

City of Bristol
Board of Public Works
Draft Meeting Minutes
For July 16, 2026
With Zoom Access

Members Present: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Commissioner Michael Dumas
Commissioner David Hartley
Commissioner Frank Stawski
Council Member Steven Seymour
Council Member Erick Rosengren

Absent: Council Member Gregory Hahn

Staff Present: Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works

1. Call to Order

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. June Draft Minutes

MOTION: made by Commissioner Dumas and seconded by Council Member Rosengren to accept as presented and place on file. Motion passed.

3. Public Participation

None

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Employee Recognition
- b. Directors Report
- c. Division Reports
- d. PW Project List

MOTION: made by the Board of Public Works, to accept as presented and place on file. Motion passed.

5. New Business

a. Solid Waste Holiday Operations

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated that this is a reiteration of what we do and how we handle those types of things.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, reviewed the transfer station holiday schedule and the days it would be open and closed based on the holiday. The discussion point is when it falls on the observed holiday, and the two days of proposed change would be Juneteenth and on Veterans Day we would collect on the actual day which would mean time and a half instead of double time.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Dumas to approve the Transfer Station Holiday Operations Schedule as outlined, and authorize the Director of Public Works to implement the policy and make operational adjustments as necessary based upon staffing availability, processor operating schedules, weather conditions and public service needs. Motion passed.

b. Transfer Stations non chargeable items evaluation

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, reviewed the nonchargeable items policy for the transfer station.

Commissioner Stawski stated that it is a very inclusive document, we sell the material, we should be making money taking it in.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works stated that we don't make money on it as the cost to process exceeds the cost of the items. The pesticides contamination is a real concern.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated that this is a summary of materials and they need to have a permit to bring them. These items are not charged off of their account. Also highlighted are the Connecticut Laws in terms of what we have to take versus what we don't have to take.

Commissioner Stawski stated that if we made the items free, he believes that very few homeowners would make the trip to move these items that are very heavy.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated she was happy with the policy as it is.

Commissioner Dumas asked about the scrap metal being charged if it's over the 100-pound daily limit, and asked if people bring a lot of paint.

Council Member Rosengren stated that lots of times even if he has a mixed load, he won't make a different trip to drop off separately. I don't think anything should be changed.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Dumas and seconded by Council Member Rosengren to maintain the existing Transfer Station policy regarding chargeable and non-chargeable materials. Approval of this recommendation will continue the current list of materials accepted at no charge and those subject to disposal fees without modification. Motion passed.

c. DPW Policy for DPR Trucks Hitting Low Overhead Wires

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, reviewed the policy for low overhead wires. We have had drivers hit wires. It's the height requirement of the service line, and it happens when the weather gets really hot and the lines sag. The policy is to establish a procedure for employees as to what needs to be done.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated this is a new policy and should have a 3-year review done.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Stawski to adopt the policy and review every 3 years. Motion passed.

d. BOF Bid Waiver-MS4 Stormwater Testing

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu, stated the MS4 testing is fiscally prudent and expedites to do it this way and there is a motion to be made, then we can discuss.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Council Member Seymour to authorize DPW to submit a request to the Board of Finance for a bid waiver to procure the services of Eurofins Drinking Water and Wastewater Central, LLC for specialized stormwater laboratory testing of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) required under the City's MS4 Permit and EPA Administrative Order, in an amount of \$30,000. Motion passed.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated that we have the overarching issue of the EPA administrative order and now we have all of these pieces that the director has been putting in place to address them.

Commissioner Stawski asked if we are the only one in the state and while reading this, I was shocked there is no local company that does this testing.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated the current MS4 does require this testing and it's a series of components. The EPA told Bristol to follow the upcoming permit, but all communities will have to do this, we just happen to be the first one. I asked EPA that we can't find labs and they said to talk to DEEP, but I haven't heard anything from them. The local Connecticut labs we went to said they outsource it to the company in Indiana.

e. Transfer Station Recycling Bldg. Fire

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu, reviewed the fire at the transfer station and the scope of repairs needed after the fire and the funding of repairs.

Council Member Rosengren asked if they knew what caused the fire?

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated no, they will probably never know what caused it.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Council Member Rosengren to authorize the Department of Public Works to advertise for bids and proceed with repairs to the Transfer Station Recycling Material Processing Building resulting from the April 29, 2026 fire. The Base Bid shall include:

- a. Replacement of siding on the lower portion of the north (rear) elevation.
- b. Replacement of siding on the lower northern portion of the west elevation.
- c. Surface preparation and painting of fire-damaged structural steel framing members.

The bid shall also include the following Additive Alternate Items, in priority order:

- d. Paint the west elevation visible to Transfer Station users.
- e. Replace siding on the lower northern portion of the east elevation.
- f. Replace the northern portion of the roof.
- g. Paint the entire north and west building elevations.

The Board further authorizes DPW to return to the Board of Finance, if necessary, to request additional funding required to complete the Base Bid work (Items a through c). Motion Passed.

f. BOF Request Recycling Form- Brace and O'Sullivan

MOTION: made by Commissioner Dumas and seconded by Council Member Rosengren to approve the Board of Finance Transfer from the RIF municipal grant in aid revenue fund to the O'Sullivan Storm Drainage revenue fund, and the source of a portion of the projects funding was originally anticipated to be Connecticut LOCIP, however,

funding will now be provided with Connecticut Municipal Grant and aid funds in the amount of \$120,000.00.
Motion passed

7 Any other Matter to come before said meeting

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu asked for a motion to add to the agenda a Board of Finance Bid Waiver for the Matthews St Rail Road Crossing.

MOTION: made by Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Commissioner Stawski to add to the agenda the DPW request for Board of Finance bid waiver and additional appropriation for the Matthew Street at-grade railroad crossing. Motion passed.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu, stated we have had some unsuccessful bids to try to keep the spur in place and now we are looking to transfer money from the Road Infrastructure Fund to supplement our existing appropriation. We advertised publicly for competitive bids, and none were received.

MOTION: made by made by Council Member Rosengren to approve the bid waiver authorizing the procurement of the Matthew Street Railroad Crossing Replacement project and to transfer \$130,000.00 from the road improvement fund to complete the Matthew Street Railroad Crossing Replacement Project.

Council Member Seymour stated that the bid amount was \$180,000.00

MOTION: to correct the amount to \$180,000.00 made by Commissioner Dumas and seconded by Council Member Rosengren. Motion passed.

Commissioner Stawski stated that his research shows we are the only community that has a railroad. It has a history and over the past five years has been costing us a lot of money. I believe Amrise is the only one that uses it for bringing in chemicals in because they make foam insulation. I would like to present the thought of maybe divesting ourselves of this railroad. During the sale of the 139 acres, it was determined to be important and there will be a plan for an oil distribution center to be built, but in the long run we would be much better off financially.

Commissioner Hartley stated he looks at this as an economic development thing, yes, it's expensive, but nobody else would buy it and quite frankly its literally keeping hazardous waste vehicles off the road. Some of the stuff used to make the foam board insulation is pretty nasty stuff. It's probably safer to be off the road. Honestly, it's the price we have to pay sometimes for the tax revenue we are getting from that site.

Commissioner Stawski stated it is not his intention to disband it, it's to relocate ownership.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu asked if there would be entities that would be interested in buying in as well as the associated cost.

Commissioner Stawski stated if the real estate investment trust might be interested in receiving it as a gift, so when they go to sell it next, they could handle it.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated she agrees with Commissioner Hartley, I don't see this as fruitful, but what we could do tonight is to just have a conversation and maybe sketch out what the cost-benefit analysis in terms of taxes and those types of things received, is we can refer this matter to the economic and community development commission, and ask them to provide back a report of how they view that as an asset versus a liability in terms of that specific facility as well as the other industrial sites that are up there.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Stawski and seconded by Counsel Member Rosengren to refer to ECD for evaluation and cost benefit for the last five years. Motion passed.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu asked for the state nipper funds \$32,135.00 to transfer into program supplies.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Council Member Rosengren to transfer \$32,125.00 to transfer into program supplies. Motion passed.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu discussed the memo with the request that we are purchasing 500 solid waste barrels, but the manufacturer of one of the models that we've used for a very long time, are no longer able to service the replacement parts.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated there are about 44,000 barrels out there between recycling and rubbish. We think 70% of them are these otto barrels. The main thing that breaks is the covers. We have had spare parts and honestly for 9 months we keep giving them a hard time about why we aren't getting them and they finally said we don't make them anymore. The main thing that breaks is the lid, and we won't be able to replace them. We have gone as far as contacting some injection molding companies but it starts at \$50,000 which is not feasible.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated this is going to be a huge impact for us how we utilize these barrels.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated that we have the old and new models, the old models is about 70% of our inventory.

Commissioner Dumas asked if we take the new barrels to a neighborhood and keep their old barrels for parts for the ones we need.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated that we would have to increase it because we need the barrels for breakage and new houses that get built.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated this is becoming a problem so we are going to order more barrels, so we will have them, and the nice thing is they are an allowed use for Nipper funds so it's not hitting the bottom line or taxpayers have to pay for them.

6 Old Business

Mayor Zoppo- Sassu spoke about the significance of the July 4th storm that was unexpected and unforecasted. The majority of that damage is on private property. With it being a holiday and supervisors on vacation, myself and Ray acted as supervisors that night. We had the tree crew out, a loader, a dispatcher and we were able to work effectively with Eversource by entering all of our data into the Eversource portal right away. We did have one medical emergency, which escalated Eversource's arrival. We had low hanging wires and trees that were on lines. It was horrible. In the dawn of the next day, it became more obvious that most of the damage was in people's backyards. We have been triaging this for the last week and we are doing storm debris pick up. A tree on Nelsons Farm Conservation Easement is a tree we are taking care of. Ray remembered about a fund he set up for removal of limbs from brooks, so a woman on Shrub Road was able to hire a contractor and because this program was put in place, she will get 50% reimbursement of that bill. Eric was helping people cut up trees and load generators. It was an all-hands-on deck situation. So, I would like to publicly say our staff did a great job and I will say that Eversource was extremely responsive and we were one of the first communities restored out of the band of communities that were hardest hit. These are the types of things that happen when you have a strong infrastructure and a strong leadership team it's evident when they have to respond to that.

Commissioner Hartley stated that Eversource was really looking to bring the maximum number of people back on. I was in one of the hardest hit areas on Jerome Ave and we were back on by 12:30 Monday. Sunday was a complete assessment day and built work packaged overnight and Monday morning the crews were out at the crack of dawn.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu, stated, the first phase is to make safe and then its evaluation so that when the restoration crews come in, they actually have all the tools and equipment to do the work. We were fortunate that we were able to do as much as we could.

Council Member Rosengren stated people reached out to him about who should they contact if they have large branches that are right over the power lines?

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated they can contact public works or the public works email or they can call Eversource, who has a tree warden.

Commissioner Hartley stated Eversource 800 numbers are trained to take the calls and create a list and a work order.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated we have a great contact with Eversource and were in constant communication with them. They do have a system and I have zero complaints about them and how quickly we were restored and it's built on the fact that we have a very open and good conversation with them on all days of the year, not just on storm days. I also wanted this on record because the Brook removal policy that Ray authored years ago come in handy this weekend and we were able to help residents. Also, just because residents are outside of the debris pick up map, they just need to call us and we send out for evaluation and we pick it up. We are a public service and we are just asking people to follow the process. There was a Coolidge Ave issue, are we going to talk about that?

Raymond Rogozinski, stated the city engineer was asked to contact the Coolidge resident property owner and we will be adding it to our fall paving program.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated there will not be a public works meeting in August.

6. Adjournment

MOTION: made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Stawski to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting adjourned.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E.
Director of Public Works