



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

Tel: 508-966-5800 * Fax: 508-966-4425

November 7, 2022

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice Chairwoman Kelly Grant. All Board members were in attendance and participating in the Arcand Meeting Room with the exception of Don Martinis who joined the meeting via Zoom. 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.

Bellingham Police Department - Promotions

Chief Daigle stated he along with other members of the department would like to announce four new sergeant promotions by way of a pinning ceremony. Chief Daigle introduced Sgt. Tom Marston, Sgt. Mark Auld, Sgt. Dave Ayotte and Sgt. Chris Padula and stated they have recently been promoted to Sergeant status and consider these men leaders in their department. Each Sergeant was pinned by a family member and congratulated by the Board and members of the audience for their success.

State Rep Mike Soter

Rep Soter announced that a grant of \$25,000 had recently been awarded to the Playability Foundation which is the nonprofit fundraising for a new sensory playground to be installed at Stallbrook Elementary School. He also spoke of a recent Mass Works grant awarded for the reconstruction of Hartford Ave. Mr. Fraine thanked Rep Soter for all his efforts for the Town of Bellingham and stated because of Rep Soter Bellingham has been awarded some of their biggest grants.

ARPA Vote

Mrs. Grant recognized members of the Senior Center that were in the audience in support of the ARPA project that would be presented this evening for a vote by the Board. The ARPA committee is recommending the Board vote on the COA kitchen upgrade. Mr. Fraine stated the Town was looking to break ground this Spring.

On a McNulty/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the ARPA projects as listed herein, with said expenditures to be under the direction of the parties noted.

Amount	From	For/Purpose	Spending Authority
\$350,000	Town of Bellingham ARPA funds	COA kitchen upgrade	COA

One Day Beer & Wine Permit Request

The member of the Bellingham Business Association was having trouble logging into the meeting so Mrs. Allie stated the BBA would be hosting their annual Taste of Bellingham event on Wednesday November 9th at FW Webb and Fields Liquors would be serving alcohol at this event. She confirmed that they had turned in all the required paperwork which included the application and certificate of liability insurance.

On a Connor/McNulty motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to grant a One Day Alcohol Permit to the Bellingham Business Association for Wednesday November 9, 2022 from 6PM – 9PM at FW Webb 37 South Maple Street.

Cedar Hill – One Way Road Discussion with Residents

Note: A list of residents in attendance is attached to the minutes.

Mrs. Grant welcomed the residents of Cedar Hill and stated the reason the Board had requested a discussion was that a member of the Board had been approached by a resident that lives on Cedar Hill inquiring why the intersection was still a one way. They felt it was a hassle getting to and from their home. Therefore, the Board decided it was in the best interest of all involved to bring the residents in for a discussion. As it turns out, all of the residents in attendance were strongly opposed to opening up Cedar Hill to two way traffic. All residents were in agreement that as it stands cars go way to fast on their road and use it as a cut through from Farm Street. They feared that cars coming from the south side of Town would use it as a cut through in the opposite direction. The Board asked the safety officer in attendance, Sgt. Chris Padula, his thoughts. He stated he did not have a preference either way but did state that narrowing a road (making it a two way) does slow down traffic. Even though the Board felt that speeding and cut through issues weren't valid reasons to keep a street a one way, they all agreed to take no action therefore leaving Cedar Hill a one way road. Mrs. Grant thanked the residents for coming in and stated the Board valued their opinions.

Jesse Riedle – Interview for DPW Director

Mr. Fraine stated Jesse Riedle joined Bellingham in July of 2018 as DPW Facilities Foreman and was subsequently promoted to Assistant DPW Director in November 2020. Mr. Don DiMartino will be retiring at the end of January, beginning of February 2023 and both he and Denis feel that Jesse is ready to take on the position. Don has been working hard at his succession plan and has been molding Jesse to fill his shoes once he steps down. Don feels Jesse will be an outstanding fit for this position and an asset to the Town. After a brief presentation of the things he has been working on and projects he has been involved with over the last 4 years, as well as a question and answer period, the Board thanked Jesse for joining them.

Comcast Cable Renewal

Mr. Fraine stated Bill Hewig from KP Law has been working on the Comcast cable renewal and has provided the Board with an executive summary. The renewal contract is a 10 year contract expiring in November of 2032. Customers will continue to see a 5% franchise fee on their cable bills. This fee is used to run the local cable channel, Access Cable. Comcast will provide the Town with \$164,000 of capital over the next 10 years and this will be used by Access Cable to provide upgrades their system.

On a McNulty/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to execute the cable agreement with Comcast as prepared by KP Law.

FY24 Policy Statement

Mr. Fraine stated the FY24 Policy Statement would be going out to all the Department Heads and Boards and Committee members and that this represents the first step in the budget process. The Board accepted the Policy Statement and agreed to move it forward.

Gifts/Grants Acceptance

On a McNulty/Sahin 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.

Fund#	Amount	From	For/Purpose	Spending Authority
6090	\$50.00	Anne Russ in memory of Joseph Sullivan Jr.	Memorial donation, Fire Prevention Gift Account	Fire Chief
6090	\$50.00	The Bruen Family in memory of Joseph Sullivan Jr.	Memorial donation, Fire Prevention Gift Account	Fire Chief
6090	\$100.00	Lou Tourtellot in memory of Joseph Sullivan Jr.	Memorial donation, Fire Prevention Gift Account	Fire Chief
6090	\$75.00	MaryEllen & Charles Johnson in memory of Joseph Sullivan Jr.	Memorial donation, Fire Prevention Gift Account	Fire Chief
6090	\$50.00	Rebecca & Michael McCarthy in memory of Joseph Sullivan Jr.	Memorial donation, Fire Prevention Gift Account	Fire Chief
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$325.00</u>			

On a Connor/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to accept the October 17th minutes as submitted.

On a Sahin/McNulty motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to abate the September capital improvement, sewer, stormwater, trash and water charges in the amount of \$3,394.36.

New Business

Mr. Fraine stated that a subcommittee had been formed to look at how to utilize the Meehan properties. The Planning Board felt it would be beneficial to have organized discussions and has subsequently invited neighboring residents to be a part of the committee. These meetings will also be open to the public.

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Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Fraine addressed the Board and asked them if it was safe to say that no posting would be necessary for the DPW Director replacement. The Board confirmed this statement.

Mr. Fraine stated Town Meeting will take place on Wednesday November 16th at 7:30PM at the High School Auditorium and the Town will be presenting 13 Articles to be voted on by the residents.

Mr. Fraine stated a plowing agreement drawn up by KP Law had been signed by the residents of Claire's Way and was nonbinding and could be terminated at the Board's discretion.

Finally, he stated Veteran's Day is Friday November 11th and ceremonies would commence at the Bellingham Library at 11AM.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 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