



# Town of Bellingham

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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January 9, 2023

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Don Martinis. 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.

### Special Municipal Employee Status – Tobacco Control Agent

Mr. Fraine stated that Robbie Griffin applied for a truck driver/operator position with the DPW. He was interviewed by the DPW Director and Assistant Director and they were both very impressed. Mr. Fraine stated that he also met with Robbie to make sure he understands the responsibilities of the job. Robbie is aware of the responsibilities and stated he is all in and excited to get started. Robbie also holds the position of the Tobacco Control Agent for the Town. The Board of Health is very happy with Robbie and Robbie would like to continue this role as well. He understands that the DPW job takes precedence in case of an emergency or overtime situation. Mr. Fraine stated that in order to perform both jobs, the Board would need to designate the Tobacco Control Agent as a Special Municipal Employee Status.

On a Connor/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to designate the Tobacco Control Agent as Special Municipal Employee Status.

### Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Mrs. MacKinnon stated they created a new position, an Assistant Treasurer/Collector and that this position would be second in command in that office. The position will have supervisory responsibilities over the other staff in the office as well as perform the day to day operations. This position will also take on the role of working with the Tax Title Attorneys and in order to do so needed to be a certified Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Mrs. MacKinnon stated they did have a couple of candidates that were interviewed and are happy to report that they would be offering this position to Lindsey Gentile. Lindsey has been with the Town for a number of years and has proven herself in her capacities within that office. Mr. Fraine stated she recently received her designation as a Certified Treasurer and would be working towards the Certified Collector's designation.

On a Grant/McNulty motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of Lindsey Gentile to the Assistant Treasurer/Collector.

### Gifts/Grants

On a McNulty/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to accept the gifts and grants as listed herein, with said expenditures to be under the direction of the parties noted.

<b>Fund#</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>For/Purpose</b>	<b>Spending Authority</b>
3834	\$2,000,000	MassWorks	<i>Hartford Ave Regional Improvement Project</i>	DPW Director
3835	\$2,000,000	MassDOT	<i>Hartford Ave Regional Improvement Project</i>	DPW Director
4175	\$2,227	Commonwealth of MA	<i>Senior SAFE</i>	Fire Chief
4180	\$4,381	Commonwealth of MA	<i>Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E)</i>	Fire Chief

On a McNulty/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to award contract 2023-DSRX, Depot Street Road Improvements at Railroad Crossing to low bidder The Hatch Group, Inc. of Milford, MA. Under discussion Mr. Fraine stated during this repair work Depot Street would be shut down but the plans are to do it during the summer when school is not in session.

Regal – Change of Officers/Directors Application

Mrs. Allie presented to the Board a change in officer and director for Regal Cinemas Inc. This change will not impact or alter ownership or structure, simply a new President, CEO, Treasurer and Director of Interstate Theatres Corporation.

On a McNulty/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the application for a change of Officers/Directors for Regal Cinemas, Inc.

On a McNulty/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the December 19<sup>th</sup> Minutes as submitted.

Annual License Renewals – Part 2

On a McNulty/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the licenses listed on the sheet presented by Mrs. Allie (please see attached) 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.

On a Grant/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to not increase the ABCC's Seasonal Population of residents request for 2023. Under discussion the Board feels that the Town of Bellingham does not have an increased seasonal population.

On a McNulty/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant with a close date of Friday February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Fraine stated there has been a lot of discussion about the retention pond being built in front of the middle school. He stated that the architect would be meeting with the school committee once again to review the plans but stated this will look more like a rock and tree garden with 140 plants and trees set to be planted. The school will also use this as an educational source.

Mr. Fraine stated that the Town had recently been awarded a Green Community Grant for \$80,000 for a lighting upgrade project at DiPietro Elementary.

Mr. Fraine stated the Police Chief position has been posted by the Assessment Center and the scheduled date for testing is February 4<sup>th</sup>. The newly hired chief will only be the 5<sup>th</sup> chief in the history of our Town. The assessment center will submit the results to civil service and civil service will in turn provide the Town with the top 3 candidates. Mr. Fraine stated they are hoping to conduct interviews and have a decision by early April.

As discussed last meeting, Mr. Fraine would like to formally discuss putting together an MBTA Overlay Committee at the next Selectboard meeting. His goal is to have as few as 5 members but no more than 7 members on this committee.

New Business

Mr. Connor voiced his opinion on the budget process which is just underway. His concern is that the Board wastes their time at the end of the process and simply rubber stamps all budgets that are presented to them at the workshop. Mr. Fraine stated he and Mrs. MacKinnon meet with each department ahead of the workshop and go through each budget to see what can be trimmed or cut back and then presents the Board with a balanced budget. Mr. Connor feels that the school shouldn't just be given a set number that they have to work with. He feels the Board should play more of a role in seeing how any extra funds can be allocated to the school department.

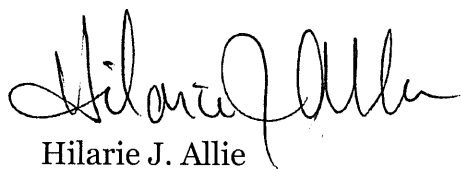
Mr. Connor stated he has heard concerns with all the new development in Town and whether or not the schools will be able to sustain the new growth. Mr. Fraine confirmed that based on the current birth rate, studies show that the enrollment in our Town will be down 100 students by 2030 even with all the new development.

The Board took no action this evening on Mr. Connor's concerns.

Mr. Martinis addressed the Board with regards to social media. He feels strongly that no board or committee member in Town should be commenting on posts about the Town unless they are providing facts or if they are using the forum to educate on that issue.

On a McNulty/Sahin motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Hilarie J. Allie  
Administrative Assistant

## Permit Renewals for Year Beginning 2023

### Common Victualler License

- Subway Sandwich Shop, 170 Pulaski Blvd

### Bulk Storage Permit

- 37 South Maple Street
- 164/170 Mechanic Street
- 466,468,470 Hartford Ave
- 599 South Main Street
- 1060 Pulaski Blvd