



# Town of Bellingham

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street  
Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019  
Tel: 508-657-2800 \* 508-966-4425

December 20, 2021

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Cindy McNulty. All Board members 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.

Public Hearing – Petition of National Grid for Plan number 30097044 to replace Poles P2 and P4 with 40’/2 JO and install new P3 40’/2 JO pole on Lawrence Street and for Plan number 30378320 to relocate P13-60 approximately ~15’ Northeast on Pulaski Blvd. Mrs. McNulty read the Public Hearing.

Mr. Dana Larson from National Grid introduced himself and stated that the design engineer was on vacation and he would do his best to explain the reason for these petitions. He stated one petition was to install a new pole in order to obtain some height clearance and he was unfamiliar with the other petition. Mr. John Murray owner of Pool Pro located at 151 Pulaski Blvd was concerned that the guard wire associated with the new pole will take up one of his parking spaces. He has also contacted National Grid numerous times about replacing a rotting utility pole in front of his property next door. Mr. Larson from National Grid stated without speaking to the design engineer he would be unable to answer Mr. Murray’s questions.

Therefore, on a Connor/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to continue the public hearing to January 24<sup>th</sup> to allow time for National Grid to contact Mr. Murray regarding his concerns.

### Bellingham Elder Service Group – One Day Liquor License

Mr. Bill Eltzroth stated the BESG will be holding a New Year’s Eve party at the Senior Center on Thursday December 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:30PM-3:30PM and would like to request a One Day Liquor License to serve beer and champagne. He stated they have obtained a certificate of liquor liability insurance and they have secured a TIP Certified bar tender from Pete’s Bluebirds that will be donating her time.

On a Martinis/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the One Day Liquor License for the Bellingham Elder Service Group for the New Year’s Eve Party to be hosted at the Senior Center on Thursday December 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:30PM – 3:30PM, fee waived.

### Senior Tax Work Off Discussion

Mrs. Mary MacKinnon reviewed the senior tax work off program that had already been discussed at a previous meeting and stated she was primarily presenting before the Board this evening to discuss the hourly rate benefit received by the seniors. The current hourly rate is \$10 per hour and has been for years and Mrs. MacKinnon is proposing a new hourly rate of \$14.25 which will match the State’s minimum wage as of January 1, 2022. Raising the hourly wage will up the value of the benefit from \$1000 to \$1425 to those individuals

who work the full 100 hours. She stated at this time she is also asking for the Board's approval to set a maximum on the total program dollars in the amount of \$135,000. This will help for budgeting purposes as well as help to manage the program properly. Mr. Connor asked if someone owned multiple parcels could they receive the benefit at each of those parcels. Mrs. MacKinnon stated the benefit is based on an assessed owner per parcel so as long as they are listed on the deed they can participate again. She did state however that the State sets a maximum benefit per parcel of \$1500 so that would be their maximum benefit at each owned parcel.

On a Martinis/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to increase the hourly rate to \$14.25 per hour effective immediately for the property tax work-off abatement program, and further, that the maximum number of hours be limited to 100 hours per participant, and that the maximum total appropriation for the program be limited to \$135,000, and that all other program details are to remain in accordance with MGL Chapter 59 Sections 5K and 5N.

#### ARPA Program Update

Mrs. MacKinnon reviewed the ARPA grant program and stated that the Town has received stimulus funds that were distributed by the federal government and the Board has already completed Step 1 which is to accept the funds. Tonight she will be asking the Board to complete Step 2 which is to review and approve the Town projects that will be funded by the ARPA funds. She further stated that a steering committee was formed to review, approve and appropriate funds for these projects. She referenced a list of projects that were recently approved by the steering committee (please see attached) and given to the Board in advance and stated the steering company would be looking to them for final approval.

After a brief discussion of the attached projects the Board voted unanimously on a Connor/Martinis motion to approve the nine (9) projects totaling \$250,725 as presented by the steering committee.

#### SERSC

Mr. DiMartino explained to the Board that he would like their support in joining the Southeastern Regional Service Group (SERSC) which is a cooperative bid group that covers many of the items purchased by the Town. The annual fees are currently \$4,100 but he predicts the first year in savings for bid pricing could be close to \$80,000 a year. On a Grant/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to join the Southeastern Regional Service Group with an annual fee of \$4,100.

Mr. DiMartino also presented to the Board two (2) documents from the DCR land swap and a Memorandum of Understanding that required Board signatures. He explained the Town used a portion of the SNETT trail to install water pipes instead of having to dig up four (4) miles of road and in exchange the Town gave DCR land next to DiPietro School that will eventually be used for parking. The MOU allows DCR to use the driveway of DiPietro for the future SNETT parking lot. The school is aware of this and is ok with it. On a Grant/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to accept and sign the paperwork as it relates to the DCR Land Swap.

On a Grant/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to sign the DCR Memorandum of Understanding.

Under discussion Mr. Connor asked why it was necessary to use the entryway of DiPietro and Mr. DiMartino explained DCR requires equestrian access and this made it easier for trailers to park and exit.

On a Martinis/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to award Contract 2021-SMSP, South Main Street Standpipe Recoating, to the low bidder Amstar of Western NY, Inc. of Cheektowaga, NY in the amount of \$758,000.00.

#### Gifts/Grants Acceptance

On a Martinis/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to accept the gifts and grants as listed herein, with said expenditures to be under the direction of the parties noted:

Amount	From	For/Purpose	Spending Authority
\$5,500.00	Anonymous Donor	Items/Equipment for Firefighters Safety	Fire Chief

On a Grant/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the November 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes as submitted.

#### Annual License Renewals

On a Grant/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the licenses listed on the sheet presented by Mrs. Allie (please see attached) pending completion of building and/or fire inspections, and all outstanding applicable charges have been paid pursuant to any agreement with the treasurer collector.

#### New Business

Mrs. Allie informed the Board that there was nothing on the agenda for the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and asked the Board what they wished to do.

On a Grant/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to cancel the January 3, 2022 Selectboard meeting. The next scheduled Selectboard meeting will be Monday January 24, 2022.

Mr. Martinis stated he had seen a spreadsheet from the finance office that listed all the permits and revenues generated from those permits and as a result he would like to see an updated Fee Schedule from the Board of Health.

Mr. Connor asked about the fire at the mulch place on Maple Street and asked why this couldn't be a reason for the Town to shut them down. Mr. Fraine stated that this continues to be a legal process that is still ongoing but the information about the fire has been forwarded to Town Counsel.

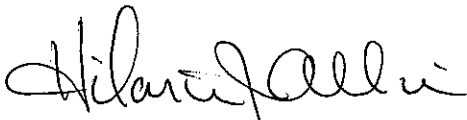
Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Fraine stated the Emergency Management team continues to meet on a weekly basis which has been helpful as COVID numbers continue to rise. Norfolk County will be providing the Town with free at home COVID testing as the Town's positivity rate is over 10%. He does not know how many tests the Town will be receiving but they will most likely be going to the Housing Authority first. He stated there are some vaccine clinics scheduled and residents can check the Town website for availability.

The Board urged residents to stay vigilant and to wear masks, wash hands and keep gatherings to a minimum.

On a Martinis/Grant motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 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