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APPROVED  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DATE: 11/5/18

Minutes

Town of Belmont

Board of Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Monday, September 28, 2018

8:00am

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 8:07am by Chair Adam Dash. Vice Chair Mark Paolillo and Selectmen Tom Caputo were present. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin was present.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Invitation for applicants to serve on the *Community Path Project Committee* – see the Town Website for the application portal.
- Cardboard and container drop-off is September 29 from 9am-12noon at Town Yard; can also dispose of old trash barrels and recycling bins.
- As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, trash carts with lids not fully closed will not be picked up. Official overflow trash bags should be used and can be purchased at various locations (Star Market, DPW office, True Value).
- Belmont Fire Department is hosting a free family fire safety night, Wednesday October 10 from 6-8pm at Fire Department headquarters, 299 Trapelo Rd.
- Tomorrow night is Soccer Night in Belmont.
- *Dan Scharfman Memorial Run* will be held Sunday September 30.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS:

[There were none]

ACTION BY CONSENT:

**Approve 2018 Pavement Management Contract**

Glenn Clancy (Director, Community Development) appeared before the Board. He explained that typically the pavement management contract was awarded in late spring, however this year it was delayed due to additional work involved with the Sidewalk Policy. There was one bid received from EH Perkins Construction for \$2.1 million, which included both road and sewer work. The bid came in under the engineering consultant's estimate of \$2.5 million for the project.

G. Clancy noted that this was the second year that only one bid had been received for the pavement management project. A. Dash asked if the fact that the previous six contracts had been awarded to EH Perkins was driving away other potential bids. G. Clancy's office had reached out to other contractors, and

he felt that this was not the case; rather, that other contractors likely preferred more straightforward pavement contracts compared with what the Town currently required. T. Caputo asked if there was potential value in breaking out the sewer portion of the contract. G. Clancy stated that he would keep an eye of this going forward. However, he noted that EH Perkins bids often came in under the estimates for the sewer component; and, that it is easier to coordinate and manage the project with one contractor overseeing the two components.

T. Caputo asked about the timing of the construction. G. Clancy explained that smaller projects, including traffic mitigation near Winnbrook School, would be completed in October, but the majority of work would take place in the spring.

M. Paolillo asked about the quality of work by EH Perkins and G. Clancy said that it was generally very good. There had been some concerns raised about the quality of sidewalk concrete in other projects. Going forward, G. Clancy planned to include language in the contracts addressing testing requirements for the concrete. In the short-term, contractors had been put on notice that projects would be stopped if there were concerns about the quality of the concrete.

G. Clancy clarified that this contract would be paid for with FY18 funds; FY19 funds have been appropriated for next years' pavement management contract, which would be brought before the Board in spring of 2019, as is usual.

*Motion: To award the 2018 Pavement Management contract in the amount of \$2,115,158.50 to EH Perkins Construction. (Vote passed 3-0)*

#### **DPW update on Carry-in/Carry-out and Possible Vote to Extend**

Jay Marcotte (Director, DPW) appeared before the Board and reviewed the history of the trial carry-in/carry-out policy at Joey's Park and Town Field. P. Garvin and J. Marcotte had met recently with the Board of Health due to emails from residents advocating for the return of trash barrels to Joey's Park. In response, J. Marcotte had put together cost estimates to have Big Belly solar trash compactors installed, as well as to have crews come on weekends to empty trash barrels.

J. Marcotte highlighted pros and cons of the Big Belly system. Pros: trash is contained, they are solar powered, compact the trash so need to be emptied less frequently. Cons: costly, require maintenance, they break and are costly to fix, get vandalized. He stressed that re-introducing barrels would not necessarily solve the problem of overflow/illegal dumping. In order to ensure the initiative would succeed, he recommended crews empty the trash barrels once per day on weekends. However, this would require over-time costs which had not been planned for in the budget. A trial with the Big Belly would also require a permanent aspect in that concrete pads would need to be installed.

A. Dash asked if there were data on the amount of trash before/after the carry-in/carry-out trial was implemented. J. Marcotte stated that the Parks Manager had noted drastically reduced calls with respect to trash in the parks. M. Paolillo observed that people were still illegally dumping in the park; T. Caputo had noticed there was more litter in the park now, a quality of life issue.

Wes Chin (Director, Board of Health) was invited to comment. He noted that no official complaints had been received over the summer while carry-in/carry-out was in place, but that Board members had been contacted directly with several complaints. The rat problem appeared to be under control, although

historically the peak months were September-November, so it would remain to be seen if the problem was solved.

M. Paolillo raised a concern that implementing another different trial may be confusing to residents and that it was important to be clear about objectives of the trial, and what information will be collected to help assess whether or not the trial succeeds.

[Open for public comments]

Emily Peterson explained she had started the petition because one of the porta-pottys was locked when her child needed to use it; she assumed it was locked due to people placing dog poop bags in the porta-pottys, because there were no trash barrels. She did not think that carry-in/carry-out was working, and explained that she had proposed the Big Belly solution in order minimize extra labour costs for trash collection; based on the current discussion, she would be okay with other rodent proof barrels as well as placing more of them in the park. J. Marcotte explained that the porta-potty should not have been locked during soccer activities, and this was a mistake.

Katherine Oates supported the petition to reintroduce the trash barrels, and asked about what enforcement had been implemented with respect to trash at the parks. J. Marcotte said that DPW monitors the parks daily, but have not ticketed people or given warnings.

Jeff Liberty said he supported the intent of the carry-in/carry-out policy, but that it should be considered as a failed experiment, and that the Board should try something else. He advocated using bear-proof containers similar to those used in National Parks. He also suggested that local businesses sponsor trash barrels at the parks.

Margaret Ecklind supported the DPW and the carry-in/carry-out policy, arguing that a behavioural change and more education were necessary.

April Edrington supported the notion that carry-in/carry-out was not working and urged to Board to implement a new solution.

[A. Dash closed the public comment]

The Board discussed various options for how to proceed on this matter. T. Caputo argued that carry-in/carry-out is not working and something else should be tried. J. Marcotte reviewed the costs of the Big Belly solar. M. Paolillo noted that the Big Belly solar option was not really temporary since concrete pads needed to be installed.

It was agreed that the carry-in/carry-out trial would end, and a new trial phase would begin for the next several months (until winter). In the new trial phase, barrels at Joey's Park and Town Field would be reinstalled and DPW would add trash pick-ups on Saturday and Sunday. DPW would also monitor the trash and rat situations during this time and report to the Board in late November/early December.

*Motion: To re-install trash barrels at Joey's Park and Town Field, implement weekend pick-up and monitor over the next several months. (Vote passed 3-0)*

### **Approval to use Town Green by the First Church for the Blessing of the Animals**

*Motion: To approve use of Town Green by the First Church for the Blessing of the Animals. (Vote passed 2-0; T. Caputo abstained)*

[T. Caputo left the meeting]

### **Acceptance of a Gift for Crosswalk Signage in the Amount of \$2,400**

G. Clancy explained that this donation would allow for the purchase at least 6 signs. Currently, Community Development is in the process of generating a list of locations and working with the Police Department to get verification to install the signs. Once approved the signs will be ordered and installed as quickly as possible.

*Motion: To accept the donation of \$2,400 for crosswalk signage. (Vote passed 2-0)*

### **Short-term Home Rental Discussion**

A. Dash explained that he was initiating a discussion with the Board to see if there was interest in revisiting some type of regulation around AirBnB-style short-term rentals. This was prompted by a complaint from a resident about one of their neighbours who has been renting out their home constantly.

Charles Clark (Planning Board) said that a working group had been established by a previous Board of Selectmen but did not gain any traction on the issue. M. Paolillo and A. Dash noted that other nearby cities/towns have begun to implement regulation, including Boston, and therefore it would be a good time to revisit the issue.

M. Paolillo and A. Dash expressed support for using AirBnb to make supplemental income but not as a hotel-style operation or business venture. The Board asked C. Clark to have the Planning Board review this issue and prepare something for Spring Town Meeting.

### **Stone Hearth Application for Outdoor Seating – Discussion and Vote**

The vote was delayed as the Board did not have sufficient information regarding: whether alcohol service was planned for the outdoor seating; whether the property line extended onto the sidewalk; and, the time-frame (i.e. months of the year) of the request.

### **Craft Beer Cellar Change of Hours Application – Discussion and Vote**

*Motion: To approve the change of hours at the Craft Beer Cellar. (Vote passed 2-0)*

### **One Day Liquor License Application from Belmont Gallery of Art – Discussion and Vote**

*Motion: To approve the One Day Liquor License Application from the Belmont Gallery of Art. (Vote passed 2-0)*

### **Revision to Board of Selectmen Operational Rules – Discussion and Possible Vote**

A. Dash explained he had written down the previously agreed upon procedures for determining the Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as for how to conduct the organizational meeting. M. Paolillo requested to change the language to the effect that the Board as a whole should decide on committee liaisons versus the Chair appointing them unilaterally.

*Motion: To approve the revision to the Board of Selectmen Operational Rules as amended. (Vote passed 2-0)*

**TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

P. Garvin reviewed the Town Administrator's Report:

- P. Garvin attend the ICMA. One workshop of particular interest involved outlining a formal and cohesive process for notifying residents.
- Meetings with Town departments to discuss FY20 capital items with the goal of developing a five year plan for funding. This approach has been discussed with the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Capital Budget Committee.
- Staff training on the new budgeting model for UNIS has begun. The new process should allow future budgets to be more accurately calculated as well as allowing reports to be pulled more efficiently.
- The preliminary CPC application for Phase 1b of the Community Path was submitted. The full request will be due in December.
- Twitter account for the Town has been ramped up as of late.
- P. Garvin thanked the employees for their work on the September 25<sup>th</sup> election.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

[None]

*Motion: To adjourn. (Vote passed 2-0)*