

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Monday, May 2, 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 and Paolillo were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger was present.

**ACTION BY WRITING**

**Proclamation for Jeremy Anthony Lockett – Boy Scout Troop 304**

Selectman Firenze read the Proclamation which honored Mr. Lockett for his service project at the Perkins School for the Blind, and for the distinction of achieving the honor of Eagle Scout.

*The Board moved:* To approve the Proclamation.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**MWRA Local Pipeline Assistance Program**

Town Treasurer Carman appeared before the Board to request that the Board vote to approve the Pipeline Assistance Program loan (a no interest loan) and to provide signatures on the loan documents. The pipeline project will involve replacing the pipes on Francis Street and Leslie Road.

*The Board moved:* To approve the MWRA local pipeline assistance program loan.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Board members signed the appropriate papers.

**ACTION BY CONSENT**

**Approval of the Annual Poppy Drive – VFW Post 1272**

Mr. Roger Gaudet, of the VFW Post 1272, appeared before the Board regarding the request for the annual Poppy Drive for the month of May. The Board members made donations and received Poppy flowers. Photos were taken.

*The Board moved:* To approve the Annual Poppy Drive for the VFW Post 1272.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

Ms. Patty Gallagher from Dalton Road appeared before the Board with concerns about the batting cages that the Little League Association intends to build near their homes (near the Grove Street Playground). She requested to understand the process by which this structure would be placed on public property without neighbors' consent. She said that the batting cages are not an improvement to the neighborhood. She said that the process has been a disappointing one as she was only notified days before the cages were set to be constructed.

Chair Jones explained that the Recreation Department approved the Little League's request without consulting with the neighborhood. The Recreation Department will meet with neighbors on Tuesday, May 10. Mr. Younger will be present at the meeting. Ms. Gallagher asked about the process going forward. The Board noted that the process has not been appropriate, but that it will be appropriate going forward. Various issues of neighborhood notification were discussed. Another neighbor asked who pays for the maintenance of the cages. Mr. Younger noted that there was precedent for this with the Belmont Soccer Association.

## **ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

### **Belmont Media Center's (BMC) Report**

Mr. Jeff Hansell, BMC Director, Mr. Myron Kassaraba, Chair of the Board of Directors, and Mr. Jonathan Green, Founding Board Chair, appeared before the Board to give an overview of the BMC report. Mr. Kassaraba reviewed the Board of Director members as well as the BMC staff members. He reviewed that the BMC's revenue is from Verizon and Comcast franchise fees. He noted that the BMC Board of Directors will approach the Selectmen in the future about a Verizon-sponsored bill that is in the works. The bill, Mr. Green said, is not particularly favorable to Belmont.

Mr. Hansell reviewed the "key metrics" of the BMC. He said the community is responding very positively to the programs, classes, and government meetings/hearings. He reviewed some of the programs that are new. Key accomplishments include the new web-site, live streaming, facility upgrades, and new TV programs.

Mr. Hansell touched based on the goals for the future, including: more live coverage, phase two of the web site, increasing the coverage of school and club sports, equipment upgrades, teen video club, and expanding the volunteer community.

Selectman Paolillo commented that "Update Belmont" is a program that never got off the ground. He said he would like to revisit this program before the next budget season. Selectman Firenze asked about the Verizon bill that could impact the BMC's revenue source.

## **Water and Sewer Rate Hearing – Discussion and Vote**

Mr. Castanino, DPW Director, Mr. Bishop, Water Division Manager, and Mr. French, Chair of the Water Advisory Board, appeared before the Board to discuss the water and sewer rates. Mr. Castanino noted that a Water and Sewer rates study was recently conducted. He reviewed the water and sewer budgets and noted the differences between the two budgets. He explained the MWRA Assessments and how the water rates are impacted. He noted that it is different for the sewer rates.

Mr. Castanino discussed the MWRA debt service and its capital improvement spending. The debt service impacts the water rates. He noted that, while they are spending a lot of money (some of it mandated by the State), good things are happening, e.g. the harbor is cleaner, our drinking water is better, and there is a new aqueduct.

The impact to Belmont is an increase of about 4.6%. He discussed how residents would be informed of the rate increase. The Board discussed the impact of the proposed rate increases. Selectman Firenze said he is concerned about the increase, as the rates have been rising steadily for many consecutive years. Mr. Castanino explained the ways in which Belmont operates may be different than the way other communities handle their sewer and water enterprise funds. The only way to lower the rates, he said, would be to slow down the capital improvements (which he said is not advisable).

The Board reviewed the impact of the rate increases on the community. Those who consume more water, will pay more.

*The Board moved:* To approve the recommendation of Mr. Castanino and the Water Advisory Board to increase water fees by 3% for FY12.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* To approve the recommendation of Mr. Castanino to increase sewer fees by 5.5% for FY12.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **ACTION BY CONSENT (*continued*)**

### **Approval of Susan G. Komen 3-Day Run for the Cure – July 22-24, 2011**

Ms. Jennifer Ricker appeared before the Board regarding the run. She explained the route that the run takes and the streets impacted by the race.

*The Board moved:* To approve the Susan G. Komen run for July 22-24, 2011.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (*continued*)**

## **Public Safety Mutual Aid Policy – Discussion and Vote**

Fire Chief Frizzell, Police Chief McLaughlin, Health Director Russakow, and DPW Director Mr. Castanino appeared before the Board to discuss the Public Safety Mutual Aid Policy.

Fire Chief Frizzell explained the mutual aid concept, which focuses on the sharing of resources among communities when resources are low. This has been in existence, he explained, but without the protections from the state. He noted that there now exists statutes that pertain to mutual aid. Each community has been requested to “opt in” to officially adopt the statutes. He said that these sections need to be officially adopted by the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Firenze asked what “opting in” would mean for Belmont. Chief Frizzell explained the immunity clause that protects the fire department in other communities. The Board discussed issues relating to these statutes.

*The Board moved:* That the Town accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 4J to join the so called “Statewide Public Works Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement” to create a framework for the provision of mutual aid assistance among the parties to the agreement in the case of a public safety incident. The assistance to be provided under the agreement shall include, but not limited to, fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services, transportation, communications, public works, engineering, building inspection, planning and information assistance, resource support, public health, health and medical services, search and rescue assistance, and any other resource, equipment, or personnel that a party to the agreement may request or provide in anticipation of, or in response to, a public safety incident.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* That the Town accept the provisions of Mass. General Law Chapter 40 Section 4K, the so-called “Statewide Public Works Municipal Mutual Aid Law”.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* That the Town accept the provisions of Mass. General Law Chapter 48 Section 59A, the so-called “Statewide Public Works Municipal Mutual Aid Law”.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The motion above (Chapter 48 Section 59A) has existed, but required a vote and formal documentation to show that it has been adopted.

## **Committee Appointment/Term Limit Policy – Discussion and Vote**

Mr. Younger said approval is needed so that the Board can move forward with their committee appointments with this policy in place.

*The Board moved:* To approve the Term Limit Policy guidelines as previously outlined.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Selectman Firenze said he would like to have the Planning Board appointments settled before he goes to Europe. Mr. Younger said that there is a meeting after Memorial Day where these appointments can be handled.

### **FY12 Budget Update**

Chair Jones reviewed the events of the past week – the SC approved their budget and the WC approved the total budget and sent it out to the Town Clerk. TM will deliberate the budgets on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May and finish (hopefully) by Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May. The Board discussed possible dates to meet in consideration of the Board member's vacation schedules.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- The financial motions have been approved and the financial slides are being developed.
  - The WC financial briefing will be held Tuesday night at the Beech Street Center – Selectman Firenze asked when the Board will deliberate on the salaries of the Treasurer and Town Clerk.
  - The WC report has been completed.
  - Stretch code consensus has been reached.
  - The Health Trust fund balance is increased by \$57K (April) – which leaves the balance at \$5.4M. (The Board discussed.)
  - Mr. Younger will attend a meeting about the removal of poles – Selectman Firenze requested that when Mr. Younger meets with the MBTA, that he receive the information in writing.
  - The Belmont Center traffic plan will be discussed at the June Board meeting.

Selectman Paolillo asked Mr. Younger for an update on the job description for the Town Accountant's position. Mr. Younger said that the job description is being worked on presently. The Board discussed the Accountant's job description. The Board discussed the forming of a search committee to fill this position. Selectman Firenze asked about how the books will be closed in light of Ms. Hagg's departure on June 30. Mr. Younger explained how this could be handled.

### **ACTION BY WRITING (continued)**

#### **Letter of Support for Trapelo Road Corridor Project**

The purpose of the letter, noted Selectman Firenze, was to keep the pressure on (at the state level) and keep Trapelo Road on the docket.

*The Board moved:* To approve the Letter of Support for the Trapelo Road corridor project.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board members signed these papers.

#### **ACTION BY CONSENT (continued)**

**Automotive Service of Belmont, 259 Belmont St. – Used Car Dealer’s License Class II**

**All That Matters, 400 Trapelo Road – Junk, Old Metals and Second Hand Articles**

**Bowtie Limousine, 59 Bay State Rd – Livery Service**

**Dick’s Place, 360-A Trapelo Rd – Junk, Old Metals and Second Hand Articles**

**Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins, 52 Church Street – Renewal of Outdoor Dining**

**Waverly Collectibles, 503 Trapelo Rd – Junk, Old Metals and Second Hand Articles**

*The Board moved:* To approve the license renewal requests for the above noted establishments.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Yellow Cab of Belmont, 61R White Street – Taxi Service License**

*The Board moved:* To approve the license request, contingent upon Yellow Cab meeting with the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) to address the parking issues on White Street and to reach a mutually satisfactory conclusion.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### **OTHER**

##### **Selectman Firenze Other:**

- He noted that new members are needed for the ZBA. He then requested to know the Board liaison for the ZBA. (It is Selectman Paolillo.)

##### **Selectman Paolillo Other:**

- Meeting with Minuteman regarding the enrollment study.

- Raised a question about the 40KB transformers (Selectman Firenze provided some information about ones he has seen).

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 pm.

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Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator