



# Town of Bellingham

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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April 22, 2019

The April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Spencer with Mrs. McNulty, Mr. Martinis and Mr. Connor in attendance.

### Board of Registrars Interviews

- Robert Griffin III

Mr. Griffin stated he is a Real Estate agent and has a flexible schedule and also works part time as a food inspector for the Town. He has volunteered at the Town elections in the past and also volunteers his time with the Housing Authority.

Mrs. McNulty asked Mr. Griffin what he liked most about the possibility of a position on the Board of Registrars. Mr. Griffin stated he likes being involved with the elections and he feels local politics have the most impact on society.

Mr. Connor asked Mr. Griffin how long he has been involved with the Town. Mr. Griffin stated that it was a year this past February that he has been working with the Housing Authority and that he has been a food inspector since December. Mr. Connor further asked why he wanted to be involved with a 3<sup>rd</sup> Board. Mr. Griffin once again stated he likes being involved in the community and feels local politics have the most impact.

Mr. Spencer stated Mr. Griffin personally reached out and said he could tell he was passionate about politics and that Mr. Griffin has worked at several elections already.

Mr. Connor stated all but one position in our upcoming election was uncontested and asked Mr. Griffin why he didn't pull papers to run for office. Mr. Griffin stated that being only 21 he was still learning from the process.

- Sandra Tracy

Mrs. Tracy stated she was up for reappointment. She has enjoyed being on the Board of Registrars and has learned a lot about the election process and has seen some things she would like to change. One example she stated was the registration process. She has found a lot of people think they are registered to vote when actually they are not, largely due to a lack of communication. Her idea would be to go into the high school and register eligible students on the spot.

Mr. Connor asked Mrs. Tracy how long she has served on the Board of Registrars. Mrs. Tracy stated she was elected for a 3 year term and has been on hold for one year.

Mr. Martinis and Mrs. McNulty both asked what kind of specific ideas Mrs. Tracy had in mind to get voters out to the elections. Mrs. Tracy stated that there needs to be a way to connect to young voters. She also stated she would like to make available the opportunity for residents to register to vote while they are out and about at public places such as grocery stores. She stated her kids are older now and she has more flexibility and free time.

Mr. Spencer stated Mr. Griffin is passionate about politics and when he reached out to him he stated that he would like to do a voter awareness drive at the high school. Mr. Spencer stated Mr. Griffin would have his vote.

Mr. Martinis stated this decision was difficult and very challenging for him. Due to the fact that he doesn't know either one of the candidates personally his vote would go to Mrs. Tracy based on her previous Board experience but advised Mr. Griffin to stay active with the community.

Mrs. McNulty stated she knows Mr. Griffin on a personal level and admires his work ethic, energy and enthusiasm and he would have her vote.

The Martinis/Connor motion to reappoint Mrs. Sandra Tracy to the Board of Registrars was denied on a 2-2 vote. Mr. Martinis and Mr. Connor were in favor while Mr. Spencer and Mrs. McNulty opposed.

Mr. Spencer stated the Board will have to reconsider the vote in May after the elections when they are operating with a 5 member Board.

#### National Grid – LED Street Light Conversion

Mr. Bob Moran & Mr. Bill Isaksen of National Grid came before the Board to present the possibility of converting all of the Town's National Grid street lights to LED lamps. In summary converting the lights which are now primarily High Pressure Sodium bulbs to LED's would help to produce more light with less wattage, save on energy, save on costs and they are easier to maintain. The Town would also receive a one-time incentive of roughly \$.25 per annual kilowatt saved for doing the conversion. Mr. Moran's presentation is attached.

Mr. Martinis asked if they have received calls from residents in towns where they have already converted about the lights being too bright. Mr. Moran stated yes these call do exist but if and when this does happen, National Grid could then install a shield on the fixture blocking some of the light at no additional cost to the Town.

Mr. Spencer asked how long a conversion like this would take and Mr. Moran stated Milford recently converted their 1700 lights and it took 7 to 8 months. Bellingham has roughly 800 lights that would need to be converted.

Mr. Martinis asked about police detail and if that would impact the cost savings. Mr. Moran said National Grid would be responsible for the cost of any police detail needed and would work with the Bellingham Police Department.

Mr. Connor asked if converting to energy efficient lights would have any impact on the current supplier agreement we have and Mr. Fraine stated he would look into that further.

Mrs. Mary MacKinnon the Town's CFO asked if accepting this one-time incentive would block the Town from other energy incentives and further asked if LED is still the best technology in terms of energy efficient or is there something new coming down the pipeline. Mr. Moran stated that we would still be eligible for other incentives and LED is still the best option.

The Board agreed that after Mr. Fraine reviews the supplier contract they would like to put this to vote at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Mary MacKinnon – Budge Update

On Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> the Town received the House Ways and Means budget for FY20 and it showed an increase of \$572,000 to the charter school assessment and additional state aid revenue of \$240,000 unfortunately still leaving a deficit of roughly \$333,000 to the budget. To remedy this deficit several changes had to be made. The school department is being asked to apply \$200,000 of this deficit to their budget and the rest will come from police, fire and the department of public works.

On a McNulty/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Margaret (Wendy) Wright to the Council on Aging for a 3 year term.

On a Martinis/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Samuel Taddeo and Patrick Kelleher as Assistant Animal Control Officers each for a 1 year term.

On a Martinis/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to accept the April 8<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted with Cindy McNulty abstaining.

Outline of Town Administrator's Report – Attached

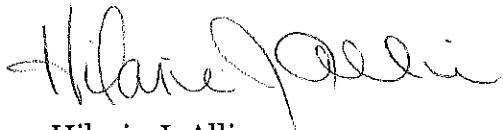
- Mr. Fraine stated they would be interviewing candidates for the new Town Treasurer/Collector and invited any Board members who would like to sit in on them.
- Police negotiations with the assistance of a state appointed mediator will take place next week. This same process was done during the fire negotiations and it helped them come to a resolution.
- The June Board of Selectmen meeting will convene at the DPW then move over to the Arcand Meeting room. Mr. Fraine would like the Board to see the recently completed renovations and the challenges they are facing with storage issues and properly protecting equipment. A feasibility study was completed in 2011 and the cost to do all necessary renovations was enormous but they need to start talking about it.
- Mr. Fraine would like to implement a town wide curbside clothing collection program from an independent company on the resident's recycle day. This company will provide all the literature to the residents explaining the procedure and will also provide residents with the recycle bags they will need to use.
- Algonquin Gas will be conducting maintenance on their pipeline in the area of Depot Street between the dates of April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Residents may smell gas or see a large (40') flare but there will be a fire detail present at all times.
- Norfolk County Mosquito Control will be aerial spraying this week.

On a Martinis/Connor motion the Board voted to allow the curbside clothing collection company, WasteZero, to begin servicing the Town. The motion carried on a 3-1 vote with Mrs. McNulty opposing. Mrs. McNulty stated she understands the concept of it and agrees it would be convenient for residents but prefers to use a nonprofit company for donations.

Mr. Fraine requested an executive session with the Board to discuss ongoing contract negotiations. Members of the Board were polled with all voting in the affirmative.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM and noted they would not return to open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Hilarie J. Allie  
Administrative Assistant