayor: FY2019 Budget – Community Preservation Committee or take up any action relative thereto
- 18 028 Mayor: FY2019 Revolving Accounts or take up any action relative thereto