



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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October 3, 2022

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Don Martinis. All Board members were in attendance and participating in the Arcand Meeting Room. 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.

Claire's Way – Plowing Concern

The Board welcomed Mr. Richard Dill of 2 Claire's Way and Debbie Couture of 1 Claire's Way. Mr. Dill stated he received a letter from Don DiMartino, DPW Director, that Claire's Way would no longer be plowed given the passing of Roland Arcand who used to plow the private way. Mr. DiMartino stated this is the only private way that is plowed by the Town and he was under the assumption that the reason it was plowed was because Mr. Arcand was doing it himself. He stated it has been on the plow route for as long as he can remember but the question is why. The Claire's Way residents stated it was not always plowed by Roland but by one of the plow operators on duty. Mr. Dill advised the Board that the Town has been plowing Claire's Way for 54 years and it is considered a paper street (meaning it is shown on a map but not accepted by the Town as a public road). Mr. Dill stated he had done some research and according to MGL Ch. 40 Section 60D the Selectboard has a final say in whether or not a private way can be plowed. Mr. Fraine stated he would obtain advisement from Town Counsel regarding liability and legal precedence but it was the Board's opinion that since Claire's Way has been plowed by the Town for 54 years that this service should be continued. Mr. Dill and Ms. Couture offered to put in their deeds if their home were ever sold this service would discontinue.

Capital Requests – DPW

Mr. DiMartino appeared before the Board to present the DPW, Sewer, Stormwater, Trash and Tree Warden capital requests. Mrs. MacKinnon stated she would be advising the Board not to vote on any of the requests this evening as not all quotes had been received. She invited Mr. DiMartino this evening to present the requests to the Board before he went out on medical leave in 2 weeks. Mr. DiMartino (along with Jesse Riedel, assistant DPW director) requested funding for the following items:

- Design and bid documents for the DPW offices at 215 Depot Street – additional \$75,000
- Easement acquisitions for the widening of Hartford Ave - \$800,000 (based on appraisals)
- Mechanics service truck (new F350 4x4 super cab) – state bids not yet rec'd (est. \$95,000)
- DPW Supv. pickup truck (replace B2) – state bids not yet rec'd (est. \$58,000)
- Salt/plow/dump truck (replace B4) – state bid was rec'd – requesting \$308,600

- Tree truck F350 wood chip 4x4 (replace B13) – state bids not yet rec'd (est. \$90,000)
- TIP Engineering for reconstruction of Hartford Ave from Medway town line to cemetery just before Stallbrook Plaza - \$550,000 (per Mass DOT project is acceptable to proceed)
- Old Bridge Lane sewer station – control upgrade – waiting on quote but will go to bid (est. \$75,000)
- Benelli Street sewer station – control and pump upgrade – waiting on quote but will go out to bid (est. \$150,000)
- Tree Warden is requesting \$150,000 but is having a hard time lining up contractors
- Well #12 – requesting \$350,000 which is the cost of replacing well #7 in 2019 plus inflation
- New well development – Well #10 – requesting \$540,000 to expand water svcs in Town
- Distribution System Improvements (water main projects) at Cedar Hill and Standish Road – requesting \$730,000 & \$780,000 respectively
- Water service truck F350 4x4 plow with utility body (replace BW3) – state bids not yet rec'd (est. \$95,000)
- Water break truck F450 4x4 plow with long utility body (replace BW10) – state bids not yet rec'd (est. \$105,000)
- Upgrade parks dept truck (replace P4) parks truck F250 to F350 with plow (est. \$58,000)

On a McNulty/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to award contract 2022-URDR Underground Storage Tank Removal and Diesel Tank Replacement to the low bidder Green Site Services Group, Inc. of Bellingham, MA in the amount of \$585,500.00.

Town Projects

Mr. Connor looked at the on going Town Projects list that the Board created and asked what the goal of the Board is. He questioned whether it was to just make a list or to tackle the things on the list. Mr. Fraine pointed out that many of the items on the list are in the process of being resolved. Mr. Connor would like to have targeted resolution dates on the items in process as well as continue to discuss this list on a regular basis. Mrs. Allie asked that the Board notify her of which items they would like to specifically discuss so that her and Mr. Fraine could be prepared.

New Business

Mrs. Grant stated she would like to see a more streamlined process for capital review. She suggested maybe a capital review workshop much like the Board does during budget season. This is something that the Board will look at doing during the next capital review season.

Mr. Connor questioned whether or not the Town has an appropriate handle on the inventory of vehicles in order to avoid paying out for major repairs. Mr. Fraine and Mrs. MacKinnon both felt that the department heads do a great job repurposing vehicles and making them available to other apartments. They also pointed out the fleet schedule road map that the different departments have been creating to show the schedule of replacement vehicles.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Fraine stated that the project committee for the Mass DOT reviewed the Town's preliminary work and approved the project from Walmart all the way down to the Medway town line be included within the State's MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) for state funding. Mr. Fraine stated that the Town has committed to always having a project on the TIP list and this would be the next project.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM with no further business to be discussed at the conclusion of the executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hilarie J. Allie".

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant