



# Town of Bellingham

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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August 21, 2023

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Chairman Michael Connor. All Board members were actively participating in the meeting. Mr. Connor was joined by Mr. Sahin in the Arcand Meeting room and Mrs. Grant and Mr. Hennessy were participating with their cameras on and visible during the meeting via Zoom. Also actively participating in the meeting was Interim Town Administrator Beth Cornell-Smith, Fire Chief Bill Miller, Finance Committee member Joe Collamati, Capital Improvement Committee member Roland Lavalley and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. This meeting was also accessible to the public via the Zoom online option.

Mr. Connor stated the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the emergency engine needs of the Fire Department and to determine if this is an emergency warranting deficit spending.

Chief Miller explained to the Board that they discovered last week that Engine 3 is in dire condition as the frame rail is rotted to a point of being unsafe. He stated he had the Engine examined by the manufacturer and the manufacturer recommended taking the Engine off the road as it would not pass DOT inspection in its current state.

Mr. Connor explained that Mrs. Cornell-Smith had a conversation with Mrs. Mary MacKinnon regarding funding options and what circumstances would determine emergency spending status. Mrs. MacKinnon explained to Mrs. Cornell-Smith that typically emergency spending is a result of an act of God or nature. But Mrs. Cornell-Smith stated if the Board agrees that the spending is needed, she will make a request to the Department of Revenue for review and approval.

Chief Miller explained he would be requesting a stock pumper from Pierce Manufacturing to replace Engine 3 instead of ordering a custom built machine. Chief Miller stated a stock built pumper would have everything the department would need and be more cost efficient than one that is custom built. He stated he is recommending the Pierce pumper as it is middle of the line and is made with double rails to last longer. He stated the life expectancy of a Pierce stock built engine is about 15 years. He stated if the Town was able to secure funding, the department would go on a wait list and is looking at the February/March timeframe to receive the engine. He further stated that the backup pumper truck is 28 years old and is in poor condition and he will be looking to replace it with his capital requests during the Fall Town Meeting. Chief Miller stated Engine 1 (which is a 2014) is currently in the shop with major mechanical issues. He stated this truck along with Engine 2 have been off the road more than they have been on the road since he started in June. Chief Miller is looking to replace 2 trucks and keep Engine 1 and Engine 2 as backups.

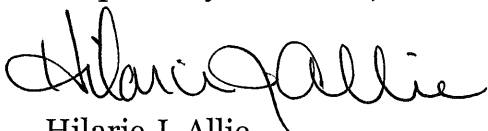
Mr. Hennessy asked what would happen if an engine went down right now. Chief Miller stated the department would be running on one ladder truck and one pumper truck as well as mutual aid.

Mrs. Cornell-Smith reiterated that even with these engine problems the community is safe.

On a Connor/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to declare emergency status to replace Engine 3 and request approval from the Department of Revenue for emergency deficit spending in the amount of \$1.2M, full support of the capital request itself and further stated the useful life of that capital asset will be 15-20 years.

On a Connor/Sahin motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilarie J. Allie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hilarie" being more prominent than the last name "Allie".

Hilarie J. Allie  
Administrative Assistant