



Town of Bellingham
Office of the
Board of Selectmen
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October 30, 2023

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 4:00 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 were Interim Town Administrator Beth Cornell-Smith and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. This meeting was accessible to the public either in-person, via the Zoom online option or ABMI Cable TV.

Mr. Connor explained that the Board had asked Mr. Sette and Mr. McInerney back for second interviews.

The complete second interviews and Board discussion can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXOMlubDP8s>

Mr. Hennessy made a motion to appoint Steven Sette as the next Town Administrator seconded by Mr. Sahin. The vote was as follows:

Hennessy – aye

Sahin – aye

Connor – nay

Odabashian – nay

Discussion - Mr. Hennessy and Mr. Sahin both felt Mr. Sette checked all the boxes including the necessary education, experience and know how. Mr. Connor felt Mr. Sette was a short term solution and Ms. Odabashian stated Mr. Sette was never her first choice. Mr. Connor and Mrs. Odabashian would like to start the process over again.

Mr. Connor made a motion to reinstitute a new search to find a Town Administrator but this time with a salary +/- \$225,000 seconded by Mrs. Odabashian. The vote was as follows:

Connor – aye

Odabashian – aye

Sahin – nay

Hennessy – nay

Mr. Petrin stated he would need some indication of how the Board would like to proceed. He stated the Board really needs to think about whether or not they would like to begin the search again with a four member Board as they can't afford to have another stalemate.

Mr. Hennessy suggested the Board take a 5-10 minute recess to think things through. On an Odabashian/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to take a 10 minute recess and reconvene after the break.

Mr. John Petrin of Community Paradigm announced he had received a text from Mr. Sette during the break and it stated that he would like to remove his name from the process.

Mr. Connor made a motion seconded by Mrs. Odabashian to reopen the search under the following parameters: establish the new starting salary, that Beth Cornell-Smith steps down as the Interim Town Administrator and initiate discussions with Denis Fraine to work a modified schedule while a new search takes place. Mr. Hennessy stated he was not feeling well and wanted to adjourn. Mrs. Odabashian withdrew her seconded motion.

On a Hennessy/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilarie J. Allie".

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant