



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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May 6, 2019

The May 6th meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Daniel Spencer at 7:00 PM with members Cindy McNulty and Michael Connor in attendance.

Public Hearing – To discuss acceptance of a Residential Irrigation Backflow Device Testing Policy and Procedure and for a revision to the Solid Waste Fees and Rates.

Mr. Spencer read the public hearing notice.

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to delay the Public Hearing to allow for Mrs. Mary MacKinnon, CFO, to update the Board on three separate matters.

Mrs. MacKinnon stated that the Town would be issuing debt at the end of June and she would need the Board to hold a meeting on June 17th to approve the sale and to sign associated borrowing paperwork. She asked the Board if this would be possible. Chairman Spencer said it shouldn't be a problem and would get back to her on a time for posting purposes.

Mrs. MacKinnon also requested the support of the Board for End of Fiscal Year Budget Transfers that will not be done at the Town Meeting. On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to transfer \$700 from Finance – Overtime to Finance – Supplies and \$4000 from Assessor – Salaries to Stormwater – Salaries. Please see attached.

Mrs. MacKinnon stated that Mr. Fraine had recently appointed a new Town Treasurer/Collector, a Mr. Paul Redmond. She and Denis interviewed him and are both confident Mr. Redmond is qualified and capable of stepping in and performing all necessary requirements of what the position entails. At this time she and Denis are requesting the Board's ratification of this appointment. On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to ratify the appointment of Mr. Paul Redmond to the position of Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Bellingham.

The Public Hearing was continued and Mr. Don DiMartino, DPW director, explained the reason for the hearing was to discuss a new Residential Irrigation Backflow Device Test Policy and Procedure that the DPW would like to implement and is looking for the Board's approval. The Town has roughly 285 residents with irrigation systems. The systems must have a testable backflow preventer device which needs to be inspected on an annual basis to ensure the system is working properly. If the devices are not working properly these systems could fail and will cause serious problems to the water quality of the entire drinking water system. The DPW will inspect the backflow devices at no charge and can often do so without an appointment. However, some devices are behind fences or are obstructed in other ways. If this is the case the DPW will make an

appointment to come out and inspect. If a resident makes an appointment and the DPW comes out and the resident is a no show the DPW is requesting approval from the Board to charge the resident a \$75 no show fee. In addition, if the resident schedules their own inspection with a service company, the DPW will abate the resident's account by \$10 upon proof of inspection.

Mr. Spencer asked if there were comments from the audience. Mr. Bob Biagi of Sidney Lane asked if there would be some sort of cancellation policy if the resident was unable to keep his or her appointment and Mr. DiMartino stated that they would absolutely be able to cancel as long as they notified the DPW before getting there.

Jackie Makowski of Lake Street stated she has an irrigation system with a backflow prevention device and she has never been contacted by the DPW. Mr. DiMartino stated that most likely they are able to test without her being home and there is nothing that she needs to do at this time.

The second part of the Public Hearing was to address whether or not the Town would start charging residents for additional recycling containers. Mr. Fraine stated that there are 244 residents with second containers. Mr. Fraine pointed out that when Bellingham started the tote program the cost of disposing of the recyclables was free. Now the current cost to dispose is \$54 per ton. Mr. Fraine suggested charging a fee of \$20 a quarter which would be equivalent to half the difference between the family rate and the 2-family rate. Mr. Spencer stated he thought this was a reasonable rate and it would still encourage residents to recycle. The 244 residents with an additional recycling tote would be notified of the increasing fee next quarter and the following quarter the fees would be implemented. If a resident did not wish to pay an additional fee the DPW would go and pick up the extra container.

Mr. Spencer asked if there were comments from the audience. Kim O'Neal of Trenton Street stated she did not agree with the fee increase. She stated she had done some research and that Bellingham is one of the most expensive trash fees in the surrounding area. Mr. Fraine stated that these other towns charge for any additional items disposed of at the curb or at their recycle centers and Bellingham does not. Mr. Fraine additionally pointed out that we give our seniors a break on trash rates. There are 1000 seniors that only pay a single family fee of \$45 and a \$25 Capital Improvement fee as opposed to the standard rate of \$225. Mr. Fraine stated that trash is an enterprise fund and the funds generated for it pay the costs. No money is made on trash fees. Ms. O'Neal also stated she doesn't understand why a 2-family trash rate is not double what a single family rate pays.

Ms. Rosemary Glynn asked which accounts were considered Lifeline accounts. Mr. Fraine stated Lifeline accounts were subsidized based on need and applicants must qualify and submit documentation on regular basis.

The Board determined that the Public Hearing to discuss the fee for an additional recycling tote would be continued so that they could look further into how the current fees are distributed and then determine how much the Board would charge for an additional tote.

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to continue the Solid Waste Fees and Rates Public Hearing until June 10, 2019 and to close the Residential Irrigation Backflow Device Testing Policy and Procedure Public Hearing.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the Residential Irrigation Backflow Device Testing Policy and Procedure as written and submitted by the Department of Public Works.

While in front of the Board, Don DiMartino wanted to advise residents that passes for Silver Lake Beach were available and he would encourage residents to use the online system. The residents could use the receipt they receive immediately as their pass while they wait for paper one to be mailed directly to them.

Mr. DiMartino also reminded residents that there was a Water Use Restriction in Effective as of May 1, 2019. This is a MassDEP required seasonal minimum use restriction and no automatic lawn irrigation is allowed between the hours of 9AM to 5PM daily.

National Grid LED Street Light Conversion Vote

Mr. Fraine reviewed the Town's net metering agreement and found that converting to energy efficient lighting does not conflict with the agreement.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve an LED Street Light Conversion program with the Town's street lights serviced and owned by National Grid.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to award Contract 2019-CA, Casting Adjustment to the low bidder Martinez Road Construction, Inc. of Fitchburg, MA in the amount of \$27,025.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to award Contract 2019-RRVS, Road Resurfacing Various Streets to T. Miozzi, Inc. of North Kingstown, RI in the amount of \$862,331.01. Under discussion, Mr. Connor asked Mr. DiMartino if he would post a list online of the streets that will be paved and he said he would.

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the March abatements for capital improvement charges, residential water, residential sewer, residential trash, and municipal water in the amount of \$10,949.34. Under discussion Mr. Connor asked why penalties are being abated. Mr. DiMartino stated that a resident is charged a penalty if their meter is not working properly resulting in estimates. If the resident allows the DPW to come in and change the meter, penalties incurred during that time will be abated. Mr. DiMartino stated that there are about 20 out of 5800 customers that refuse to allow the DPW to come in the replace the meters and continue to pay the penalties as a result.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the April 22nd minutes as submitted.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Fraine announced some important dates to note:

- May 19th Memorial Day Parade – participants will leave the MS parking lot at 1PM.
- May 22nd Annual Town Meeting set for Wednesday May 22nd at 7:30PM in the HS auditorium.
- May 29th from 4PM-6PM Jim Kupfer will be running a rain barrel sale at the DPW. Rain barrels can be purchased at cost.
- June 2nd at the Senior Center the Historical Commission will hold their annual recognition of the Town's oldest residents.
- June 13th at 10AM the new Bellingham Urgent Care located at 1 Wrentham Road will have a ribbon cutting ceremony.
- June 22nd from 9AM-1PM will be the Town's Annual Household Waste Collection Day at the Senior Center. Details can be found online.
- June 29th from 9AM-12PM will be the Municipal Center Community Shredding Day being sponsored by the 300th Anniversary Committee and conducted by E.L. Harvey.

Mr. Connor asked Mr. Fraine for an update on the site of the old police station. Mr. Fraine advised that this will be the site of a Tri-centennial Park consisting of ceremonial bricks, two benches being donated by the Class of 1969 and the Class of 2019 as well as the site of a new flag pole being donated by the Lions Club. This will be a nice piece of green space and a dedication ceremony will take place sometime in September.

Box Pond Drive Layout Meeting – 8PM

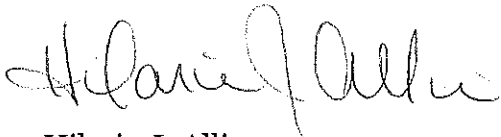
Mr. DiMartino came before the Board to present plans for Box Pond Drive to be accepted as a public way at the Annual Town Meeting. The plans were prepared by the Norfolk County Engineering Department free of charge and have been accepted by the Planning Board. Abutters were notified of the layout meeting and Mr. DiMartino will submit the filing of the plan and layout order to the Town Clerk's office. There has been some major drainage issues on Box Pond Drive for the past few years so with the Town's acceptance of this roadway, the DPW will be able to address the issues.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to recommend Article 20 Box Pond Drive Permanent Roadway Easements at the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 22, 2019 at 7:30PM.

Minutes of May 6, 2019
Page 5

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hilarie J. Allie".

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant