

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**The Board of Selectmen in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
From left: William N. Brownsberger; Paul Solomon, Chairman; Angelo Firenze, Vice-Chairman**

At the annual town election in April, Angelo Firenze was re-elected to the Board. Paul Solomon was re-elected as Chairman. Angelo Firenze was elected Vice-Chair. William Brownsberger remains a Selectman.

Town Personnel saw little change. Police Chief Andrew O'Malley retired and the town started a search for a new Police Chief. As always, the Selectmen applaud all the accomplishments and dedication shown by Town employees. While the Selectmen may oversee all aspects of town business, it is the hardworking employees who keep the town running!

Property issues are not new to the Town of Belmont in 2006. Discussion of proposed development of the Uplands continued at a brisk pace. Ramifications on future development from the business at Purecoat on Brighton Street were also a topic of discussion. Affordable housing took a few steps forward with the commencement of a *Habitat for Humanity* home on Brighton Street and the sale of property to Waverley Woods Development for building affordable housing units on land adjacent to the Waverley Oaks complex. Municipal buildings netted some profit to the town – the sale of the Harvard Lawn Fire Station and the Belmont Center Fire Station took place and development of these two properties will be an asset to the makeup of the town. Two new Fire Stations were dedicated in October – the Fire Station Headquarters on Trapelo Road and a fire station on Alexander Avenue. A new Senior Center is in the works with review of the design and construction documents taking place in 2006.

2006 saw the activity of 77 committees with over 650 volunteer members. New temporary committees were appointed in 2006 to address a variety of issues: Security Committee, Harvard Lawn Fire Station Committee, Pavement Management Committee and the Sesquicentennial Planning Committee, which was appointed in order to begin plans for the town's 150th Anniversary on March 18, 2009. As technology advances, the town's website (www.town.belmont.ma.us) sees more and more use as residents rely on this method to keep abreast of town activity, check for committee meetings and read minutes of meetings.

Belmont is rising to the occasion of meeting the global challenge of reducing emissions, saving energy and taking up water conservation measures. In 2006, by designating "no idling zones" around town, as well as installing energy and water saving devices in public buildings, Belmont hopes to join with other locales in contributing to making our planet a better place to live.

In November, Deval Patrick was elected as Governor of our Commonwealth, as Governor Mitt Romney's term ended. While Belmont is no longer home to the Governor of our Commonwealth, we join the rest of the state's communities in welcoming our new Governor. Belmont, as well as many other cities and towns in the Commonwealth, still struggles with budget shortfalls, traffic, rising health care costs, balancing development with open space, being business-friendly, and keeping services to residents intact.

There may never be answers to these complex issues, but in 2006 the town of Belmont took its first steps toward the next stage in our town's history by offering cemetery plots for sale at the new Highland Meadow Cemetery, approving a Belmont Farmers Market, availability of reliable emergency rescue with our new fire stations, the sale of aging municipal properties for revitalization, finding ways for affordable housing, taking a look at our aging infra-structure and municipal properties, celebrating diversity, urging residents to spend an evening with their families without television or computers and planning for the town's 150th anniversary.

As 2007 approaches, the Town of Belmont continues to evolve and the Town's Board of Selectmen remains dedicated to listening to the needs of the residents in order to craft a successful path to the future.

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Angelo R. Firenze, Vice-Chairman
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