

- MINUTES
- TOWN OF BELMONT
- BOARD OF SELECTMEN
- SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
- Friday, October 22, 2010
- 8:00 AM
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- A meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 8:06 a.m. by Chair Jones in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Firenze and Paolillo were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

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- **Amendment to BSC Group Agreement – Trapelo Road**

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- Town Engineer Clancy appeared before the Board to discuss the amendment to the BSC Group agreement. Chair Jones informed the Board and Mr. Clancy that he referred back to the original contract, which notes that the scope of the work could change and that therefore the amount of funding required would then go up, as well. Given that, he said, it is appropriate for the BSC Group to request an amendment. Selectman Firenze requested that he receive notification of any changes made to the contract. Mr. Clancy asked for the Board's direction on this project – he requested to be informed if the Selectmen want to do something different.

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- *The Board moved:* To approve the amendment.

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- Selectman Paolillo said that he had been concerned (at Monday evening's meeting) about the potential "mis-scope" – but now sees that additional work was being done as needs arose that were unforeseen. This \$200K, he said, clearly represents additional work that is required on the project. Mr. Clancy said that the \$200K amount covers funding that will move the project from 75% to 100% design level, and his assumption has been that the Board wants to keep this project moving forward.

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- Selectman Firenze said he does support this project. He said he was surprised by the \$200K request and he thought town money may not have been appropriate for all of the additional requests. He said that \$200K is not an excessive amount of money compared to the \$14 million cost of the total Trapelo Road project.

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- Selectman Firenze said there should be some mechanism of checks and balances in place on some of the town's projects. He said he hates surprises and that early notification of changes would help. Mr. Clancy offered insight into his process: he has an approved project that is ongoing, with elements that are changing. Chair Jones agreed that the end product is clearly not known at the onset of the project.

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- The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

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- **Action By Writing – Sign Easement Plan**
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- Town Engineer Clancy remained before the Board relative to the Warrant article to move a drain easement at 307 Trapelo Road. He showed the Board a drawing of 307 Trapelo Road with the existing storm drainage pipe and where the pipe would get moved to, should this article receive Town Meeting approval. Selectman Firenze confirmed that this would be at no cost to the town and he requested confirmation that there would be no adverse impact on neighbors.

- - *The Board moved:* To accept the easement proposal as outlined.
 - The motion passed unanimously (3-0).
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- The Board signed the easement plan.
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- **Discussion – Construction Enforcement Issues**
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- Town Engineer Clancy remained before the Board to discuss construction enforcement issues relative to a home project near Payson Park. Chair Jones noted that there is an ongoing dispute among neighbors regarding this property. There have been 18 calls to the Town about the property over a two-year period, 15 of which the police needed to respond to (not all of which proved to be actual violations). Mr. Clancy noted that this project was complicated from the beginning. At this phase, it is now a landscaping project. Selectman Paolillo suggested talking to the resident who hired the contractor to get him to comply with enforcement laws. Mr. Clancy said he has talked with the resident about creating goodwill with the neighbors.

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- **Goals and Objectives**
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- Chair Jones noted that the Board has been working to create a “goals and objectives” document. Eight objectives were laid out with several Action Steps listed under each objective. Chair Jones wondered if the Board should set priorities, as there are a lot of goals set forth in the Objectives document. Selectman Firenze said he would like to set a goal, then just see a plan put in place to move it forward.

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- Mr. Younger said it was very important to prioritize the goals. He suggested that areas that the Board has full control over could be set as a priority 1.
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- The Board discussed various goals and discussed what would be needed to move forward on those goals. Chair Jones observed that the Town Administrator’s office needs specific “action steps” to move forward on almost any of these objectives. Mr. Conti suggested combining objective areas 4 and 5 to a single “Restructuring and Consolidation” objective area, and changing objective area 6 to “Promote Economic Development”.
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- Mr. Younger noted that areas that the Board might deem a priority and areas that the Town Administrator's office might deem a priority could be different. Mr. Younger suggested that he and Mr. Conti prioritize these objectives for the Board to review. He noted that generating revenue, development, and restructuring were clearly top priorities.

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- Next steps: to discuss this again at the November 1st Board meeting.

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- **Other:**

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- Chair Jones requested that Selectman Paolillo coordinate with Warrant Committee subcommittee chairs in scheduling budget meetings with the department heads. Paolillo agreed to do this.

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- The Board discussed the relative roles of the Selectmen and the Warrant Committee in preparing and presenting the budget to Town Meeting.

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- Envision Belmont's *Making Tough Choices* seminar will be held on Sunday at the Beech Street Center, from 1-4 pm to discuss issues relating to the town budget. He asked if Town Meeting members could be alerted to this meeting, and suggested more could have been done to advertise this Board-sponsored event.

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- Mr. Younger noted that the Town of Dedham has established an adult entertainment district. Doing so prevents adult-oriented businesses from locating anywhere in the Town outside that district, so it is a way of protecting the community. Without such a district, the Town cannot prevent adult-oriented businesses from locating in any commercial area. The Board declined to pursue this for the time being.

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- **Executive Session (*if necessary*)**

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- *The Board moved:* To enter into executive session at 10:36 a.m. to discuss potential litigation against the Town. The Board will not return to open session.

- The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

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- (*During executive session, no substantive motions were made. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 am.*)

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