



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, April 6, 2021

(zoom webinar)

MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council was held via Zoom Webinar, on Tuesday, April 6, 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
Ed Spellman, Director of Municipal Finance
Karen Shanley, HR Director
Marybeth McGrath, Director Municipal License & Inspections
James Arsenault, DPW Director
Ben Hulke, Assistant DPW Director
James F. O'Brien, Fire Chief
Mark Dubois, Police Chief
John Thompson, Town Engineer/Asst DPW Director
Shawn McGoldrick, Town Auditor
Mike Nelligan, Powers & Sullivan
Romina Mameni, Powers & Sullivan

COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATIONS

- Agenda/Documents link to website: <https://braintreema.gov/AgendaCenter>
- Email: 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
- Zoom Webinar Questions: If you want to ask a question but cannot access webinar - call direct: 339-987-2726

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 011 21 Council President: Braintree Recreation Department Spring Programs
Programs include: Yoga at the Lake, Basketball Clinic during April vacation, Field Hockey clinic on Mondays at BHS rear field. For more information go to: www.braintreerec.com

April is Autism Awareness Month – you will see blue lights around town.

April is Donate Life Awareness Month – 11am on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 outside town hall

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 19, 2021

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to approve the Minutes of January 19, 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

Marybeth McGrath, Director of the Department of Municipal Licenses & Inspections stated we are definitely trending in the right direction. The Towns total number of cases is 4,372 positive cases. This week we had 6 new cases. 135 total deaths of residents in Braintree. With the Easter holiday coming up and Spring Break this is an opportunity to gather. We hope people will take precautions. We are moving in the right direction with vaccinations. 82% of those 72 years and older have received their first dose. I would encourage individuals to continue to be vaccinated.

Mayor Kokoros stated we were able to provide nearly 2,000 vaccines. These were mostly to our elderly population. We are not receiving vaccines from the state anymore. They decided not to send them to Cities/Towns. We will have Cahill Auditorium cleaned up by May 1, 2021 for the decision to then be made about in-person meetings and when they will begin.

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 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.

• **012 21 Council President: Petersen Pool Update from Mayor Kokoros**

Mayor Kokoros stated we look back at January 2020 and there were issues with the drainage that the builder talked about and there were modifications of the plan. COVID then took up time from this. We had multiple meetings on the drainage modifications and wanted this done right. I would love this to have been built two years ago. There were concerns about no diving area. I took those concerns seriously and conversations began. It was determined there could be a diving area so that is the direction we will be going in. This will be built to standards to allow the swim team to have a complete meet. This created a little bit of a delay. In November the drainage plans were approved. We have now not seen much activity on the site. I called in the contractor and set dates and benchmarks we are looking to be met. We will be meeting every Friday and getting down to business to get this done. I am asking for a new updated letter for finances to be secured and foundation permits to be applied for and approved and date for concrete to be poured and steel to be put up. The week of the 16th we will be looking at the developer to have a contract with the pool and meeting all criteria and architectural rendering of the outside. The thirds week we are looking for the inside rendering. I am committed to getting the pool/rink complex completed. This is something that has to happen on our terms. I will not tolerate work not being done and benchmarks not being met. There is no room for any further delay. There is no need for oversight committees. This is being managed. It is my belief we need to move forward in a positive way. My staff and I will work every week to make sure the builder meets these benchmarks.

OLD BUSINESS

• **21 011 Resident Petition: Gas Installation at 73 Celia 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 with the staff's comments. The resident wants

to have gas installed. The DPW looked at this and the gas line is in the sidewalk right in front of their house. The resident will put the sidewalk back in the condition as it was before the gas line was put in.

MOTION:

Resident hereby requests petition for the installation of a gas service line to the residence at 73 Celia Road with Staff Recommendations:

BELD: BELD has no utility conflicts with this petition 21 011.

DPW: The DPW has reviewed the subject petition for the installation of a gas service line to the residence at 73 Celia Road. While Celia Road is under the moratorium enacted by the Council in 2015, having been totally reconstructed in 2017, it appears that the gas main in front of house #73 is located beneath the sidewalk on the odd side of the street. As such, it should be possible for the residence to be connected to gas without the roadway itself being excavated. Since the sidewalk surface does not appear to be protected under the moratorium ordinance, we recommend that the petition be granted if the following conditions can be met:

- A permanent sidewalk patch shall be placed immediately following the work. The sidewalk excavation should be saw-cut, backfilled and compacted in 8-inch lifts, paved to match existing asphalt depth (with a minimum depth of four inches) in two inch lifts to match the existing sidewalk grade on each side. The final sidewalk patch should be full width (curb to grass) and no less than 6 feet in length

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

- In the event that the roadway is damaged or impacted in any way during the course of the work, National Grid will be required to restore the street in a manner consistent with the Moratorium Ordinance. A permanent patch would be required, milled curb to crown, for a length no less than fifteen feet, and machine laid with 2-inches of asphalt top course. Tack coat would be required on milled surfaces and joints prior to paving, and finished joints would be treated with a rubberized asphalt sealer.

“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 21 011

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)

• **21 012 Council President: Chapter 134 of the Acts of 2008 – Extension or take up any action relative thereto**

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 and sends this to the full Council with unanimous favorable recommendation. This grants property tax relief to members of the MA national guard and reservists who are on active duty in foreign countries. This is one small way to say thank you for your service.

Motion was ready by Council Vice-President Ringius:

MOTION:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BRAINTREE THAT THE TOWN VOTE TO EXTEND CHAPTER 134 OF THE ACTS OF 2008 OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS THROUGH FISCAL YEAR **2024** AT WHICH TIME THE TOWN COUNCIL MAY VOTE TO EXTEND CHAPTER 134 OF THE ACTS OF 2008.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 012

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)

• **21 013 Mayor: Appointment of Juliana Melchionda to the Board of Health or take up any action relative thereto**

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 and sends this to the full Council with unanimous favorable recommendation. We also send our gratitude in your willingness to serve.

President Hume stated I can’t think of better person to fill the shoes of your mother there is a huge void. You have an impressive resume. The Town of Braintree will be lucky to have you serve. Your mother was a force to be reckoned with and I look forward to the work you are going to do. I support this appointment.

Marybeth McGrath stated we are looking forward to you taking over the reins of your mother.

Mayor Kokoros stated the greatness of Laurie Melchionda has been passed down to her children. I can see the strength and the courage and the abilities that Julianna possesses. I am happy to present to you such a qualified candidate.

Motion was ready by Council Vice-President Ringius:

MOTION:

Upon the request of his honor, the Mayor, the Town of Braintree, through the Braintree Town Council, and in accordance with sections 3-3 of the Charter of the Town of Braintree to approve the appointment of **Juliana Melchionda** to the **Board of Health**.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 013

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)

• **21 014 Mayor: FY21 Supplemental Appropriations (#2) or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing)**

President Hume asked is there a Motion to Open the Public Hearing for Order 21 014.

Councilor Ringius made a Motion to OPEN the Public Hearing

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to OPEN the Public Hearing for 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)

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 unanimous favorable recommendation.

Mayor Kokoros stated we looked everywhere for any money we had to cover these costs. We did not at this point to dip into our Free Cash.

Council President Hume stated Police and Fire Overtime is usually a big expense. Will this be the last time this fiscal year for overtime transfers needed for Police and Fire.

Mayor Kokoros stated there is more to be covered for Fire/Police overtime before the end of the fiscal year.

Councilor O’Brien asked our Town Auditor keep a running list of Police/Fire OT.

Councilor O’Brien asked about the Harbormaster and stated concerns due to someone keeping an eye on the new Fire boat.

Mayor Kokoros stated when the Harbormaster retired the Police department took over taking care of that area.

Chief Dubois stated he was sworn in as the Harbormaster so he can delegate duties. There have been about 20 officers trained in these duties. We do not need the Harbormaster funding. We will have the boat fully staffed with our officers. There will be more of a presence than you have seen in the past 5 years.

Councilor O'Brien stated we have some significant assets on that coastline and risks. I just want to raise the concern to have a Harbormaster with a stipend because of these concerns. Cameras have also been installed. Note this is a concern particularly for this Councilor since parts of my district are on the water.

Shawn McGoldrick stated no free cash was used which is a good thing. Transfers and Article funds were used. (see the full Town Auditor report with meeting documents)

Council President Hume asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 21 014?

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 21 014?

Councilor Ringius made a Motion to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Order 21 014

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to CLOSE the Public Hearing on 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)

Motions were ready by Council Vice-President Ringius:

1. Police Department

Motion: That the sum of \$54,757.31 be transferred from Finance / Principal on Debt Program 50 / Principal on Debt Account; \$37,000 be transferred from Finance / BSBA Principal on Debt Program 53 / Principal on Debt Account; \$29,310 be transferred from Finance / BSBA Interest on Debt Program 53 / Interest on Debt Account; \$15,000 be transferred from Department of Public Works / Street Lighting Program 09 / Street Lighting Account; \$900 be transferred from Department of Elder Affairs / Equipment Maintenance Program 02 / Gasoline Account; \$70,910 be transferred from Library / Current Topics Program 05 / Librarians Account; \$8,456 be transferred from Library / Administration Program 05 / Casual Employees Account; \$12,000 be transferred from Library / Building Maintenance Program 02 / Lighting Account; \$10,000 be transferred from Planning and Community Development / Administration Program 01 / Planning Administration Account; \$27,257 from Planning and Community Development / Planning Program 04 / Staff Planner Account; \$148.23 be transferred from Municipal Licenses and Inspections / Inspection Code Enforcement Program 05 / Building Inspector Account; \$20,175 be transferred from Municipal Licenses and Inspections / Administration Program 01 / Part Time Clerical Account; \$4,840 be transferred from Police / Administration Program 01 / Medical Payments Account; \$9,000 be transferred from Police / Administration Program 01 / Staff Development Account; \$15,000 be transferred from Police / Patrol Bureau Program 04 / Staff Development Account; \$4,500 be transferred from Police / Harbormaster Program 09 / Harbormaster Account; \$15,000 be transferred from Police / Patrol Bureau Program 04 / Matron Account; \$2,000 be transferred from the Police / Patrol Bureau Program 04 / Meals – Prisoners Account, for a total of \$336,253.54 be transferred to the Police Department Overtime

Accounts 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 Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 014 (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. Fire Department

Motion: That the sum of \$28,989.77 be transferred from the Municipal License and Inspections Department / Inspection Code Enforcement Program 05 / Building Inspector Account; \$1,500 be transferred from the Fire Department / Fire Prevention Program 07 / Fire Prevention Line; \$30,000 be transferred from the Fire / Capital Program 1504 / FY15 Highlands Repairs and Bathroom Line; \$5,201.30 be transferred from the Fire / Capital Program 1510 / FY17 Fire Vehicle Replacement Account; \$65,113.72 be transferred from the Fire / Capital Program 1544 / FY17 Firefighting Boat Account; \$240.70 be transferred from the Fire / Capital Program 1906 / FY19 Fire Radio Repeater Account; \$7,828.40 be transferred from the Fire / Capital Program 1657 / FY17 Fire Vehicle Replacement; \$7,370.82 be transferred from the Fire / Capital Program 1906 / FY19 Fire Extractor Replacement; \$14,734.75 be transferred from the Fire / Capital Program 1906 / FY19 Prevention SUV Replacement; \$9,817.08 to be transferred from the Town Council / Capital Program 1604 / Furniture Account; \$20,000 be transferred from the Town Council / Capital Program 1633 / Light Contract Consultant Account; \$4,534.99 be transferred from the Mayor / Capital Program 0000 / Recycling Comm. Account; \$3,405 be transferred from the Mayor / Capital Program 1604 / Furniture Account; \$4,554 be transferred from the Finance / Capital Program 0960 / Data Processing Account; \$10,972.43 be transferred from the Finance / Capital Program 1806 / Town Hall Security Account; \$109,136.32 be transferred from the Finance / Principal on Debt Program 50 / Principal on Debt Account, for a total of \$323,399.28 to be transferred to the Fire Department overtime accounts, and further, that the Director of Municipal Finance be authorized to allocate said sums to and among the various line items affected.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 014 (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. Fire Department

Motion: That the sum of \$5,000 be transferred from the Fire / Capital Program 1421 / FY14 Fire C-5 Account to the Fire / Fire Suppression Program 04 / EMS Coordinator Account.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 014 (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. Fire Department

Motion: That the sum of \$154 be transferred from the Fire / Capital Program 1421 /FY14 Fire C-5 Account; \$2,734.30 be transferred from the Fire /Capital Program 1421/ FY14 Fire Flash Account; and \$2,111.70 be transferred from the Fire / Capital Program 1510 / FY17 Fire Vehicle, for a total of \$5,000.00 be transferred to the Fire / Fire Suppression Program 04 / Grant Writer-Procurement Officer Account.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 014 (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. Public Works Department

Motion: That the sum of \$7,639.37 be transferred from Finance / Principal on Debt Program 50 / Principal on Debt Account; \$49,990 be transferred from Finance / Capital Program 1544 / Electronic Archiving Account; \$1,156 be transferred from Town Clerk / Capital Program 1504 / FY15 Electronic Tabulators Account; \$1,476 be transferred from Town Clerk / Capital Program 1806 / Handicap Accessible Voting Booth; \$740.55 be transferred from Planning and Community Development / Capital Program 1544 / Town Green Universal Account; \$12,000 be transferred from Municipal Licenses and Inspections / Capital Program 1504 / Licensing Permit Software Account; \$75,000 be transferred from Department of Public Works / Capital Program 0000 / Daugherty Gym Floor Account; \$1,915 be transferred from Department of Public Works / Capital Program 1504 / FY16 Highway Roller; \$600 be transferred from Department of Public Works / Capital Program 1504 / FY15 Automated Defibrillators Account; \$2 be transferred from Department of Public Works / Capital Program 1906 / FY19 AFI Infield Groomer Account; \$6,643.47 be transferred from Library / Capital Program 1504 / Children’s Room Account; \$375 be transferred from Department of Elder Affairs / Capital Program 1421 / Carpet Replacement Account; \$831 be transferred from Department of Elder Affairs / Capital Program 1421 / FY14 Study for Addition Account; \$281 be transferred from Department of Elder Affairs / Capital Program 1806 / Storage Shed Account; .72 be transferred from Schools / Capital Program 1666 / School Roof Repair Account; \$97,178.89 be transferred from Department of Public Works / Environmental Affairs and Waste Collections Program 12 / Recycling Processing Account, for a total of \$255,829 to be transferred to the Department of Public Works / Snow and Ice Program 11 / Contract Services Account.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 014 (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)

6. Human Resources

Motion: That the sum of \$73,884.29 be transferred from Human Resources / Veterans Benefit Program 06 / Veterans Benefits Account, to the Human Resources / Administration Program 01 / Vacation Buy Back Account.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 014 (6)

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)

7. Human Resources

Motion: That the sum of \$7,402.23 be transferred from Human Resources / Veterans Benefit Program 06 / Veterans Benefits Account; \$18,293 be transferred from Finance / Interest on Debt Program 51 / Bond Interests Account; \$22,821.11 be transferred from Department of Public Works / Environmental Affairs and Waste Collections Program 12 / Recycling Processing Account; \$6,029.36 be transferred from State Assessments / State Assessment and Charges Program 820 / Charter School Tuition Account, for a total of \$54,545.70 to be transferred to the Human Resources / Administration Program 01 / Sick Leave Buy Back Account.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Approve Council Order 21 014 (7)

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

• **010 21 Council President: FY2020 Year End Reports – Powers & Sullivan**

Mike Nelligan and Romina Mameli, Powers & Sullivan partners were in attendance to give their presentation on the FY2020 Year End Reports. We are the independent auditors. We split the duties of the audit so you have two eyes on the work we do. The three reports submitted are: Braintree FY2020 CAFR, Braintree FY2020 Management Letter, Braintree FY2020 SEFA. In these reports despite some revenue shortfalls you were able to lower your expenses quite a bit to cover those things. In FY2020 you spent \$4.2 million in federal funds. A report must be submitted when spending over \$750,000 in federal funds. We are required to audit and identify this every third year. This year we audited the lunch program where there were no findings. Most of these federal funds were spent by the School Department. It will be great when Munis comes online to have all the individual schools doing their expenditures etc. separately. Your internal auditors, CLA did a great report. We recommend you implement their recommendations and continue to monitor it. New GASB recommends you to identify all Leases. Our auditor findings and adjustments were not significant. All information was given to us on a timely basis. You added a new enterprise fund for PEGS. You added new debt for East middle school renovations and South middle school feasibility statement. The water & sewer borrowed money for water mains and MWRA sewer mains and Golf borrowed for simulators. Pension and OPEB are being funded. General fund decreased by \$3.6 million by lower revenues mostly because of \$1 million budgeted for Billboard that didn’t happen. License and permits were down. Transfers out of the stabilization fund

made the general fund to go down. The past 3 years in a row the General Fund has gone down. Free cash at the end of the year was just over \$3.1 million. Revenues came in \$2.7 million lower than budgeted. Expenditures came in at \$3.6 million which was lower than budgeted. Your debt service is at 3%. It is typically 5-10% and not more than 10%. You are in good shape on the debt service ratio.

President Hume asked about the Munis add on for the school lunch programs. Ed Spellman stated we will look into this again but at first we decided not to include this additional add on to Munis.

President Hume asked about OPEB and if we do not fund it for a year is there any consequences. Mike Nelligan stated yes the Town can hold off funding OPEB. The risk is you told your actuary you will fund this over a certain period of time. They build a discount rate based on your planned funding. It could cause the discount rate to go down then the liability goes up.

Councilor O'Brien stated Powers & Sullivan is our external auditors. These reports are very comprehensive. I feel very confident that they look at our books and provide us some great insight.

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 on the Department of Public Works

- 21 015 National Grid Petition: Middle Street or take up any action relative thereto
Motion made by Councilor Ringius to refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works Order 21 015
Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works Order 21 015
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 of Ways & Means

- 21 016 Mayor: Establishment of New Revolving Fund for Golf Food Services in FY21 or take up any action relative thereto
- 21 017 Mayor: Appointment—Melissa SantucciRozzi, Director, Planning and Community Development, or take up any action relative thereto

Motion made by Councilor Ringius to refer to the Committee of Ways & Means Order 21 016 and Order 21 017

- Motion:** by Councilor Ringius to Refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works Order 21 016 and Order 21 017
- 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 27, 2021@7:30pm**

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Cimino, Clerk of the Council

Meeting Documents

- Minutes of January 19, 2021
- 21 011 Resident Petition: Gas Installation at 73 Celia Road or take up any action relative thereto
- 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
- 010 21 Council President: FY2020 Year End Reports – Powers & Sullivan
- Town Auditor Report on Powers & Sullivan FY2020 Year End Reports
- Town Auditor Report on Supplemental Appropriation #2