

# LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 16, 2021

- Present:** Anthony Suffriti - Chair  
Rosemary Sandlin – Vice Chair  
George Bitzas  
Mario Tedeschi
- Absent:** Gina Letellier
- Also Present:** Councilors Cavallo, Mercadante and Rossi along with Mayor Sapelli and Solicitor Buoniconti
- Called to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Suffriti at 6:03pm.in the AJHS Auditorium

## AGENDA

### 1. **Approval of Minutes dated February 8, 2021**

Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Councilor Tedeschi and seconded by Councilor Sandlin.

The vote was 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Letellier) approving the minutes.

### 2. **TOR-2021-1 - An Ordinance to amend Chapter 103 of the Code of the Town of Agawam for electric vehicle charging station fees (Mayor Sapelli)**

Solicitor asked to table this item to gather additional information for the City Council and Administration. Councilor Bitzas questioned the charge at \$1 per kW and the cost of electricity to the Town. The Solicitor said the charge was looked at by comparing it with surrounding communities and will cover the cost to the Town of Agawam. The cost of the subscription is included in the \$1 kW. The Town of Agawam is charged .10 kW and .50 kW for supply and delivery and .40 kW is for subscription fees. There is an expectation that the fee will be reduced in 2022 due to state level legislation with the Department of Utilities which would reduce a portion of the charging station fees. Councilor Sandlin explained the amount of the charging station in Easthampton. She also said they don't have subscription fees. Easthampton is losing money and the Pride Station in Springfield provides a different deal through Tesla. Councilor Tedeschi asked if we had seven charging stations and when would the subscription end. The Solicitor stated that indeed there were seven charging stations due to a better deal with Eversource if the Town of Agawam had more charging stations noting that Eversource would pay half. The subscription is paid annually and is paid in advance so the Town of Agawam is locked in through the end of 2021. The pandemic is cutting down on people driving but there is a national push for electric vehicles. Councilor Rossi said the charge needed to be equal with the cost. It is cheaper at home but takes all night versus the charging station rate. We have to look at other options moving forward. Councilor Mercadante believes there are two types of people that buy electric – environmentalists and cost savings people. Electric is not competitive with fossil fuels. All bills are about 1000 per month to the town and the town needs to move into the electric vehicle future but also needs to find a common sense approach of doing the cost of the industry. Councilor Cavallo said the town cannot subsidize electric vehicle charging stations – it cannot be free – we must offset the cost of use. Councilor Bitzas agreed and said there should be no taxpayer offset of the cost.

Motion to table was moved by Councilor Sandlin and seconded by Councilor Tedeschi. The vote was 4 Yes, 0 No 1 Absent (Councilor Letellier)

### 3. **TR-2021-13 - A Resolution petitioning the General Court to amend the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94, Section 321 by adding a deposit to miniature alcoholic beverage containers (Sponsored by Councilor Bitzas and Councilor Tedeschi)**

Councilor Bitzas thanked his co-sponsor for the Bill to the State House and hopes Full Council will support.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the Full Council made by Councilor Sandlin and seconded by Councilor Tedeschi. The vote was 4 Yes, 0 No 1 Absent (Councilor Letellier)

### 4. **TR-2021-14 - A Resolution opposing internet data caps and committing to analyzing internet access and affordability (Sponsored by Councilors Sandlin and Bitzas)**

Councilor Sandlin stated surrounding communities are doing similar resolutions as Comcast is imposing data caps to residents. With the current pandemic, more people are working from home and using more data adding more stress to families. Councilor Bitzas agreed with Councilor Sandlin and feels this is just another way for Comcast to cash in on residents. He thanked the Mayor for forming a task force.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the Full Council made by Councilor Sandlin and seconded by Councilor Bitzas. The vote was 4 Yes, 0 No 1 Absent (Councilor Letellier)

**5. Any other business that may legally come before the Committee.**

None.

**6. Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn was moved by Councilor Bitzas and seconded by Councilor Sandlin. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Councilor Anthony Suffriti, Chair  
Legislative Committee