



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

Tel: 508-966-5800 * Fax: 508-966-4425

September 16, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Daniel Spencer with Mr. Connor, Mr. Martinis and Mrs. McNulty in attendance.

Discussion of FY18 Audit – Robert E. Brown, II, CPA

Mr. Brown appeared before the Board along with his colleague Sean Desorcy. They reviewed their annual financial audit in which they examined the basic financial statements and the use of funds from the Federal Grant Programs. In their opinion, the financial statements presented fairly. Mr. Brown stated the glaring hit that shows up on the financial statements was a result of the establishment of trust funds for liabilities. He also stated that there was one finding in the Federal Funds single audit report pertaining to a procedural issue in the special education department, but it shouldn't have an impact on funding. Mr. Connor asked about the Schedule of Investment Return on page 76 and Mrs. MacKinnon said this was in reference to OPEB. Mr. Spencer thanked Mr. Brown for his time.

Mary MacKinnon, CFO

Mrs. MacKinnon stated she has come before the Board this evening for two items. The Town offers a low interest loan program, called Title 5, that allows homeowners to borrow money to replace failed septic systems. This loan is added to the homeowner's tax bill and paid over a specified period. The Board of Health authorizes these loans and keeps a log of residents waiting for them. This interim loan note of \$300,000, as authorized by the May 2019 Town Meeting, that the Town receives to cover the cost of the loans, requires the Board's signature. The Town distributes the loans and historically charges 1% higher than the interest rate being charged to cover any administrative costs.

On a Connor/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the execution of the loan documents for a \$300,000 Interim Loan related to the Financing Agreement number CWT-19-13.

Mrs. MacKinnon stated she was asking the Board this evening to authorize the Declaration of Trust for OPEB. Currently the OPEB trust fund has \$515,000 yielding a rate of return of less than 2%. The vote tonight would authorize the Town to move the funds to a state trust fund with a rate of return between 5-10%. Mr. Martinis asked who manages this fund and Mrs. MacKinnon stated it is managed by PRIM. Mr. Connor asked how a fund like this would have been affected in 2008 and Mrs. MacKinnon stated there is always some level of risk, but this would allow for better diversification. On a Connor/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Declaration of Trust for OPEB.

Josie Dutil, COA Director

Mr. Fraine stated Josie Dutil, Bill Elzroth and Kay Page were here before the Board this evening asking them for their support on a capital item that will be on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant. The COA is asking for \$125,000 from the Town for an architectural design for the Senior Center. Mr. Fraine explained that a feasibility study and space needs assessment have already been completed as well as a bid process from various architects. Josie indicated that they have chosen an architectural firm that has responded to the needs of the seniors. They were looking for the plans to hit on 3 issues: space for private offices, added storage, and a commercial kitchen. The senior center would like to start offering low cost/healthy meals to their seniors. The estimated construction cost would be roughly \$1.2M. This would include updates to the interior design of the senior center, the expansion of the kitchen, along with the commercial equipment, private offices, and an update to the HVAC system.

On a Martinis/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to recommend the capital request of \$125,000 for the architectural design of the Senior Center. Under further discussion, Mr. Martinis asked Josie if there were grant programs associated with their renovations and she confirmed there are, but they aren't at the point in the timeline when they can apply for these grants just yet.

Signing of the 2019 Fall Town Warrant

Mr. Fraine stated the Board is being asked to sign the Fall Town Warrant, summarized a few articles and asked the Board if they had any questions. Mr. Connor asked why Article 17 was necessary. Mr. Fraine stated there was a type of salamander protected by the Mass Audubon and a certain amount of land must be set aside for them. The Board discussed the Used Car Article and Mrs. McNulty voiced her concerns with the number of vehicles in the lot at Sunoco on Hartford Ave. Mr. Fraine stated he would have the Commissioner go back and see them again.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the request of the Bellingham Lions for their annual White Cane Drive (toll road) on Saturday October 19th, rain date October 26th, at intersections in South and North Bellingham; insurance binder on file with the Town.

Public Hearing – Application of Parimal Patel d/b/a Bellingham Grocery, Parimal Patel, Mgr., for the change of location of the Package Store Wines and Malts License from 19 North Main Street to proposed address of 20 North Main Street. And for a change of DBA from Bellingham Grocery to Bellingham Convenience and Smoke Shop.

Mr. Spencer read the public hearing notice. Mr. & Mrs. Patel stated they were requesting a change of location for the Beer and Wine license. They are currently located at 19 North Main Street and would like to move across the street to 20 North Main Street. They own that building and would prefer to discontinue paying rent at 19 North Main. They will occupy the right side of the building. Mr. Martinis asked if the business would remain the same and they stated it would. They would continue to sell beer and wine, snacks and

smoking merchandise. Mrs. Patel stated they would also like to increase the sales of CBD products and e-cigarettes. Mr. Connor asked why they felt it was important to change the name to include smoke shop? He feels it is sending the wrong message and doesn't approve of it. Mr. Martinis stated he doesn't have a problem with the store or what they are selling but doesn't like the sound of a smoke shop either. Mrs. McNulty agreed she does not want the name of the store at the new location to include the title of smoke shop in it. The Patel's agreed they would rename the business to Bellingham Beer & Wine. Mr. Spencer asked if there was anyone in the audience there for the public hearing to which there was no response.

On a McNulty/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted to close the Public Hearing. On a Connor/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted to approve the application of Parimal Patel d/b/a Bellingham Grocery, Parimal Patel, Mgr., for the change of location of the Package Store Wines and Malts License from 19 North Main Street to the proposed address of 20 North Main Street.

On a McNulty/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted to allow a DBA name change from Bellingham Grocery to Bellingham Beer & Wine.

Millerville Men's Club – One Day Special Permit All Alcohol Request

Mr. Robert Dubois, treasurer of the Millerville Men's Club, stated he would be requesting a One Day Special Permit for the sale of beer, wine and alcohol at Michael Soter's house, 40 Fox Run road, on Saturday October 5th from 2PM to 7PM. He stated there was a scheduling conflict and the event had to be moved to Mr. Soter's residence. Mr. Dubois stated the bar sales would take place inside the home and he would have experienced TIP certified bar tenders at the event. He stated the Millerville Men's club had obtained the proper liability insurance. This event is a fundraiser for Mr. Soter and Governor Baker would be in attendance. 100 people are expected by invitation only and the invitations had already been mailed out. Mr. Martinis asked if the club had ever obtained a permit to do something like this at a residence. Mr. Dubois said they had done so one time in Blackstone. Mr. Martinis said he didn't like the fact that invitations had already gone out and he thought it set a bad precedent. Mr. Connor didn't like the idea of it being at a home where the parking would be done on a public street as opposed to parking at a business. Mr. Dubois reiterated that they had gone through all the proper channels and the people attending this party are respected by the Town and the event will take place during the day. Mr. Martinis stated he supports Mr. Soter and knows they are now in a time crunch but still does not like the precedent this is setting. On a McNulty/Martinis motion, the Board voted 3 in favor with Mr. Connor abstaining to allow the Millerville Men's Club a One Day Special Permit for All Alcohol on Saturday October 5th at 40 Fox Run Road from 2PM to 7PM.

On a Connor/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to award Contract 2019-SAWM, Scott Hill Boulevard & Arthur Street Water Mains to the low bidder J. D'Amico, Inc. of Randolph, MA in the amount of \$724,813.65.

On a Connor/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the DPW to purchase rock salt for the Fiscal Year 2020 in accordance with bids received in the Cooperative Bid Number PW412 administered by the Town of Framingham.

On a McNulty/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the August abatements for capital improvement charges, residential sewer, residential trash, and residential water in the amount of \$10,811.73.

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the August 15th minutes as submitted.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Fraine reminded the Board the Fall Town meeting will take place Wednesday November 13th at 7:30PM and they would be getting together at some point to go over the motions.

EEE spraying has been completed and we will remain at high risk until the first frost. The Town has been awarded the \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant they applied for. \$500,000 of which will go towards Housing Rehab and \$300,000 will go towards improving the handicap accessible sidewalk crossings.

Mrs. McNulty stated it might be beneficial for the Board of Health to come to a meeting to help her as well as our community understand the vaping epidemic and what regulations we should be made aware of. Mr. Martinis agreed.

Mr. Fraine requested an executive session pertaining to a discussion of Contract Negotiations as well as the purchase of land. Members of the Board were polled with all voting in the affirmative. The Board will not return to open session.

On a Martinis/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM with no further business to be discussed at the conclusion of the executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilarie J. Allie', written in a cursive style.

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant