

Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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

October 2, 2023

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Arcand Meeting Room by Chairman Michael Connor. Actively participating in the meeting were the following Board members: Mr. Connor, Mr. Sahin, Mr. Hennessy and Mrs. Odabashian. Also actively participating in the meeting was Interim Town Administrator Beth Cornell-Smith and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. This meeting was accessible to the public either in-person or via the Zoom online option.

Public Hearing – To consider the application of CCAP II, LLC to increase the storage capacity of propane from (5) 1000 gallon tanks to (7) 1000 gallon, (10) 100lb, (15) 35 lb. & (5) 25 lb. tanks for a total of 7,359 gallons of propane to be stored on the property located at 80 Hartford Ave.

Mr. Connor opened the public hearing, and, on an Odabashian/Hennessy motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to move the public hearing a little further into the evening.

Police Department Pinning Ceremony

Police Chief Fitzgerald explained he would be recognizing three new police officers who recently graduated from a 25 week program in Boylston. Police Chief Fitzgerald introduced Brad Chofay, Ana Terrinha & Dan Gavin. Mr. Sposato, Town Clerk, swore them in and the graduates were pinned by family members.

Public Hearing Continued

Mr. Connor welcomed Mr. Paul DiLeo of DiLeo Gas. Mr. DiLeo stated they were the propane provider for Dauphinais Concrete and Dauphinais uses propane to heat the hot water used for the concrete. With the upcoming expansion of a new plant Dauphinais will need additional tanks. Mr. Connor stated the Board had received an email from the Fire Department that stated all appropriate inspections had been completed and all permits were up to date.

There were further comments or questions from the Board or the audience.

On an Odabashian/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

On a Hennessy/Odabashian motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to amend the Flammable and Combustible Liquids license for CCAP II, LLC located at 80 Hartford Ave from (5) 1000 gallon tanks to (7) 1000 gallon, (10) 100lb, (15) 35 lb. & (5) 25 lb. tanks for a total of 7,359 gallons of propane.

Capital Items Requests

Mr. Connor explained that the Board will be hearing the capital items requests from various department heads this evening and that no votes will be taken until final numbers have been worked out with the CFO.

Historical Commission

Library Director Bernadette Rivard appeared before the Board representing the Historical Commission to discuss the request for a new fire and safety alarm system for the building. She stated the current system is insufficient and a new one is needed to protect the visitor's and Town's assets in the building. The historical commission is requesting \$12,360 to get the system up and running and will pay for the servicing and monitoring once it is up and running. Mr. Connor asked if this was necessary and asked Mr. Aicardi if other buildings were monitored and he stated that most of them are, and Ms. Rivard stated that more importantly the items in the historical commission are one of a kind.

Public Buildings

Mr. Aicardi presented before the Board a message board that would be constructed where the old Dominos building was located. It was discussed at a previous meeting that this would be an excellent way to communicate with the residents. He stated he is requesting an estimated \$72,000 which would include the message board and the masonry and electrical work. Mr. Aicardi stated their goal is to have the sign up and running by April 1st.

Policy Department

Policy Chief Ken Fitzgerald and Lieutenant James Russell appeared before the Board to discuss the request for two new vehicles and the purchase of tasers for the department estimated at \$130,000. Chief Fitzgerald stated this Town is one of just a few towns left in MA not using tasers, mostly for political reasons. He stated his department did apply for a \$50,000 grant for the equipment and will know whether or not they received that grant in the next few weeks. He stated the \$130,000 includes the equipment and all training and is fully warrantied for 5 years. Payment can be broken up however they choose and after the 5 years Chief Fitzgerald stated he could most likely add this as a line item expense in his budget. Mr. Connor stated it might make sense to break up the payments now and add it as a line item to the police budget. Chief Fitzgerald stated they are looking to replace two older admin vehicles this year and will continue to replace two vehicles each year with a potential of adding a third vehicle every two or three years. The rough estimate of each vehicle ranges between \$45k-\$46K plus about \$15K to outfit the vehicle. Mr. Connor asked if it made sense to add the cost of two new vehicles each year to their budget and they agreed it would. They discussed the future needs of the department and stated they would be in touch once all the capital requests had been heard.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Bill Miller and Deputy Chief Chris Milot appeared before the Board to discuss the request of the following capital items:

- Replacement of Engine 3 which is a pumper that is no longer in service due to a frame issue and an inspection with the DOT
- Replacement of Engine 5 which is a 1995 pumper per the NFPA standards which require a piece of fire apparatus be taken out of service after 25 years
- Replacement of car 3 and car 4 with an F150 to separate the apparatus from the driver and has washable interior
- Replacement of windows and additional insulation at Station 1

- Study to evaluate all 3 stations in terms of conditions and staffing

Mr. Hennessy asked Chief Miller and Deputy Chief Milot to explain the deficiencies in headquarters and Chief Milot explained it was designed by a company in CA and was not meant for New England. Mr. Aicardi stated the building needs some work and they definitely need to start chipping away at it as it has been long overlooked.

Mr. Connor stated the windows wouldn't be replaced at Station 1 until after the winter and it would make sense to incorporate this request into their FY25 Budget and replace them in July. Mr. Aicardi stated he thinks he can obtain some additional quotes and bring the overall price of the replacements down from the \$150,000 that is being requested.

School Department

Mr. Marano and Mr. Houston appeared before the Board to discuss the request of the following capital items placed in tiers based on priority of need:

Tier 1 (requesting \$332,000)

- Replace the high school HVAC VAV boxes as they current ones are obsolete
- Key FOB system for Stallbrook and DiPietro Elementary
- Ground Maintenance Equipment
- Additional funds needed to complete the purchase of an additional athletic bus

Tier 2 (requesting \$243,000)

- Replace flooring in the main hallway of the high school
- Replace flooring in the cafeteria of DiPietro and refinish stage
- F350 with dump trailer for maintenance work on Blackstone Street

Tier 3 (requesting \$148,000)

- Irrigation system at the high school
- Installation of AC in the BMS auditorium to help promote future rental use

Future Requests:

- Turf Field – going to need to be replaced in 5 years (currently in year 10)
- High School expansion project for potential vocational shops
- Redo the baseball field on Blackstone Street

Mr. Sahan asked if meal taxes pay for the turf field. Mr. Connor explained that the meal tax goes into the general fund and therefore the agreement was the general fund was paying for it. The money from the meal tax continues to go into the general fund and is available for capital purchases.

DPW

Mr. Riedle appeared before the Board to present the DPW, Sewer, Stormwater, Tree Warden and Water capital requests funding for the following items:

- Replace B-9 six wheel salt/plow/dump truck – lead time is delayed won't be available until FY25
- Replace B-10 salt/plow truck – upgrade from current model
- Aluminum trench box (can be built on site when doing repairs- smaller than the current one)
- Replace MT-7 roadside trackless

- Tow behind air compressor
- Additional paving on North Main Street (pave where Town Center project stopped up to Hartford Ave – capital request is for shortfall of funds)
- Replacement of Parks Vehicle #1 (upgrading from an F250 to F350)
- Replacement of Park Vehicle #8
- Request of funds to upgrade Silver Lake Park
- Replacement of an existing sewer station (phase 2 of 2) – Old Bridge Lane
- Offset costs of a Stormwater Asset Management Plan (anticipate grant funding that will cover the bulk of this)
- Funds to continue dead tree removal (this does not include stumps)
- New vehicle request – Water Break Plow Truck (this will expand the fleet and the existing one will be repurposed for sewer)
- VFD Replacements for the Hartford Ave Filtration Plant (this will create redundancy)
- Design and engineering for the replacement wells at well sight 11 (multiple wells that make up well sight 11)

Mr. Connor stated he would like to find out what the balances are in the Enterprise Funds and perhaps move some of these requests that are specific to those departments. Additionally, Mr. Connor discussed adding some of these requests with lead times to the FY25 Budgets.

Town Meeting Warrant

Mrs. Allie stated that the Fall Town Meeting Warrant had been signed and posted by the constable and was forwarded to the Finance Committee.

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the July capital improvement, sewer, stormwater, trash and water abatement charges in the amount of \$1,116.39.

On a Hennessy/Odabashian motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the September 18th minutes as submitted.

Old Business

There was a meeting with members of the COA and Tim Aicardi and the plans for the refrigeration pad and appliance upgrade are going well and underway.

The CFO candidates will be interviewed on Thursday October 5th.

The Town Administrator interviews will take place on Monday October 23rd and the discussion and decision will be made on Tuesday October 24th.

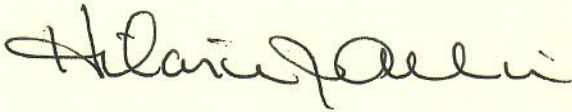
Town Administrator Report

Mrs. Cornell-Smith stated the Power Choice letters will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Minutes of October 2, 2023
Page 5

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 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