



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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

March 4, 2024

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 Ms. Odabashian. Also actively participating in the meeting was Interim Town Administrator Denis Fraine and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. This meeting was accessible to the public either in-person, via the Zoom online option or ABMI Cable TV.

Citizen Input

Mr. Connor explained to the audience that this was a new segment that was recently approved by the Board and will be added to each agenda. He explained that any resident wishing to reserve a spot to come before the Board to discuss an issue or pose a question should contact Hilarie Allie the administrative Assistant.

Mr. Don Martinis of 334 Maple Street came before the Board to ask them where they were in the process of hiring a new Town Administrator. Mr. Connor stated that they have decided to wait until after the Town Election at which point they will be back to a five member Board.

Gifts/Grants

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 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
2851	\$49,381.20	Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant	<i>Purchase of tasers</i>	Police Chief
2983	\$25,360	Mass. Life Sciences Center Grant	<i>Purchase of STEM equipment</i>	School
2984	\$4,800	One8 Foundation – Combined Jewish Philanthropies Grant	<i>To support the Applied Learning Leadership Discovery Program</i>	School
4062	\$25,195	Office of Grants and Research Municipal Road Safety Grant	<i>Traffic Enforcement Overtime and Traffic Safety equipment</i>	Police Chief
4141	\$6,712.50	Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant	<i>Purchase of bulletproof vests</i>	Police Chief
4241	\$50,000	Mass Marketing Partnership Grant	<i>Town Common Playground Equipment</i>	Town Administrator

4242	\$55,000	Executive Office for Administration and Finance Grant	<i>Town Website Updates</i>	MIS
4341	\$131,000	Mass Dept of environmental Protection Grant	<i>Lead Service Line Inventory and Planning Replacement Plan (LSLI/LSLRP)</i>	DPW Director
6831	\$146,340 (\$1,355 per unit)	Bungay Brook Estates fee per unit sold Gift	<i>Future construction and/or repair of sidewalks</i>	Planning Board
6090	\$100	Hody's Family Gift	<i>Donation for Fire Prevention account</i>	Fire Department
6090	\$25	Boni Family Gift	<i>Donation for Fire Prevention account</i>	Fire Department
6090	\$100	Mattson Family Gift	<i>Donation for Fire Prevention account</i>	Fire Department
6090	\$100	Marguerite Family Gift	<i>Donation for Fire Prevention account</i>	Fire Department

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the New England Country Club Seasonal All Alcohol Restaurant, Common Victualler, Weekday and Sunday Entertainment licenses.

On an Odabashian/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the Bellingham Youth Baseball Common Victualler license from April 1st – November 30th – fee waived.

On a Hennessy/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the February 5, 2024, minutes as submitted.

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the Second Hand Dealers license renewal for Town Line Power.

Change in Manager – Outback Steakhouse

The Board welcomed Jonathan Murgo and his attorney Liz Pisano via Zoom on the application of a change of manager for Outback Steakhouse of Florida LLC d/b/a Outback Steakhouse. Ms. Pisano stated that Mr. Murgo has been with Outback for 10 years and will be on the Bellingham premises for 40-50 hours per week. There were no questions from the Board.

On a Hennessy/Odabashian motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the change in manager application Outback Steakhouse of Florida LLC d/b/a Outback Steakhouse for proposed manager Jonathan Murgo.

Public Hearing – on the joint petition of Verizon and National Grid for plan number 30733791 to install one JO Pole on Mechanic Street. Beginning at a point approximately 17 feet South of the centerline of the intersection of Pole 33 Mechanic Street and continuing approximately 108 feet in an East Pole 33-1/100 feet West of P33 direction. Install underground facilities, ground rod 7/8” off pole. Install new Pole 33-50 public property system improvement adding needed load break on P33-50 (a 40-2 pole). Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the mentioned public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as the petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Mr. Connor opened the public hearing and welcomed via Zoom Mr. Al Gavin from National Grid. Mr. Connor stated the utility work was self-explanatory and asked Mr. Gavin if he had any further details to provide and he did not.

Mr. Connor asked if there were any questions from the Board or the audience to which no one responded.

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to close the public hearing.

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the petition of Verizon and National Grid for the work described in plan number 30733791.

Selectboard and Town Administrator Annual Appointments

On a Hennessy/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to appoint and/or reappoint in totality the individuals recommended by the Town Administrator as presented on the attached list.

On a Hennessy/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to appointment and/or reappoint in totality the individuals as presented on the attached sheet.

Public Hearing – Application of Acai Brazil Plus for a Common Victualler License. Premises located at 1 Mechanic Street.

Mr. Connor read the public hearing notice.

Mr. Bento and his wife are seeking a Common Victualler license to open a small restaurant at 1 Mechanic Street in the Khoury Plaza. Mr. Bento stated he moved to Bellingham four years ago and there is no place in Town for him to go for Brazilian snacks. The restaurant will hold four tables with four chairs at each table. Mr. Aicardi confirmed that they have applied for all necessary permits. The Board asked if there would be enough parking in the plaza and Mr. Aicardi confirmed the site plan was designed for all the spaces in the building.

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to close the public hearing.

On a Hennessy/Sahin motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the application of Acai Brazil Plus for a Common Victualler License. Premises located at 1 Mechanic Street.

Budget Shortfall Discussion

Ms. Odabashian addressed the Board and members of the audience. She stated when the Board was presented the Fire Department's FY25 Budget they proposed a paramedic only program which would employ six new paramedic only members to the Fire Department. Unfortunately the Town's tax levy and new growth numbers do not support adding six

new members to the department. Because of this Ms. Odabashian is proposing an override which would be a ballot question at the Town Election in June. The cost to the residents would be roughly \$628,000 or \$60 more per year if the Fire Department hired six medics or \$825,000 or \$85 more per year if the Fire Department hired eight medics. Hiring eight medics could plan for retirements, backfilling and adding another firefighter to the South Fire Station. These numbers are based on the tax bills for the average single family home. Mr. Fraine clarified that these numbers do not include indirect costs such as health insurance. He stated he would have this information to provide to them at their next meeting. Ms. Odabashian stated with all the new growth in Town, the Fire Department is in need of additional personnel to make sure things are running smoothly. She stated it is the Board's responsibility to ensure they have what they need to do their job. Chief Miller stated that as the Town continues to grow so does the demand for services. He stated this is not a want but a need. He stated the department currently has six personnel per shift and if both ambulances are out and staffed with two firefighter/paramedics each it only leaves one firefighter and one captain at the station to man the Town. The new program would allow for the paramedics to operate the ambulances out of headquarters while the firefighter paramedics would operate the fire trucks. He stated the number of calls continues to increase each year and there has been no increase in staffing since 2013. The Board weighed in with their opinions and ultimately agreed the Fire Department is in need of additional staffing but because an override would be needed the decision is ultimately in the hands of the residents of Bellingham. Mr. Fraine stated he would speak to Mr. Sposato, the Town Clerk, about timing for the ballot question for the June election.

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to bring forward to the voters of Bellingham the question of an override for \$825,000 to be used to roll out the paramedic only program within the Fire Department.

Recommendation to Appoint Facilities Supervisor

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to appoint Keith Pray as the Facilities Supervisor for the Town of Bellingham. Under discussion, Mr. Fraine stated they had three outside candidates and four internal candidates apply for the job. He stated he sat in on the second round of interviews and was very impressed with Mr. Pray's knowledge and professionalism. The Board had nothing but good things to say about Mr. Pray as well.

Abatements

On an Odabashian/Hennessy motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the December, January and February capital improvement, sewer, stormwater, trash and water abatement charges in the amount of \$11.37, \$14,997.91 & \$5,389.28 respectively.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Fraine stated the Finance Committee and the Capital Improvements Committee are gearing up in preparation for the Annual Town Meeting. He stated they will be meeting on a weekly basis starting next Monday.

Mr. Fraine stated he anticipates receiving a citizen's petition to amend a local zoning bylaw limiting/eliminating the construction of warehouses in industrial zoned areas. If this is received it will require a Special Town Meeting that must take place within 45 days.

New Business

Mr. Connor stated there is an increased problem with small signs along the roadways advertising businesses. He and Mr. Aicardi will discuss and come up with a resolution to this problem.

Mr. Connor stated the timing of the new light at the intersection of Center Street and South Main Street needs to be adjusted and Mr. Fraine stated the Town is aware of this and is working on it.

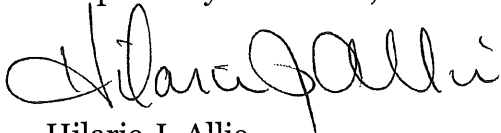
Mrs. Allie stated the Board had received an email from Ms. Bernadette Rivard looking for two of the Select Board members to volunteer their time on the Bellingham Library Strategic Planning Committee. The Select Board members would be asked to attend two consecutive Tuesday meetings each totaling two hours. Ms. Odabashian and Mr. Hennessy volunteered their time.

Ms. Odabashian stated that it was time once again to organize a clean up along Maple Street and High Street. She suggested the Town contact the landscapers of the warehouses to ask them about cleaning up the streets. Mr. Aicardi stated that he will speak to them.

Ms. Odabashian stated she has been asked by residents of Lakeshore Drive to address the potholes and drainage issue and Mr. Fraine stated that the DPW is in the process of working on this area.

On an Odabashian/Sahin motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilarie J. Allie', written in a cursive style.

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPOINTMENTS

MARCH 4, 2024

POSITION	NAME	TERM OF OFFICE	EXP.
Norfolk County Advisory Board	Nick Mobilia (incumbent)	1 year	3/2025
Board of Health	Richard Martinelli (new member)	3 years	3/2027
Cemetery Committee	Francis Cartier (incumbent) Denis Fraine (ex officio)	3 years	3/2027
Conservation Commission	Noel Lioche (incumbent)	1 year	3/2025
	Arianne Barton (incumbent)	3 years	3/2027
	Donald A. Coelho, Jr. (new member)	3 years	3/2027
	James Clancy (new member)	3 years	3/2027
Council on Aging	Kay Page (incumbent)	3 years	3/2027
	Ming Ming He (incumbent)	3 years	3/2027
	David Dunbar (incumbent)	3 years	3/2027
	Tina Tyler (associate member)		
Historical Commission	Jennifer Russo (incumbent)	3 years	3/2027
	Jeffrey Prescott (incumbent)	3 years	3/2027
Board of Registrars	Sandra Tracy (incumbent)	3 years	3/2027
Board of Tax Assessors	Susan Silva (incumbent)	3 years	3/2027
Town Common Trustees	David Wyatt (incumbent)	3 years	3/2027
	Joanne Arcand (incumbent)	3 years	3/2027
Zoning Board of Appeals	Brian Salisbury (incumbent)	5 years	3/2029
Memorial & Veterans Day Committee	James Hastings	1 year	3/2025
	Samuel Cowell	1 year	3/2025
	Thomas Earnest, Sr.	1 year	3/2025
	Paula Saliba	1 year	3/2025
	Lori Fafard	1 year	3/2025
	Nick Mobilia	1 year	3/2025
	Joseph Condon	1 year	3/2025

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR RECOMMENDATIONS

MARCH 4, 2024

POSITION	INCUMBENT	TERM OF OFFICE	NEW TERM EXPIRATION
Admin Asst Selectboard	Hilarie Allie	1 year	3/2025
Assistant Animal Control Officers	Gregory Giardino	1 year	3/2025
	Michael Perks	1 year	3/2025
	Samuel Taddeo	1 year	3/2025
	Michael Rogers	1 year	3/2025
Assistant Town Planner/ Zoning Compliance Officer	Amy Sutherland	1 year	3/2025
Emergency Management Agency – Director	Chief Bill Miller	1 year	3/2025
Assistant Director	Deputy Chris Milot		
Assistant Building Inspectors	Stephen Johnson	1 year	3/2025
	John Erickson	1 year	3/2025
	Frederick (Rick) K. Heim, Jr.	1 year	3/2025
Inspector of Plumbing & Gas	Roger Gaboury	1 year	3/2025
Assistant Inspector	Barry Iadarola	1 year	3/2025
Assistant Inspector	Francis Sebio	1 year	3/2025
Assistant Inspector	Mike McKeown	1 year	3/2025
Assistant Inspector	Jay Palermo	1 year	3/2025
Inspector of Wires	William Clinton	1 year	3/2025
Assistant Inspector	Joseph Scansaroli	1 year	3/2025
Assistant Inspector	Richard Marcoux	1 year	3/2025
Inspector of Weights & Measures	Richard Orpen	1 year	3/2025
Veterans' Agent	Ana Milot	1 year	3/2025
Veterans' Service Officer	Warren (Art) Campbell	1 year	3/2025
Worker's Comp Agent	Beth Cornell-Smith	1 year	3/2025