



Shannon L. Hume  
President  
At Large

Charles B. Ryan  
At Large

Julia Camille Flaherty  
District 1

Steven A. Sciascia  
District 2

Donna L. Connors  
District 3

David M. Ringius, Jr.  
Vice-President  
At Large

Stephen C. O'Brien  
District 4

Meredith L. Boericke  
District 5

Lawrence C. Mackin, Jr.  
District 6

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, March 16, 2021**  
**(zoom webinar)**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Town Council was held via Zoom Webinar, on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 beginning at 7:30p.m.

Council President Hume was in the chair.

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

Present: Shannon Hume, President  
David M. Ringius, Jr., Vice-President  
Charles Ryan  
Julia Camille Flaherty  
Steven A. Sciascia  
Donna L. Connors  
Stephen C. O'Brien  
Meredith L. Boericke  
Lawrence C. Mackin, Jr.

Others: Charles C. Kokoros, Mayor  
Nicole Taub, Chief of Staff/Town Solicitor  
Marybeth McGrath, Director Municipal License & Inspections  
James Arsenault, DPW Director  
Ben Hulke, Assistant DPW Director  
Chris Griffin, Asst Director Parks & Rec  
Robert DeVito, DPW finance coordinator  
Lou Dutton, Superintendent Water & Sewer  
James F. O'Brien, Fire Chief  
Mark Dubois, Police Chief  
Daryn Brown, Golf Director  
John Thompson, Town Engineer/Asst DPW Director  
John Keenan, Senator  
Walter Timilty, Senator  
Mark Cusack, State Representative

## **COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATIONS**

- Agenda/Documents link to website: <https://braintreema.gov/AgendaCenter>
- Email: [towncouncil@braintreema.gov](mailto:towncouncil@braintreema.gov)
- Meeting Notice Posting link: <https://ma-braintree.civicplus.com/calendar.aspx?CID=43&showPastEvents=false>
- Facebook: [Braintree Town Council](#)
- “How Do I” sign up to receive meeting/town information: <https://braintreema.gov/786/Sign-up-for>
- To be added to the Town Council Agenda Distribution list please send an email request: [scimino@braintreema.gov](mailto:scimino@braintreema.gov)
- Zoom Webinar Questions: If you want to ask a question but cannot access webinar - call direct: 339-987-2726

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 007 21 Council President: International Women’s Day (Recognizing Braintree Nurses)  
Council President Hume read a list and wanted to recognize all Braintree Nurses that the Council members know personally. We especially want to recognize Laurie Melchionda who lost her life tragically this past year. We also want to recognize all our School Nurses.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- December 15, 2020
  - Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to approve the Minutes of December 15, 2020
  - Second:** by Councilor Ryan
  - Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)
- January 5, 2021
  - Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to approve the Minutes of January 5, 2021
  - Second:** by Councilor Ryan
  - Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

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

- **012 20 Council President: COVID-19 Update**  
Mayor Kokoros stated the Towns total number of cases is past 4,000 positive cases. We are having a challenge to get vaccines to municipalities. The state stopped giving them to us for us to give through our health department. To date we have done over 1,500 vaccines. I credit Brewster Ambulance with this and thank them for partnering with us.

Marybeth McGrath, Director of the Department of Municipal Licenses & Inspections stated our numbers have been steadily decreasing. We are seeing multiple members of a household becoming positive. The numbers have been lower. Effective March 22, 2021 Private Residences 10 person indoor, 25 outdoor. The Mayor’s Department continues to try to team with other resources to continue vaccination clinics.

Testing sites available are: Randolph (128 Pleasant Street) Monday thru Friday 2pm to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Massasoit in Brockton is open Monday/Wednesday/Friday 7am to 11am and Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday 2pm to 7pm.

Both of these sites are free to Massachusetts residents. You stay in your car and get tested.

There is a link to all things COVID on the Town website.

We also encourage the residents to take steps to help prevent exposure to any respiratory viruses, including seasonal influenza and Coronavirus by:

- Washing your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes and face.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning sprays or wipes.
- Stay at home when feeling sick.

For more information on COVID-19, visit the MDPH website at [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus) and the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

For questions, please feel free to contact the Town of Braintree Health Department:

Public Health Nurse at 781-794-8094 or Marybeth McGrath, Director of Health at 781-794-8095.

• **008 21 Council President: Legislative Update**

In attendance tonight are John Keenan, Senator; Walter Timilty, Senator and Mark Cusack, State Representative. It was mentioned Early Voting and Vote by Mail passed and the Governor signed on a temporary basis but I feel it will have staying power. There is broad base support in the Senate to pass a permanent version of this Bill going forward.

We are hoping all funding goes into the Local aid, Chapter 70 and Chapter 90 formula.

Rep Cusack stated he is the Chair of the Revenue Committee and is watching this closely. We adopted COVID related leave/sick time for workers who quarantine will be compensated. We offered tax credit to people receiving unemployment insurance. We are hopeful the Governor will sign this. It will be a direct relief to our businesses and employees to help us move forward as we all recover from this pandemic. In terms of Early Voting there was emergency legislation for cities and towns having Spring Elections and that they could use the Early Voting provisions that we adopted last year. They were set to expire the end of March 2021 and were extended to the end of June 2021. We anticipate a hearing soon on making these provisions permanent going forward. The speaker is strongly in favor of this. In terms of Braintree I feel the 3 Polling Locations worked well.

Senator Keenan stated I agree there is wide spread support in the Senate to make the Early Voting and/or Mail In Voting permanent. We are less above our benchmark in meals tax. That is an indication that part of the economy is still trying to recover. The hope is people will go out to dinner and buy things they were waiting on to go and buy. We are not out of the woods at the state level and may not be able to provide as much to the towns. I feel our financial picture is becoming clearer but also optimistic on where we will be.

## OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Kokoros asked for the support for the Capital Plan tonight. This year we have a very difficult budget. We are looking at 10% cut across the board and will look at that as we receive funding from the state. We are looking for additional funding sources. We have started very conservatively. There is no free cash being used on this Capital Plan. This is a fiscally conservative approach. We are being transparent. Moving forward is the South Middle school project and looking at an opening date of August 2023. Not all these items are General fund items. Many are Enterprise funds with a totally different revenue stream. The Capital Plan is put into place for the future

- **21 005 Mayor: Request to Approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Plan or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)**

President Hume asked is there a Motion to Open the Public Hearing for Order 21 005.

Councilor Ringius made a Motion to OPEN the Public Hearing

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to OPEN the Public Hearing for Order 21 005

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

President Hume referred to Councilor Boericke, Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means for a recommendation.

Councilor Boericke, Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means stated the committee met two nights last week. The Capital Budget allows for large expenditures that cannot be supported in during a single budget year. This year’s Capital Plan is the smallest in recent memory. The request is coming in a little over 4.5 million dollars. This is a 47% decrease over last years. None of that funding is being requested from Free Cash Reserves. It is all being requested from bonds or grants. At the time the committee met on this the 10% cuts in the FY22 budget and the shortfall in the school budget were not known to us. The committee sends this to the full Council with unanimous favorable recommendation.

Nicole Taub, Chief of Staff stated when the Department heads were asked to provide their needs it was no surprise to anyone we would have a more difficult FY22 than we saw in FY21. Needs were scaled down in order to identify the actual necessities to manage funding in the most responsible and conservative way.

Councilor Mackin asked if we kept track of how many businesses we lost this year.

Mayor Kokoros stated I will work with our departments and see if there is any record of any businesses that have closed.

Councilor Mackin asked Chief Dubois about the CAD system. Were these paid last year?

Chief Dubois stated these are the 2<sup>nd</sup> payments of a prior approval.

Councilor Connors stated the Pumper Truck will hopefully be paid by a grant. If we don’t get the grant the pumper truck will not happen. The Sewer investigations is also looking to get a 75% grant on this. The Friends of Library is also matching some donations. These are all positive items in these tough times.

Councilor O'Brien asked if we were in a water moratorium last year. Are we impacting Water & Sewer by not dredging? So the half million deferral will not impact us?

Mayor Kokoros stated last year we took a vote to allow sprinklers.

We were able to remove phase 1 to 85% capacity. There was some dredging done years ago and allowed to be added. There is new management of the reservoir system. No - the half million deferral will not impact us on this.

Councilor O'Brien asked about our Free Cash.

Mayor Kokoros stated the way the government has operated more recently we utilize our Free Cash as our "rainy day fund". We need to stabilize our spending. We need to make cuts when necessary. Our goal is to increase our levels of Free Cash.

Councilor O'Brien asked if we should send this back to committee because these are needs and not emergency's?

Mayor Kokoros stated first know none of these expenditures are coming from the General fund. If we do not get some grant monies some items will not be purchased. These requests were what absolutely were needed to keep doing their job.

Councilor Boericke stated is there a level of certainty of money of Chapter 90 funding from the state.

Rep Cusack stated roughly \$997,000 will be going to the Town of Braintree.

President Hume asked if we need all the \$2.6 million to fund the roads at this time.

Mayor Kokoros stated when we do the infrastructure work and the Water & Sewer work it is prudent for us to pave the streets after these lines are being replaced. These lines need to be replaced.

Councilor Boericke asked if there was a statutory deadline on timing for this Capital Plan to be taken up.

Mayor Kokoros stated you are giving me the authorization to borrow. If we couldn't borrow because we could not pay for it but we are not at that point. We have to present the Capital Plan to you. This is planning because we have roads that have to be paved etc. I ask for your support so we can move forward with this and it has been formulated with our current financial situation in mind.

Councilor Boericke stated this is indeed significantly reduced from other years. I do think asbestos removal in this plan is an emergency, if I may say.

Ed Spellman, Finance Director stated this new debt service will kick in in FY23. In that year the net debt service is actually decreasing.

Councilor Flaherty asked is there a 5 year ADA plan the Town has in place?

James Arsenault, DPW Director stated ADA transition plan includes the entire spectrum of ADA items and breaks it down by needs. We are still working on this list. There will be a definitive plan in the future.

Shawn McGoldrick, Town Auditor stated yes there were significant cuts to the Capital Plan this year – could more be done? Just a question to ask. If we do approve this it certainly will not impact the general fund operations significantly.

President Hume asked about the Water & Sewer project and if it can be pushed out a year.

Director Arsenault stated this is necessary. We have piping out there that is very old and has some concerns with flow issues. This is an enterprise fund and is well funded. It is very much needed.

Council President Hume asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 21 005?

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

Council President Hume asked is there a motion to Close the Public Hearing for Order 21 005?

Councilor Ringius made a Motion to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Order 21 005

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Order 21 005

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O'Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Motion was ready by Council Vice-President Ringius:

**MOTION:** To Approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Plan as submitted

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 005

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O'Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

• **21 006 Mayor: Request for Appropriation - Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Capital Budget or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)**

President Hume asked is there a Motion to Open the Public Hearing for Order 21 006.

Councilor Ringius made a Motion to OPEN the Public Hearing

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to OPEN the Public Hearing for Order 21 006

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

President Hume referred to Councilor Boericke, Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means for a recommendation.

Councilor Boericke, Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means stated the committee met two nights last week. The committee sends this to the full Council with unanimous favorable recommendation.

Council President Hume asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 21 006?

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

Council President Hume asked is there a motion to Close the Public Hearing for Order 21 006?

Councilor Ringius made a Motion to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Order 21 006

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Order 21 006

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Motion was ready by Council Vice-President Ringius:

**First – Rescind Prior Bond Authorizations**

**MOTION:** That the Town of Braintree rescinds the following authorized but unissued borrowing amounts that are no longer needed to pay costs of the projects for which they were initially approved:

- a) \$100,000 of the authorized but unissued balance of the \$100,000 which was authorized to be borrowed pursuant to Loan Order 19-004 which was approved by this Council on February 26, 2019 to pay costs of highway sidewalk plow
- b) \$63,000 of the authorized but unissued balance of the \$150,000 which was authorized to be borrowed pursuant to Loan Order 19-004 which was approved by this Council on February 26, 2019 to pay costs of DPW Parks and Grounds Trash Truck.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Order 21 006 (1)

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

**MOTION:**

**Second- New Capital Bond Authorization**

TOWN OF BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS IN TOWN COUNCIL ORDERED:

That the Town of Braintree appropriates the sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Eight Thousand Dollars (\$2,908,000) to pay costs of the following capital projects:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Authorizing statute</u>
Town Wide Radio System Migration (Fire)	42,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
Police Records Management	159,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
Police Portable Radios	10,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
Fire Heavy Duty Rescue Pumper	66,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
Municipal Licenses and Inspections ADA Compliance	100,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
Schools Floors (Abatement)	100,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(31)
Schools Plumbing/HVAC	106,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
Elder Affairs Paving	50,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
Library Roof Top HVAC Unit	35,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
DPW Asbestos Removal	100,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(31)
DPW Truck with Plow and Sander	75,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
DPW Parks and Recreation ADA Compliance	50,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
Roadway Resurfacing	1,650,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
Golf Dump Truck	75,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
Golf Greens Mower	130,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)
DPW Highway Sidewalk Plow	160,000	Ch. 44 s. 7(1)

and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; that the amounts indicated above for each project are estimates and that the Mayor may allocate more funds to any one or more of such projects, and less to others, so long as, in the judgment of the Mayor, each of the projects described above can be completed within the total appropriation made by this Order; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to the authorizing statutes described above, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received by the Town 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 Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Order 21 006 (2)  
**Second:** by Councilor Ryan  
**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

### **Third – Bond Refunding Authorization**

**MOTION:** That in order to reduce interest costs, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to provide for the sale and issuance of refunding bonds under G.L. c. 44, §21A to refund all or any portion of the remaining principal of and redemption premium and interest on any of the Town’s general obligation bonds outstanding as of the date of this vote.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Order 21 006 (3)  
**Second:** by Councilor Ryan  
**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

• **21 007 Mayor: Request for Appropriation – Fiscal Year 2021 Enterprise Funds Capital Budget or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)**

President Hume asked is there a Motion to Open the Public Hearing for Order 21 007.

Councilor Ringius made a Motion to OPEN the Public Hearing

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to OPEN the Public Hearing for Order 21 007  
**Second:** by Councilor Ryan  
**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

President Hume referred to Councilor Boericke, Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means for a recommendation.

Councilor Boericke, Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means stated the committee met last week. The committee sends this to the full Council with a unanimous favorable recommendation.

Council President Hume asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 21 007?

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

Council President Hume asked is there a motion to Close the Public Hearing for Order 21 007?

Councilor Ringius made a Motion to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Order 21 007

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Order 21 007  
**Second:** by Councilor Ryan  
**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Motion was ready by Council Vice-President Ringius:

TOWN OF BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS IN TOWN COUNCIL ORDERED:

That the Town of Braintree appropriates the sum of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) to pay costs of Town-wide water distribution system improvements, 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 Chapter 44, Section 8 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received by the Town 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 Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 007

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

• **21 008 Mayor: Request for Appropriation – Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget - Other Available Funds or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)**

President Hume asked is there a Motion to Open the Public Hearing for Order 21 008.

Councilor Ringius made a Motion to OPEN the Public Hearing

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to OPEN the Public Hearing for Order 21 008

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

President Hume referred to Councilor Boericke, Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means for a recommendation.

Councilor Boericke, Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means stated the committee met last week. The committee sends this to the full Council with a unanimous favorable recommendation.

Council President Hume asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 21 008?

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

Council President Hume asked is there a motion to Close the Public Hearing for Order 21 008?

Councilor Ringius made a Motion to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Order 21 008

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Order 21 008

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Motions were ready by Council Vice-President Ringius:

1) Police Department

**MOTION:** That the sum of \$43,225 be transferred from the Stabilization Fund for the purchase of Tasers.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 008(1)

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

2) School Department

**MOTION:** That the sum of \$244,000 be transferred from the Braintree School Building Authority Fund for paying the principal and interest expense for the ESCO Projects.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 008(2)

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

3) School Department

**MOTION:** That the sum of \$100,000 be transferred from the Stabilization Fund for purchasing the Munis ERP software system.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 008(3)

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

4) Library Department

**MOTION:** That the sum of \$5,000 be transferred from the Stabilization Fund and accept a \$12,000 gift from the Friends of the Thayer Public Library, for a total of \$17,000 for the purchase of lighting efficiency upgrades.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 008(4)

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

5) Library Department

**MOTION:** That the that the town accept a gift of \$35,000 from the Friends of the Thayer Public Library to match a Town bond authorization for the replacement of a roof top HVAC unit.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 008(5)

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

## Water Sewer and Storm Water Enterprise Fund motions

### E-1) Water Sewer Enterprise Fund

**MOTION:** That the sum of \$532,000 be transferred from Fiscal Year 2020 Certified Water Sewer Retained Earnings for the purpose of purchasing Radios for Sewer System SCADA.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 008(E-1)

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O'Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

### E-2) Water Sewer Enterprise Fund

**MOTION:** That the sum of \$149,000 be transferred from Fiscal Year 2020 Certified Water Sewer Retained Earnings for the purpose of purchasing a Mini Excavator.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 008(E-2)

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O'Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

### E-3) Storm Water Enterprise Fund

**MOTION:** That the sum of \$60,000 be transferred from Fiscal Year 2020 Certified Storm Water Retained Earnings for the purpose of purchasing a 4WD pickup truck with plow.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 008(E-3)

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O'Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

### E-4) Storm Water Enterprise Fund

**MOTION:** That the sum of \$40,000 be transferred from Fiscal Year 2020 Certified Storm Water Retained Earnings for the purpose of funding Catch Basin Debris Removal.

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 008(E-4)

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O'Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

• **21 004 National Grid Petition: Ivory Street or take up any action relative thereto**

President Hume referred to Councilor Ryan, Chairman of the Department of Public Works for a recommendation.

Councilor Ryan, Chairman of the Committee of the Department of Public Works stated the committee met tonight and made a favorable unanimous recommendation. National Grid will be doing this work at night and repair work will be done as recommended by DPW staff. This is not under moratorium.

Councilor O'Brien asked about claim paved in 2014 and are under the 10 year moratorium. Councilor Ryan stated when we passed our moratorium we wanted to extend it for a 10 year moratorium but for all projects moving forward. We couldn't go back and do it for jobs already done. We were told only for jobs moving forward. We cleared that up with Mr. Thompson.

This job will start in Mid-May and will take about 10 weeks. Councilor Boericke asked about a pedestrian plan if sidewalks are disrupted. National Grid stated we will have sign closures and a police detail.

Councilor Ryan asked about laying a gas line where the old Motel 6 is currently just incase a new business would like it. National Grid stated they are not allowed to do this. If no business goes in there they would have to go back in a certain amount of time and cut the line anyway.

**MOTION:** National Grid hereby requests to relay approximately 1040 feet of 4 inch, 60 psig Aldyl-A plastic (1979) with approximately 1040 feet of 6 inch, 60 psig plastic in Ivory St from Union St to the existing 6-inch, coated steel at 280 Ivory St. Relay approximately 860 feet of 4 inch, 60 psig Aldyl-A plastic (1979) with approximately 860 feet of 6 inch, 60 psig plastic in Grossman Drive from Union St to the existing 4 inch, 60 psig plastic (1996) at #100 Grossman Drive, and relay approximately 370 feet of 2 inch, 60 psig Aldyl-A plastic (1979) with approximately 370 feet of 4 inch, 60 psig plastic in Union St from Ivory St to the end of main at #125 Union Street WITH STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

**BELD:** BELD has underground 115,000-volt pressurized oil filled transmission lines and 15,000-volt concrete encased distribution lines located within the scope of work.

BELD Engineering should be notified forty-eight hours in advance of any excavation to be performed in close proximity to 115,000-volt transmission line. BELD will provide on-site support and safety personnel at no cost to the project to ensure this critical infrastructure is identified and monitored throughout the excavation process.

All BELD Electric facilities will be identified and marked through the DigSafe process.

**DPW:** The DPW has reviewed National Grid's petition #21-004, proposing to replace older (1979) first generation plastic gas pipe with new plastic gas pipe in the following locations:

- Union Street, from its intersection with Ivory Street easterly, approximately 370 feet
- Ivory Street, from its intersection with Union Street southerly, approximately 1040 feet
- Grossman Drive, from its intersection with Union Street northerly, approximately 860 feet

Union Street, Grossman Drive, and approximately 200 feet of Ivory Street (from the intersection with Union Street southerly) were paved in 2014 and are not under moratorium. (The ten year moratorium enacted by the Council in 2015 for longitudinal trenches does not apply in this case, as the order did not apply retroactively to past projects). The remainder of Ivory Street to the proposed project limits, approximately 850 feet, was paved in 2006 and is not within the moratorium, although the pavement is in good to fair condition.

It is the DPW's understanding that the work is being proposed at this time due to the deteriorating condition of the existing plastic pipe and the pipe's vulnerability to gas leaks.

If the Council approves the subject petition, the DPW recommends that National Grid be responsible for the restoration of all disturbed areas within the work limits once work is completed, including the following specific requirements:

- Along disturbed areas of Union Street, National Grid shall perform a curb-to-center island 2-inch mill and overlay
- Along disturbed areas of Ivory Street, National Grid shall perform a curb-to-center island 2-inch mill and overlay
- Along disturbed areas of Grossman Drive, National Grid shall perform a curb to curb (full width) 2-inch mill and overlay.
- The entire intersection of Union Street, Ivory Street, and Grossman Drive shall be resurfaced by a 2-inch mill and overlay.
- The entire intersection of Ivory Street with the Covanta driveway and the MBTA driveway shall be resurfaced by a 2-inch mill and overlay.
- Any sidewalks disturbed during construction shall be replaced in kind
- Any vehicle detection loops that are damaged during construction will be replaced immediately following completion of work at that location, at first on a temporary basis after trench patching, and then permanently following final paving
- All thermoplastic pavement markings shall be replaced in-kind immediately following the final paving

We also recommend that the following requirements be added to the permit, if it is to be granted:

“The DPW and the Police Department reserve the right to require construction during nighttime, weekend, or off-peak hours as to minimize the disruption to commuting traffic along these high volume arterial roads and intersections”

“Neither National Grid nor any contractor 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 Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 004

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O'Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

• **21 010 National Grid Petition: Huntley Road or take up any action relative thereto**

President Hume referred to Councilor Ryan, Chairman of the Department of Public Works for a recommendation.

Councilor Ryan, Chairman of the Committee of the Department of Public Works stated the committee met tonight and made a favorable unanimous recommendation. DPW staff will be updating water lines and asked National Grid prepare to do this work as soon as possible.

**MOTION:** National Grid hereby requests due to water work by the Town of Braintree, National grid recommends relay 165 feet of 2inch Bare Steel (1924) and 140 feet of 2inch Bare Steel (1968) gas main in Huntley Rd from Hayward St to end of main with 305 feet of 2 -inch Plastic gas main WITH STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

**BELD:** BELD has underground 115,000-volt pressurized oil filled transmission lines and 15,000-volt concrete encased distribution lines located within the scope of work.

BELD Engineering should be notified forty-eight hours in advance of any excavation to be performed in close proximity to 115,000-volt transmission line. BELD will provide on-site support and safety personnel at no cost to the project to ensure this critical infrastructure is identified and monitored throughout the excavation process.

All BELD Electric facilities will be identified and marked through the DigSafe process.

**DPW:** The DPW has reviewed the subject petition and the accompanying sketch for the new gas main location and have the following recommendations:

Huntley Road is not under the moratorium. The street was resurfaced with a shim and micro surface in 2015, however, the Braintree Water and Sewer Division has already excavated along portions of Huntley Road to replace the aging water main which had a relatively recent break. Huntley Road is scheduled to be resurfaced, and we would recommend that the petition for be granted as soon as possible so that the gas main replacement and the paving can be coordinated and completed in a timely manner. The petition should be granted under the normal conditions, with emphasis on the requirements that the trench

pavement not be left low for any length of time, and that any excavation within the limits of Hayward Street will require a permanent trench patch repair by grind and inlay after trench settlement is complete. 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 Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 010

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- None

President Hume asked is there a motion for the following to be referred to Committee(s):  
Councilor Ringius read the following item(s) for referral to committee(s):

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

- 21 012 Council President: Chapter 134 of the Acts of 2008 – Extension or take up any action relative thereto
- 21 013 Mayor: Appointment of Juliana Melchionda to the Board of Health or take up any action relative thereto
- 21 014 Mayor: FY21 Supplemental Appropriations (#2) or take up any action relative thereto

Motion made by Councilor Ringius to refer to the Committee of Ways & Means Order 21 012, Order 21 013, Order 21 014

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works Order 21 012, Order 21 013, Order 21 014

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

### **Refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works**

- 21 011 Resident Petition: Gas Installation at 73 Celia Road or take up any action relative thereto

Motion made by Councilor Ringius to refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works Order 21 011

**Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works Order 21 011

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (9 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),  
Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

**Topics the Chair does not reasonably anticipate will be discussed**

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Next Council Meeting scheduled on: **Tuesday, April 6, 2021@7:30pm**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was unanimously voted by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:14p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino, Clerk of the Council

## **Meeting Documents**

- Minutes of December 15, 2020
- Minutes of January 5, 2021
- 21 005 Mayor: Request to Approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Plan or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 21 006 Mayor: Request for Appropriation - Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Capital Budget or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 21 007 Mayor: Request for Appropriation – Fiscal Year 2021 Enterprise Funds Capital Budget or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 21 008 Mayor: Request for Appropriation – Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget - Other Available Funds or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)
- 21 004 National Grid Petition: Ivory Street or take up any action relative thereto
- 21 010 National Grid Petition: Huntley Road or take up any action relative thereto