

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, March 7, 2011
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 pm by Chair Jones in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Firenze was present; Selectman Paolillo was not. Town Administrator Tom Younger was present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Committee Term Limit Discussion

Mr. Younger asked if the Board wishes to have in place a formal policy on mandatory term limits. This policy would state that there is a maximum amount of time a person can serve on a committee. This policy could apply to all committees or just particular committees. The benefits to a term-limit policy, Mr. Younger explained, are that new members can get on the committees sooner, which would be good for Belmont as there is a pool of interested residents who are willing to serve. However, he noted that change can happen in the midst of a major project which could change the philosophy and/or direction of a committee's efforts.

Chair Jones noted that Selectman Firenze is in favor of this. Selectman Firenze said that Belmont has been operating under an unofficial nine-year term limit. Mr. Younger suggested that the following committees would be appropriate ones to start with: COA, ConCom, MLAB, PB, ZBA, and Recreation Commission. Selectman Firenze suggested this be included as a guideline in the town's policy book.

Mr. Younger will come back with a proposal and a written policy for the Board to review at the next meeting.

Pavement Management Update and Discussion

Mr. Glenn Clancy, Town Engineer, appeared before the Board to provide a pavement management update. He said he wanted to review the road repair plan including a discussion of funding sources (which include state funding from Chapter 90, and override funding through the CBC). That funding covers many things other than actual road fixing (e.g., police details). He explained the process by which materials are prepared for

road repair. The Board discussed a pavement management situation on Concord Ave. Mr. Clancy said he would at some point like to discuss contractor accountability as well. He reviewed pavement work done throughout Belmont for the past 15 years. Regarding the funding plan, he said that there are many roads that require complete reconstruction. He noted that most major roads have been done, but that attention needs to be paid to local roads, starting with Francis Street. He explained that water main replacement work needs to be considered when local roads are being are under consideration for repair. Sometimes funding remains after water main work is done and this funding could be re-directed to local roads. He noted that there is no funding source for improvements to Belmont Center.

Mr. Clancy requested the Board's approval to begin work for FY12 in the Francis Street area.

Mr. Younger noted that if any general government money becomes available, he would like to redirect this money towards sidewalks and roads. Selectman Firenze asked what amount would be appropriate for sidewalks. Mr. Castanino (from the audience) replied: \$50K-\$100K. Selectman Firenze stated that Belmont Center needs attention and therefore funding sources need to be somehow identified.

The Board moved: To approve the plan as presented by Mr. Clancy.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ACTION BY WRITING

Reserve Fund Transfer Request for Tree Damage – DPW

Mr. Peter Castanino, DPW Director, appeared before the Board regarding the DPW's reserve fund transfer request(s).

Regarding tree damage, he noted that last fall two weather events downed 44 trees, which were then in need of removal. He said that big weather events are not budgeted for. He said the tree service and overtime will be short by a month if the accounts are not reimbursed.

The Board moved: To approve the reserve fund transfer request in the amount of \$27K for tree damage throughout town.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Potential Reserve Fund Transfer Request for Compressor at the Skating Rink – DPW

Mr. Castanino noted that, while he is not officially requesting a reserve fund transfer at this time, one compressor at the rink failed in December and another compressor was rebuilt at a cost of \$18K. However, there may be electricity funding left over in the budget that could cover this cost. He will know more in a month or two.

Fire Department FY11 Budget Update

Fire Chief Frizzell and Assistant Fire Chief Angus Davison appeared before the Board to discuss the FY11 overtime budget. Chief Frizzell began with a sad announcement that Retired Belmont Fire Chief Murphy had passed away. He had retired in 1987 after 37 years of service.

Chief Frizzell said two vacancies and several injuries have resulted in the overtime budget being depleted. He noted that ambulance revenues will help mitigate the request, but that that account needs to be restored now. He said the request is urgent, as, without additional funding, drastic changes would be required to limit overtime spending.

The Board noted that this was voted on at the Board meeting on Friday, March 4 with two Selectmen in favor and one opposed. Chair Jones noted that requests on the reserve fund now exceed funding in the reserve fund. He said a special TM may need to be called to prioritize these requests.

Selectman Firenze noted that he voted against this motion on Friday because there are things that could be done to mitigate the problem and those things should be done because additional funding is not available. Selectman Firenze also expressed concern that this sends a message to town departments that they do not need to live within their budgets.

Approval of Annual Town Election Warrant

Mr. Younger noted that there are Precincts that do not have a full roster of candidates for TM (Pct. 2, 4 and 6).

The Board moved: To sign the annual Town Election Warrant.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ACTION BY WRITING (*continued*)

Belmont Farmer's Market

Chair Jones noted that a letter was sent with a contribution for parking space utilization. He said that the Farmer's Market may request to sell wine from local Vineyards. They are researching this issue.

The Board moved: To approve the contribution, and to approve the request of the Belmont Farmer's Market to do business in Belmont Center for its 21-week season.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Enhanced Value Retiree Health Insurance Discussion

Ms. Diane Crimmins, HR Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the “enhanced value” retiree health insurance. She began by stating that, last fall, changes were made to retirement plans. She explained the plan changes. The town is now offering a Tufts HMO Plan, which is a less expensive plan. She said she would like to terminate the “enhanced” plan and only have the “enhanced value” plan, which would save the town about \$200K (estimated). She noted that the co-payment on the “enhanced value” plan is \$15.00 as opposed to \$5.00, but otherwise the benefit is very similar to the “enhanced” plan.

The Board moved: To accept the HR Director’s recommendation.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Town Administrator’s Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- He is looking at GIC rates and reviewing the potential savings. He said that the data needs to be examined more closely. The Board discussed the potential impact on Belmont of joining the GIC.
- The snow parking ban has been lifted due to the melting of snow. He noted that 94 tickets were issued generating about \$1K in revenue.
- There will not be a Silkroad article for the April TM, but the PB is researching this issue to examine the broad range impact throughout town.
- The DPW article will need to be signed in early April in time for the TM. The Board discussed the articles that will be addressed at the April TM. Chair Jones raised the topic of replacing town vehicles with zip cars. This would require parking places for the zip cars. This may reduce the overall number of vehicles on the road. Mr. Younger noted that the town only has six vehicles, but that he will look into this issue to see if there would be any savings and/or revenue generation.
- He met with the COA regarding the YMCA providing no cost (to community) services for the gymnasium. He also mentioned leasing the Belder Bus to the Lexington COA on Wednesdays, which would provide some revenue for Belmont. Chair Jones noted that these are small, but significant, regionalization steps.
- He contacted the MBTA regarding the rail bridge and the signage issue was raised. The MBTA noted that the military sign was approved for a short time. The MBTA was not aware of other signs being hanged there. Mr. Younger informed the MBTA that another site was available to hang signs.

OTHER

Police Department Software

Mr. Younger noted that town received a donation for a little over \$9,000 to purchase software for the Police Department. The donors wish to remain anonymous. The software was approved by the IT department.

The Board moved: To accept the donation.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Selectman Firenze Other:

- He asked about the Hot Patch pot hole filler. Chair Jones said this is being researched by the DPW. He explained the process and noted that this could save money over the long haul. Mr. Younger noted that this is the time of year that pot holes are evident throughout from the harsh winter weather.

Comella's, 43 Leonard Street, Beer and Wine License

Mr. Younger noted that this had needed clarification of ownership and trust license issues because the owners own more than one restaurant. Mr. Younger said that everything is now in order.

The Board moved: To approve the beer and wine liquor license for Commella's.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Chair Jones asked if the meal tax revenue would change based on the new restaurants in town. Mr. Younger said the \$100K estimate still seems appropriate.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT *(continued)*

Executive Session to Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. The Board will not return to open session.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ACTION BY CONSENT

There was none.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator