



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

Tel: 508-657-2800 * 508-966-4425

July 19, 2021

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

Paula Stuart - Community Opportunities Group, Inc.

Paula Stuart of Community Opportunities Group, Inc. was recognized and presented an update regarding the Massachusetts Community Development Grant Program. She began by recapping the information presented at the Public Hearing held on April 26, 2021. At that time, the Department of Housing and Community Development was still accepting comments regarding its proposal to combine two grant years (FY21 and FY22) into a single grant application that would be due in March of 2022. MCDBG applications are usually submitted in March of each year. In 2021, COVID 19 restrictions prevented the normal grant cycle from proceeding and the two-year grant cycle was proposed as an alternative, returning to the March submission schedule using the two-year application.

She reported that after accepting and reviewing comments, the Department had decided not to do a two-year grant application after all, but to have FY21 applications available in early summer and due September 10, 2021.

At the April public hearing, two activities had been proposed for a Bellingham application:

1. To continue the Bellingham Housing Rehabilitation Program; and
2. To remove architectural barriers along Harpin Street by making sidewalk repairs and installing ADA compliant ramps to improve access for those with disabilities.

Public comments and suggestions for other possible activities had been solicited during and before the meeting in newspaper notices and on the Town's website. The public was invited to submit written or emailed comments until May 5th. No other activities were proposed nor were any other comments received.

Ms. Stuart requested that the Selectboard vote to approve the proposed activities and authorize submission of the 2021 MCDBG grant application.

On a Spencer/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the submission of a FY21 MCDBG CDF Application that requests funding of up to \$800,000 for two activities:

- Continuation of the Bellingham Housing Rehabilitation Program; and
- Architectural Barrier Removal Project (ABR) to make needed sidewalk repairs and install ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps at designated intersections on Harpin Street.

On a Spencer/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to designate Denis Fraine, Environmental Certifying Officer.

On a Spencer/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to authorize the Chairman of the Board and the Town Administrator to sign all necessary documents related to the submission of the grant application.

On a Grant/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to award Contract 2021-BSRW, Bertine Street Retaining Wall Construction to the low bidder SumCo Contracting, LLC from Peabody, MA in the amount of \$137,820.

On a Grant/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the June abatements in the amount of \$2,863.77.

On a Spencer/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the April 26th, June 7th, and June 21st minutes as submitted.

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

| Amount | From | For/Purpose | Spending Authority |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| \$55,942 | Commonwealth of MA State 911 Department | FY22 State 911 Department Support and Incentive Grant Program [Fund 4120] | Police Department |
| Approx. \$1.8M | US Treasury (Federal Govt) | American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) [Fund 2708] | Various departments based on eligibility requirements |
| \$15,750 | Kevin Meehan Rt 85 Realty Corp | Donation for survey work associated with roadway improvements at Hartford Ave | Dept of Public Works |

Under discussion Mr. Connor stated he would like to publicly thank Mr. Meehan for donating the funds for the survey work even though there are no plans for him to work with the Town.

Brian Norton – Conservation Commission

The Board received a letter from Mr. Norton that stated he needed to relocate out of the Town of Bellingham and was hoping to continue to serve on the Conservation Commission. Mr. Fraine advised the Board that Mr. Norton was just reappointed for a 3

year term in March and further advised that it would be beneficial to allow him to stay as an active member on the commission due to a recent resignation of a different commission member as well as another commission member with a conflict of interest on a current project.

On a Spencer/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the request of Brian Norton to continue to serve on the Conservation Commission with a review at six months to determine residency at that time.

On a Connor/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to open the Fall Town Meeting Warrant with a closing date of August 20, 2021.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Fraine stated the E.L. Harvey contract is up in September and is recommending a three year renewal. The small increase in the pricing (3%) from E.L. Harvey's collection combined with the decrease in pricing for the disposal of waste will actually result in a small net decrease to the budget allowing the Town to maintain the current rates for at least the next year or two. The single family rate has not increased since 2016.

On a Grant/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to renew the agreement with E.L. Harvey with a 3% increase.

Mr. Fraine announced Household Hazardous Waste Day will be on Saturday July 24th from 9-1.

Mrs. Grant summarized the upcoming "Bellingham Days" that will take place Thursday August 19th through Saturday August 21st. There will be a carnival Thursday night, Friday night and all day Saturday and finishing off the 3 day long event will be a fireworks display. There will be a golf tournament Friday morning and a cornhole tournament on Saturday. Any profits made from this event will go towards the Senior Center and the Veteran's and Memorial Day Committee.

Mr. Connor mentioned the local cable broadcast of the various Boards and Committee meetings is terrible and would like to look into a high definition upgrade. Mr. Fraine mentioned they were looking into this already. Mr. Connor also stated he would like to see all Boards and Committee meetings in person at this point in time.

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

On a Spencer/Grant motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM with no further business to be discussed at the conclusion of the executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilarie J. Allen
Administrative Assistant

