



# **Town of Bellingham**

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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

June 7, 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 with the exception of Mr. Spencer who was participating via Zoom. 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 Jim Kupfer, Town Planner and Zoning Officer. This meeting was accessible to the public either in-person or via the Zoom online option.

Mrs. McNulty welcomed 3 students in Mrs. Federlein's 8<sup>th</sup> grade civics class who presented to the Board a state wide project they have been working on regarding the single use of plastics. The presentation can be found on the Town website. The Board thanked the girls for coming in and commended them for a job well done.

Mrs. McNulty stated there had been an agenda change and that Representative Soter would be joining us at our next meeting.

Julie Casey-Rogers from PJ's Bar and Grill came before the Board to request an additional tent to her approved outdoor alcohol extension of premises for an event that will take place on June 24<sup>th</sup>. She stated that she had met with the building inspector and deputy fire chief and they came up with the best plan possible for the situation. Parking is still in the works but Denis will be working with Julie in the coming days.

On a Grant/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the additional tent extension request for PJ's Bar and Grill for Thursday June 24, 2021.

Mr. Fraine thanked Julie for all of the support that they have given and continue to give to the community.

On a Grant/Spencer motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the end of fiscal year 2021 budget transfer in the amount of \$5,000 as presented by Mary MacKinnon, CFO and to authorize the Chairwoman to sign the transfer.

On a Connor/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to authorize the DPW to dispose of the surplus items noted in the memo dated May 28, 2021.

On a Connor/Martinis motion the Board voted to award Contract 2021-NMGR, North Main Street Sewer Pump Station Generator Replacement, to the low bidder Jasco Electric, Inc. from Franklin MA in the amount of \$177,000.

Mr. Fraine stated that the Town's current Veteran's Agent would be stepping down and is seeking the Board's ratification of his new appointment. The Veteran's Agent manages the MGL Chapter 150 benefits which provides monetary benefits to veterans, as well as their surviving spouses, who are in need. The Town typically has between 14-20 individuals in the program.

On a Martinis/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to ratify Mr. Fraine's appointment of Dennis Pimenta as the Town's Veteran's Agent.

On a Connor/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the May 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes as submitted.

On a Connor/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the May 17<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted.

#### New Business

Mr. Martinis had requested an item be added to the agenda to discuss the amount of trash that exists on Maple Street and Depot Street. His suggestion was that the Town approach the warehouse buildings and ask them to contribute to a fund that could be used to clean up the trash on the streets. The Board discussed the fact that a large majority of the trash consists of alcohol nips as well as water bottles filled with urine that most likely are coming from the truckers. Mr. Fraine stated that he and Mr. Kupfer would look into having a discussion with the existing warehouses and any new businesses that come in and have them come up with a cleanup plan.

#### Solar Permit Fee

Mr. Aicardi, Building Inspector, appeared before the Board to discuss an adjustment to the solar permit fees. He stated new regulations exists for residential battery storage of roof mounted solar and the enforcement will be much more involved and will include a few visits from himself, the electrical inspector and the fire department. He suggested to the Board that they increase the solar permit fee, which is paid solely by the solar company, from \$10 a panel to \$15 a panel. He stated the average number of panels per house is twenty five. Mr. Aicardi stated his formula will work and will cover the cost of everyone's time. Permit fees from his department are not designed to make a profit but to cover the costs.

After a lengthy discussion about what it will cost Mr. Aicardi's department to complete the inspection the Board agreed to the solar fee he presented and asked that he come back in 30 days to reevaluate.

On a Grant/Spencer motion the Board unanimously voted to raise the Solar Permit Fee from \$10 to \$15 a panel with a minimum fee of \$175 and further to reevaluate the fee increase in 30 days. Under discussion Mr. Connor asked Mary MacKinnon, CFO, to evaluate the staffing hourly costs to see if the numbers work out.

On a Martinis/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the regulatory agreement between DHCD and the Town of Bellingham for the affordable housing units at Curtis Pond Apartments. Under discussion Mrs. Grant asked when these apartments at Curtis Pond count towards the Town's 40B quota. Mr. Kupfer stated these already count towards the Town's quota and that the developer has one year from the execution of the initial agreement to when the building permits are pulled. Mr. Kupfer additionally added that nothing prohibits applicants from applying but the Town is not obligated to approve.

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Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Fraine stated that the Town Center project is under way and the plan is to have the ABMI cable channel go down and do a live 15 public service announcement and interview the contractor and let people know what is going on with the project.

Mr. Fraine wanted to give a shout out to Tony DeCoste and the other individuals who have resurrected the Center Street farm stand.

Lastly, Mr. Fraine stated he is working on a Town event tentatively scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> that will replace the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

On a Martinis/Grant motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 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 being the most prominent.

Hilarie J. Allie  
Administrative Assistant