



# Town of Bellingham

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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

September 26, 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.

### Check Presentation

The Board welcomed Hallie Glassman to the meeting to present a check in the amount of \$9,861 from the proceeds of Bellingham Days. Ms. Glassman is a special education teacher at Stallbrook Elementary School and is fundraising for a new all-inclusive playground to be installed there.

### Change in Manager – Uno Restaurant LLC

The Board welcomed Blair Wells on the application of a change in manager for Uno Restaurant in Bellingham. Mr. Wells stated he has been with Uno's for 17 years and recently became the general manager at the Bellingham location. There were no questions from the Board.

On a Connor/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the change in manager application Uno Restaurant LLC d/b/a Uno Chicago Grill for proposed manager Blair Wells.

### Hilb Group – Health Insurance Analysis

Mr. Fraine introduced Matt Lanza & Pauline Hunt from the Hilb Group and explained they recently completed a medical insurance feasibility analysis of the Town's self-funded health insurance plan vs. a fully insured plan as well as an analysis on the \$160,000 stop loss plan to see if it still made sense to continue to do so. The last analysis was done approximately 10 years ago. Mr. Fraine stated he would like to continue this analysis process on a yearly basis. He also stated that the Town consults with a third party administrator every year and they competitively bid on the reinsurance to get the best price available.

Matt stated they looked at what the cost of a fully insured insurance plan would have been the last five years vs what the Town paid for their self-funded plan. They broke the analysis down into two areas: everything excluding Medex (older population supplement to Medicare) and just Medex on its own. Based on their analysis they are recommending the Town go back to fully insured insurance on the Medex piece but remain self-insured on the rest of the medical program. Matt stated they also did an analysis looking at three different retention levels (deductible per claimant) and concluded that the current \$160,000 self-insured deductible is a good option. The Town currently purchases excess insurance above that so the first \$160,000 is paid and then reinsurance would kick in. They would however recommend looking at getting quotes for an aggregate stop loss policy which would cap the amount of \$160,000 retentions paid in one year.

Finally, they suggested the Town do an analysis on the Enterprise Fund to decide what is the right number to be putting aside.

Mr. Fraine stated one of the key points is to add to the Health Insurance Trust Fund during good years.

Mr. Connor asked what would be a reasonable number to have in the trust fund? Matt stated he would plan to fund for 85% of expected loss in the fund.

Mrs. MacKinnon stated if the Town is going to have this analysis completed on an annual basis she would like to expand the scope of the study to include an analysis of the fund balance and look at the operating costs to make a recommendation.

The Board thanked the Hilb Group for their work in presenting this information.

#### Grove Street – Solar Speed Limit Sign

Marcia Goodspeed of 44 Grove Street addressed the Board regarding a solar speed limit sign that had been marked to be installed in front of her home. She felt as though she should have been notified ahead of time that a flashing sign was going to be installed directly in front of her home. Mr. Martinis explained that this sign was recommended to be installed on Grove Street per the Safety Officer and apologized that the Town did not notify her and that the Town was working with the DPW to find a location where the sign did not interfere directly with their homes on Grove Street. Linda Goodspeed (44 Grove Street) and Brian Boyd (48 Grove Street) suggested additional regular speed limit signs might also help the situation specifically a speed limit sign at Melon Street. Mr. Fraine stated he would speak to the DPW and the Safety Officer about putting up additional signs.

#### ARPA Projects

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

Amount	From	For/Purpose	Spending Authority
\$49,000	Norfolk County ARPA funds	South Main Street Standpipe Recoating	DPW

On a Connor/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the August 1<sup>st</sup>, August 22<sup>nd</sup> and September 20<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted.

On a Sahin/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the July abatements in the amount of \$1,409.17.

On a Sahin/McNulty motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the August abatements in the amount of \$1,109.27.

On a Connor/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to award Contract 2022-R&DV Roadway & Drainage Improvements Various Streets to the low bidder Lorusso Corporation of Plainville, MA in the amount of \$1,094,499.00.

#### Veteran's Services Officer

Mr. Fraine stated he would like to appoint Ana Milot, a 21 year Army veteran herself, as the Veteran's Services Officer and was looking for the Board's ratification. This position will be worked into her current position so no additional funding will be needed. Ana will be holding office hours half a day on Fridays at which time she will be doing intakes and performing interviews. Michael Hennessy the Veteran's Services Officer in Marlborough (also a Bellingham resident and Board of Health member) will serve as Ana's administrative assistant. This position will need to be designated as Special Employee Status because Michael receives a stipend for being on the Board of Health.

On a Connor/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of Ana Milot as the Veteran's Services Officer.

On a McNulty/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to designate the Administrative Assistant position to the Veteran's Services Officer a Special Employee Status.

#### Fall Town Meeting Warrant

The Board signed the Fall Town Meeting Warrant as presented and was advised it will be posted by the constable on Friday September 30, 2022.

#### Old Business

Mr. Connor asked if the running list of the Town's projects could be categorized as resolved, in process or yet to tackle along with a brief description next to each item. Mrs. Allie stated she would work on getting that information together for the next meeting.

#### Town Administrator's Report


Mr. Fraine stated that National Grid recently released their winter rates (December through April) and the rates of the generation portion of the bill went from .11 to .34. This portion of the bill makes up 40% of the overall bill. The Town's Municipal Aggregation Program is up for renewal this year after being intact for 3 years. The Town was able to secure a rate that was lower than the National Grid rate but still an increase. The Town opted to commit to 1 year as opposed to 3 years with the market being so volatile. Mr. Fraine stated 90% of residents are in the program but can opt out on their own and shop their own rates or stay with Nation Grid. Information will be mailed out to all residents regarding the program renewal.

Mr. Fraine stated Verizon has been busy working on the utility poles in the Town Center and as soon as they are finished Walsh will be able to come back to finish up the project. Unfortunately, it looks as though it will be a springtime finish. Mr. Connor asked Mr. Fraine to breakdown the timing and the completion dates of the Center Street, South Main Street and Town Center projects. Mr. Fraine stated the Center Street signal is waiting on parts and he is hoping to get an update soon on the South Main Street TIP project.

Mr. Fraine stated the new mattress regulations go into effective November 1. The recycle center will have a donation bin where residents will be allowed to bring one mattress per year free of charge. A curbside option will most likely be available, but a fee will be associated with it.

Mr. Fraine requested an executive session to discuss contract negotiations. All members of the Board were polled with all voting in the affirmative. On a McNulty/Sahin motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 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