



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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August 22, 2022

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Don Martinis. All Board members with the exception of Mrs. McNulty were in attendance and participating in the Arcand Meeting Room. Also actively participating in the meeting was Town Administrator Denis Fraine and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. This meeting was accessible to the public either in-person or via the Zoom online option.

Board of Registrars Appointment

Larry Sposato, Town Clerk, stated that a current member of the Board of Registrars needed to resign due to MGL Chapter 51 Section 25 which states no person appointed as a registrar shall hold another position in the Town. Mr. Sposato explained this member also held a position as a library trustee. This evening he asked that the Board to appoint Maria Nyren to the Board of Registrars on the recommendation of the Democratic Town Committee. Ms. Nyren was introduced to the Board and they thanked her for volunteering her time.

On a Grant/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to appoint Maria Nyren to the unexpired term on the Board of Registrars.

On a Grant/Sahin motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to award the contract for lead inspection services to the low bidder Caulfield Environmental for total fee in amount not to exceed \$24,900. Under discussion Mr. Fraine stated that this is a great program and the Town is currently taking applications for housing rehab. He did state there is an income qualification threshold and if a homeowner takes advantage of the program they must remain in their home for a minimum of 15 years or they will need to pay back the loan.

On a Grant/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to award Contract 2022-PDGR, Potter Drive Sewer Pumps Station Generator Replacement to the low bidder Elm Electrical, Inc. L.S. from Westfield, MA in the amount of \$162,647.00.

On a Connor/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to accept the July 11th minutes as submitted.

ARPA Projects

Mr. Fraine explained that \$15,000 would be awarded to the Town Common Trustees for the restoration of the historic water fountain that used to be housed in front of the Baptist Church and will now be at the entryway of the commons. Mr. Connor asked if the Town Commons was still self-funded and Mr. Fraine stated now that the ATM machine was taken out it was not and the Town now budgets for expenses.

On a Grant/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the projects as listed herein, with said expenditures to be under the direction of the parties noted.

Amount	From	For/Purpose	Spending Authority
\$15,000	Norfolk County ARPA funds	<i>Town Common Historic Fountain Restoration</i>	Town Common Trustees/Historical Commission

Charter and Bylaw Revisions Update

Mr. Martinis stated the Charter and Bylaw Review committee has been meeting throughout the past year for the purpose of reviewing, discussing and making amendment recommendations to the Town's Charter and Bylaws for inclusion on the Town Meeting warrant for Town Meeting approval. A few highlights of the revisions include:

- Grammatical changes including changing Selectmen to Selectboard as well as the organization of the table of contents and how the definitions section is presented.
- The Annual Town Election to be moved to the first Tuesday of June which follows the May Town Meeting.
- Discussions are still ongoing on this but most likely the Board of Health will increase from 3 members to 5 members.
- Constables elected to serve will change from 4 individuals to "one or more".
- Residency is no longer a requirement for the Town Administrator.
- Discussions continue on the relevancy of a Park's Commission as it no longer serves a purpose.
- The Board of Registrars will no longer be appointed by the Board of Selectmen but instead by the Town Clerk.
- Going forward, the Charter and Bylaw reviews will occur simultaneously every 10 years as opposed to separately with the Bylaws every 5 and the Charter every 10 which is how it reads now.

Mr. Connor voiced his concerns on several of the redline edits so it was determined that he would attend the next Charter and Bylaw Review Committee meeting to discuss the issues in further detail.

Town Administrator's Report

On a Grant/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to award the Hazardous Materials Abatement and Demolition Project at the Primavera School to low bidder Pasquazzi Brothers of Cranston RI in the amount of \$674,258.00 subject to approval at Town Meeting. Under discussion Mr. Fraine stated Pasquazzi was significantly lower than the other bidders but the consultants went through the bid line by line with them and they confirmed it was correct and were eager to be awarded the bid. This bid includes the complete removal of the building and asphalt as well as back filling the project. Mr. Fraine stated this project is long overdue and the empty building has posed a problem for a few years now so they are anxious to get started on the demolition.

Mr. Fraine stated the Town should know next month whether or not they will be awarded the Mass Works Grant for the work to be done on Hartford Ave. Mr. Fraine stated that the appraisals for land takings for those impacted by this project have already been completed and they will be meeting with property owners and they hope to go forward with these takings at the Fall Town Meeting.

Mr. Fraine stated that Verizon has finally given a schedule to when the utility poles will be moved and once they are moved the contractor will come right in to start paving and grading.

New Business

Mrs. Allie presented an application for an individual interested in being appointed to the Cultural Council. It was brought to our attention that the Cultural Council has been having a difficult time holding meetings with a quorum. This proposed applicant is not a Bellingham resident. The Board concluded that they prefer to advertise the openings before appointing a nonresident. Discussion ensued about creating a section on the Town website for open positions on the various Boards and Committees. Mrs. Allie will work with the IT department to create a page.

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

On a Grant/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM with no further business to be discussed at the conclusion of the executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hilarie J. Allie".

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant