

Call to Order

The Board of Selectmen met in regular session on Monday, January 13, 2003 at 7:30 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Belmont Town Hall. All members were in attendance.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Action by Appointment

Housing Authority re: Update on Parking Situation at Waverley Oaks

The Board met with representatives of the Housing Authority who reported to the Board that an additional seven parking spaces were added to the Waverley Oaks Apartment complex. They also noted the recent passing of Bill Holmes, a member of the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority requested that the vacancy created by his death remain unfilled until the Town election in April.

The Board thanked them for their responsiveness to the residents' needs and agreed that the Mr. Holmes' vacancy should remain unfilled until the general election in April.

Cultural Council re: Proposal for Public Display of Art

The Board met with representatives of the Belmont Cultural Council regarding a proposal for the public display of art in the renovated training room on the third floor of the Town Hall Annex.

Mrs. Mahoney expressed her support for this proposal and inquired whether it might be possible to display sculptures are well.

Dr. Solomon also expressed his support for this proposal.

The Board moved: to approve the request of the Cultural Council to develop a gallery space in the training room of the third floor of the Town Hall Annex.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator re: FY 2004 Budget Presentation

The Town Administrator and the Town Accountant presented the Town Administrator's FY2004 budget recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Brownsberger requested that the budget books be distributed at the Warrant Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 15.

The Board thanked the Town Administrator for his efforts.

Mrs. Mahoney summarized comments made by Governor Romney at the Massachusetts Municipal Association Meeting indicating his desire to cut state aid to communities in the current fiscal year.

Discussion of Removal of the Police Chief Position from Civil Service

The Board discussed the issue of removing the position of police chief from the civil service system.

Various members of the Belmont superior officers union and their union representative were present to discuss their concerns with the Board.

The union's representative commented that the union desires the Board of Selectmen to provide documented criteria for the evaluation of police chief candidates.

Officer MacIsaac commented that he believes that the current contract contains language that requires the Town to bargain over the change, if it were to happen.

Mrs. Mahoney expressed her strong desire for the Town to have the utmost flexibility with respect to hiring a police chief to ensure the candidate is best suited and qualified for the position. She expressed concerns that the civil service system limits the decision to only those who perform well on the civil service exam, which is offered infrequently.

Dr. Solomon agreed with Mrs. Mahoney's comments.

Mr. Brownsberger concurred.

The Board of Selectmen moved: to support a petition to remove the position of the chief of police from the civil service laws.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board agreed that it should continue to discuss this issue with the unions.

Appointment to Affordable Housing Development Advisory Committee

Selectman Mahoney recommended the appointment of Marjorie Fay, a resident of the Waverley Oaks apartment complex, to the Affordable Housing Development Advisory Committee.

The Board moved: to appoint Marjorie Fay to the Affordable Housing Development Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Consent

Application for Licenses and Permits

Extended Hours Permit

New Asia in Belmont, 93 Trapelo Road

The Board moved: to approve the above request to operate for extended hours.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Application for Licenses and Permits - Renewals

Common Victualler's License

Ans & Ans, LLC dba Summer Palace, 63 Concord Avenue

Athanasios Ladas dba Flamingo Café, 368 Trapelo Road

Brigham's of Belmont, 2 Trapelo Road
Lethe, LLC dba Bruegger's Bagel Bakery, 41 Leonard
Royal Pastry Shop, 42 Leonard Street
Shangri-La, Inc., 149 Belmont Street
Starbucks Coffee #871, 47 Leonard Street
Starbucks Coffee #7538, 112 Trapelo Road
"TCBY" The Country's Best Yogurt, 59A Leonard Street

The Board moved: to approve the above Common Victualler's licenses.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Used Car Dealer's License - Class II

Brothers Auto Services Inc., 337 Mill Street
LVF Corp - dba Lenny's Service Center, 768 Pleasant Street
James F. Venuti dba Coachworks, 297 Trapelo Road
Foreign Cars of Belmont, Inc., 270 Trapelo Road

The Board moved: to approve the above Used Car Dealer's Class II licenses.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Common Carrier

Boston Tours, Inc., 56 Williams Street, Waltham

The Board moved: to approve the above Common Carrier License.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Livery

Harry B. Mikaelian dba Advantage Limo, 294 Fitzmaurice Circle

The Board moved: to approve the above Livery License.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Writing

Letter from Town Meeting Member re: Pavement Management Program

The Board reviewed a letter from a town meeting member regarding the pavement management program.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the letter.

Letter from Resident re: Town Newsletter Content

The Board reviewed a letter from a resident regarding the Town's newsletter content.

The Board stated that the contents of the quarterly Town newsletter should be non-partisan. The Board indicated it would consider placing bylines on the articles.

Memorandum from Town Administrator re: Proposed Parking Restriction on Belmont Street

The Board reviewed a memorandum from the Town Administrator regarding the proposed parking restriction on Belmont Street

The Board moved: to refer the request to the Traffic Division of the Police Department for their review and recommendation.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Joseph Barrell re: Request for Transfer for Town Hall Project Settlement

The Board reviewed a memorandum from Joseph Barrell regarding the request for the transfer of funds for the Town Hall project settlement.

The Board moved: to approve the request by Joseph Barrell for a transfer of reserve funds to cover Town Hall project settlement costs.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Selectmen's Issues List

The Board briefly discussed the Selectmen's issues list of January 1, 2003.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

Other

Memorandum from Town Treasurer re: Request to Fill Position Vacancy - Payroll Technician

The Board met with the Town Treasurer regarding her request to fill a position vacancy created by the resignation of the Town's payroll technician.

The Board moved: to approve the filling of this vacancy.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board adjourned their regular session at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Brownsberger raised the issue of inviting the governor to attend a Selectmen's meeting to acknowledge his election and to briefly discuss issues relevant to Belmont.

The Board indicated their desire to meet with the fire chief to discuss projected shortfalls in the fire department's overtime account.

Mr. Brownsberger inquired of the status of a draft agreement to be developed by the Town Counsel relative to the regulation and oversight of environmental issues in the Alewife area. He requested the draft prior to the end of this week.

Action by Appointment (Continued)

Discussion of Union Grievance (Executive Session)

Discussion of Management Compensation (Executive Session)

Discussion of Collective Bargaining (Executive Session)

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing a union grievance and strategy related to negotiations with both union and non-union personnel; and further that the Board shall not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0), by roll call vote.

Melvin A. Kleckner, Town Administrator
Clerk, Board of Selectmen