



# Town of Bellingham

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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

November 2, 2020

The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order remotely at 7:00 PM by Chairman Michael Connor using Zoom Technology. A roll call confirmed all members were participating. Also actively participating in the meeting was Town Administrator Denis Fraine and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. The remote meeting was being monitored by Jim Kupfer, Town Planner and Zoning Officer. It was determined by Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place that no in-person attendance of Board members or any member of the public would be permitted at this meeting. This meeting was accessible to the public via the Zoom online option.

### Motor Vehicle Lease – Inspectional Services

Mr. Aicardi stated that their department has always received recycled vehicles from the Police Department. This system has worked well but the vehicles they currently have are not necessarily reliable and they are often times short on vehicles. The department is asking the Board for their support in adding an additional vehicle which will be a lease with the option to buy.

Mr. Martinis stated he was in favor of Inspectional Services adding to their fleet but questioned the interest rate. Mrs. MacKinnon stated administrative costs are built in on relatively smaller financing amounts.

Mr. Connor asked why we wouldn't just buy the vehicle. Mrs. MacKinnon stated that this vehicle is being funded by the departments revolving fund and this fund has bylaw spending restrictions which will be revisited at this year's Fall Town Meeting.

Mrs. MacKinnon does not need the Board to execute the lease but is seeking the Board's approval.

On a Grant/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to recommend the Motor Vehicle Lease for the Inspectional Services Department and approves Mr. Fraine to execute the lease agreement.

### Treasurer/Collector Appointment

Mr. Fraine stated he has appointed Sandra Matar as the new Treasurer/Collector and is seeking the Board's ratification of this appointment. Mr. Fraine stated he and Mrs. MacKinnon are both in agreement that Ms. Matar is well qualified for the position and will be an asset to the Town.

On a Spencer/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to ratify Mr. Fraine's appointment of Sandra Matar to the Treasurer/Collector position with a start date of November 12, 2020.

On a Grant/Spencer motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the October 19<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted.

#### Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Fraine stated Mr. Martinis will be asking the Board to consider signage at the SNETT Trail crossing on Lake Street similar to what the Town has on Center Street. Mr. Martinis stated it is a dangerous spot right at a curve and comes upon the driver quickly. Mr. Connor asked how much a sign like that would cost and how would the Town pay for it. Mr. Fraine stated the signs cost around \$12,000 and it could be paid from the road money that is being added to the DPW budget if passed at Town Meeting. Mr. Fraine stated he would like the Board to take a vote to support.

On a Martinis/Spencer motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve signage for the SNETT trail crossing on Lake Street.

Mr. Fraine mentioned the Town was having problems with some streets being used as cut throughs specifically Elbow Street and Pleasant Street and they are looking into installing removable speed bumps but would have further discussions with them if that happens. Mr. Connor asked if they could make the streets one way in but Mr. Fraine said that would be difficult for the residents that live there.

Mr. Fraine presented the FY2022 Policy Statement draft and asked if any members of the Board wished to comment. Mr. Connor asked if there were any plans to get any police officers into the academy. Mr. Fraine stated they should know this week if there are any candidates from the civil service list. Mr. Spencer asked if the Town could eliminate using the civil service list and Mr. Fraine stated they would have to make that a part of their upcoming negotiations and it would also need to be approved at Town Meeting. Mr. Connor stated he would also like a bullet point in the Policy Statement about new growth and where funds will be spent as opposed to what has already been spent.

Mr. Fraine stated the live broadcast this week was a success and they would be looking at doing it every two weeks and Mrs. McNulty suggested they do their live broadcast weekly to keep residents aware of what the Town was doing to keep them safe. The Board agreed this was a good idea. Mrs. Grant asked if there was a link to the broadcast she could share on social media and Mr. Fraine thought there was and would look into this further for her.

#### Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mr. Kupfer asked that the Board consider reviewing and adopting the 2020 Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. The timing is critical as there are several opportunities listed where the Town could be receiving grant funds in the immediate future. Mr. Fraine stated a lot of time and effort went into this with the help of all the department heads, the MEPC and by joint collaboration with the Town of Franklin.

On a Spencer/Grant motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to adopt the 2020 Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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On a Martinis/Grant motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilarie J. Allie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

Hilarie J. Allie  
Administrative Assistant