



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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

December 18, 2023

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Arcand Meeting Room by Chairman Michael Connor. Actively participating in the meeting were the following Board members: Mr. Connor, Mr. Sahin, Mrs. Odabashian and Mr. Hennessy via Zoom. Also actively participating in the meeting was Interim Town Administrator Denis Fraine and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. This meeting was accessible to the public either in-person, via the Zoom online option or ABMI Cable TV.

Public Hearing – on the application of PP Sisters Inc., d/b/a Star Wines & Spirits, Maged Badrous, Mgr. for the transfer of the package store all alcoholic beverages license from Bellingham Star Corp. and pledge of license and inventory. Premises located at 280 Hartford Ave.

Mr. Connor welcomed via Zoom Mr. Tom Traux representing attorney for PP Sisters Inc. as well as Mr. Maged Badrous, proposed licensed manager and sole principal for the corporation. Attorney Traux stated Rockland Trust would be providing the financing and they require a pledge of license as well as inventory for collateral of the loan. Attorney Traux stated Mr. Badrous has 3 years of experience working in a package store and is TIP Certified and just recently completed a package store certification training program. The business will continue with the same hours and layout and they will keep one full time employee. Mr. Traux stated he has had a conversation with his client to remain vigorous with carding patrons as the current owner has been doing. Mr. Connor stated that the Police Chief has been reviewing the sting policy and plans to start conducting them in the new year. Mr. Connor stressed the importance of using card readers and Mr. Traux agreed.

There were no further comments or questions from the Board or the audience.

On an Odabashian/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the transfer of the Package Store All Alcoholic Beverages License from Bellingham Star Corp. to PP Sisters Inc. with proposed manager Maged Badrous.

On a Connor/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the pledge of license and the pledge of inventory to Rockland Trust.

Appointment of Payroll Coordinator and Library Custodian

Mr. Fraine explained that Ms. Cornell-Smith and Ms. Lindsey Gentile have been interviewing candidates for the Payroll Coordinator and have selected Ms. Toni Akin. She comes to the Town highly recommended and is qualified to step right into the position.

On an Odabashian/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to appoint Toni Akin as the Payroll Coordinator for the Town of Bellingham.

Mr. Fraine stated Ms. Rivard and the library trustees have been interviewing candidates for the library custodian position and have selected Ms. Amanda Campano. She is currently working for the schools and comes highly recommended.

Minutes of December 18, 2023

Page 2

On an Odabashian/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to appoint Amanda Campano as the Library Custodian.

Wetlands Protection Fund Spending Approval

Mr. Connor welcomed Ms. Hannah Crawford, Conservation Administrator, via Zoom to discuss her request for the Board's spending approval of the Wetland Protection fund. She stated the Conservation Department has some big projects coming up in 2024 and she thought it would be a great opportunity for a college student to learn the municipal side of things. The Board loved the idea and further discussed the internship program at the high school and perhaps utilizing those students as well.

On an Odabashian/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the use of the Wetlands Protection Fund account to hire a part-time intern for a 6-month period for 15 hours a week at \$15 an hour.

Minutes

On a Sahin/Odabashian motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the December 4, 2023 minutes as submitted.

Annual License Renewals

On an Odabashian/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the licenses listed on the sheet presented by Mrs. Allie (please see attached to these minutes) pending completion of all building and/or fire inspections, and that all outstanding taxes or other applicable charges have been paid to the treasurer collector's office.

Open Meeting Law Presentation Recap

Mr. Connor stated that KP Law had done a presentation on Open Meeting Law and the presentation can be viewed on the Town's website. He pointed out that executive session minutes need to be approved during an executive session in the event the minutes need to be edited. He stated he would like to make sure all executive session minutes have been approved before a new Board election.

Mr. Fraine stated there was a follow up question on what constitutes a quorum on Boards and Committees with vacancies. With the exception of Conservation, all Boards and Committees still need a majority, regardless of vacancies, in order for an item to pass.

Announcements

Mr. Connor stated the Town Hall would be closed December 22, 25, 29 and January 1 in recognition of Christmas and New Years.

Old Business

Mr. Connor asked Mr. Fraine if he had an update on the utility pole that needs to be moved at the Center Street South Main Street intersection and Mr. Fraine stated he did not have a timeframe as to when that pole would be moved.

Mr. Fraine stated he met with Rep Soter, Town Officials and MassDOT to figure out why the stormwater basin at the middle school is not draining properly. They are going to have a design engineer review it and determine if it was designed incorrectly or installed incorrectly. Mr. Fraine stated there are funds available from the project to correct the problem if need be. Mr. Connor stated that Select Board members as well as

superintendents from the Towns belonging to the BVT consortium recently attended a summit and now Town Administrators and Town Managers will be asked to be a part of the next phase of the summit. As a reminder if BVT presents an excessive budget it would take seven towns to oppose it. Mr. Fraine reminded the Board that the Town elects a member of the BVT School Committee and perhaps the Board should invite that committee member to explain what BVT is doing as well as address any of the Town's concerns.

New Business

Mr. Hennessy stated he visited the dispatchers at the Police Station and wanted to thank them for working so diligently during the storm.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Fraine stated an Emergency Management Meeting was scheduled for tomorrow and they would be reviewing today's storm in preparation for the winter ahead. Mr. Fraine stated there were some modest flooding areas and power outages but the DPW crews worked continuously to clear limbs from the roads and unclog drains.

Mr. Fraine stated the Police Chief will come before the Board the 1st meeting in February to update the Board on stings and readers for businesses with alcohol licenses. Additionally the Chief has been in touch with the management at the Best Buy warehouse and they assured him that they are doing everything they can to prevent trucks from idling on Depot Street.

Mr. Fraine stated the Senior Center has coffee hour every Tuesday and he talked to Senior Center director Josie Dutil, and she will coordinate with Kay Paige to have a Select Board member attend one Tuesday a month.

Mr. Fraine stated he and Ms. Cornell-Smith have been working diligently on the FY25 budgets and have met with various department heads. He stated the goal is to have a rough draft (department requests) to the Board by early January and to have a balanced budget to the Board the first week in February. The Fire Chief will be coming before the Board the 1st meeting in February to present his department's budget and the remaining departments will present their budgets during the Budget Workshop on February 24th.

Mr. Fraine stated the insurance company has looked at the ladder truck damaged in the accident a few weeks ago and is waiting to hear from the company that manufactured the truck how much it will cost to repair it and then determine from there if it will be repaired or deemed a total loss.

Mr. Fraine stated that the Wreath Ceremony took place on Saturday the 16th and the Bellingham Memorial and Veterans Day Committee did a great job and they had a nice turnout.

Mr. Fraine stated that he received a letter from MassDOT and as a result of the millionaire's tax that was approved by voters the Town will be receiving an additional \$289,000 in Chapter 90 funds available for immediate use.

Finally Mr. Fraine stated he will be away the month of January but will be attending Board meetings virtually and will be available by phone or text.

Mrs. Odabashian will everyone listening and watching on cable a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Minutes of December 18, 2023
Page 4

On an Odabashian/Sahin motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant

Permit Renewals for Year Beginning 2024 – Part 2

Class II Used Car License

- Doc's Classic Auto, 174 Mendon St.
- Executive Auto Center, Inc., 728 South Main St.

Common Victualler License

- Dairy Queen, 21 North Main St.
- Honey Dew Donuts, 19 North Main St.
- Joff's Backyard Grill, 61 Mechanic St.

Bulk Storage Permit

- 156 Mechanic Street