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MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Belmont High School (BHS) Conference Room
Monday, June 5, 2017
5:30 PM

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DATE: 10-16-17

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 5:37 p.m. by Chair Jim Williams in the BHS Conference Room. Selectmen Mark Paolillo and Adam Dash were present. Interim Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall was also present.

Chair Williams reviewed the agenda.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of an Application for Extended Hours for One Night (August 6-7) for a Private Wedding Function from Damian de Magistris of Il Casale, 50 Leonard Street, to remain open until 2:00 a.m.

Ms. Marshall said that the paperwork is in order. The Board expressed concern that this event is 15 hours long (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.). The Board did not vote on this issue and requested further information on the following three items: parking, the length of the event, and when the alcohol portion of the event will take place.

Discussion and Vote on Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles Segment B

Article 11: Salary of Elected Officials

The Board moved: Favorable action on Article 11.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Article 12: Enterprise Funds for Water and Sewer and Stormwater Services

The Board moved: Favorable action on Article 12.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Article 14: Authorization for Up-Front Funds (Chapter 90)

The Board moved: Favorable action on Article 14.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

APPROVED
DATE
Article 16: *Appropriation of OPEB Stabilization Fund*

Chair Williams expressed concern with the overall OPEB policy. There is a better way to manage this expenditure, he stated, but that discussion is for another time.

The Board moved: Favorable action on Article 16.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Article 17: Authorization for Revolving Funds

The Board moved: Favorable action on Article 17.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Article 18: Authorization to Establish a SPED Reserve Fund

The Board moved: Favorable action on Article 18.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Article 23: Municipal Light Substation Project Borrowing De-Authorization and Appropriation

The Board moved: Favorable action on Article 23.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Article 24: Joint Public Safety Communications Center Project Borrowing De-Authorization and Appropriation

The Board moved: Favorable action on Article 24.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Article 25: Replacement Fire Alarm System at BHS Borrowing De-Authorization and Reduction of the Appropriation

The Board moved: Favorable action on Article 25.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Article 20: Retirement Board COLA

Mr. Ross Vona and Ms. Angela Olszewski, of the Retirement Board, appeared before the Board concerning Article 20.

Chair Williams explained his rationale for voting favorably on this article. He referenced the Pension funding schedule, which was recently extended. The Board briefly discussed managing this fund from an accrual base accounting basis as opposed to a cash basis. Mr. Vona explained why the request is for a base of \$14,000 as opposed to \$13,000. Selectman Paolillo noted that

the Chair has expressed concern with the overall Pension liability and yet he supports adding \$1.7M to this liability. Chair Williams agreed that it is counterintuitive that he supports this increase and he explained again why he does support this request. Chair Paolillo stated that he is concerned with adding to the overall pension liability. Selectman Dash agreed that adds to the liability. The town does not have enough money to give everyone everything that they want.

The Board moved: Unfavorable action on Article 20.
The motion passed (2-1).

Article 26: Citizen's Petition: General Stabilization Fund

This article was submitted by Mr. Bob Sarno, former WC member. Selectman Paolillo requested that the Board discuss and vote on the Article on Wednesday. He then reviewed some of the current balances of several funds – SPED, General Stabilization, Free Cash, etc. Chair Williams stated that he supports this article.

Mr. Bob Sarno approached the table. Mr. Sarno noted that last year's TM fully supported putting money away to extend the override. Free cash now is robust and there will be an operating budget deficit in two years. The Modular units can be paid for in other ways. This may be the last year of a robust free cash balance – take advantage of that situation and set the money aside. The free cash remaining will still be within the free cash guidelines.

Selectman Paolillo stated that the free cash balance, in the fall, will likely be higher than it is now. Why not wait until the fall to decide this issue?

Chair Williams explained why he will be supporting this article. Ms. Marshall noted that once the money is put in the General Stabilization fund, it will not necessarily be taken out for capital needs.

The Board opted to defer voting on this article.

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Marshall reported on the following items:

- **Collective Bargaining Update:** Ms. Jessica Porter, HR Director, updated the Board on the progress of the bargaining units (AFSCME and the Police Supervisors).
- **Summer Hours:** Ms. Porter remained to discuss the implementation of Summer Hours. Ms. Marshall explained the new hours, the dates this would begin, and the overall summer schedule. SEIU has agreed to summer hours as outlined. Ms. Porter explained the Light Department's approach to Summer Hours has been different from the agreement with SEIU She offered to work with Mr. Palmer on this issue to be equitable with other members of SEIU this conversation segued into a scheduling discussion concerning Mr. Palmer's contract and performance review.
- **Keno Monitoring/Lottery Update:** No decision has been made.

Discussion Regarding Annual Committee Appointment Process

Selectman Dash noted that there are *more formal* appointment processes available (with better outreach) and Belmont could model an updated appointment process after another community, Weston, for example.

Selectman Paolillo suggested reviewing some of the alternative processes and then implementing an updated appointment process after the alternative processes have been reviewed.

Chair Williams agreed that this issue needs to be deferred until after Town Meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Board of Selectmen Meetings March 6, 2017 and March 10, 2017

The Board moved: To approve the meeting minutes of 3-6-17 and 3-10-17.
The motion passed (2-0-1). [Selectman Dash abstained as he was not yet voted into office as a Selectman]

Board of Selectmen Meeting on April 5, 2017

The Board moved: To approve the meeting minutes of 4-5-17.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Belmont High School (pre-TM)

Adjournment

The Board did not adjourn the meeting, but at 6:58 p.m. headed to Town Meeting.



Ms. Phyllis Marshall, Interim Town Administrator