

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Monday, July 26, 2011  
7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:05 pm by Chair Jones in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectman Paolillo was present; Selectman Firenze was not present. Town Administrator Tom Younger was present; Assistant Town Administrator Hebert was also present.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

Ms. Judith Sarno, TM member from Precinct 3, addressed the Board regarding the neighborhood issues that pertain to the Senior Center. She noted three outstanding issues: the roof-top screening vents, the bright lights, and the security cameras. She said progress on these issues began, but seems to have halted. She requested that the Board continue to pursue closure on these issues. Chair Jones said he intends to speak to Senior Center staff and follow up on each of these issues.

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

**DPW Recycling – Discussion and Possible Vote**

DPW Director Peter Castanino, Mr. Donald Mercier, and Mr. Doug Koplow appeared before the Board to discuss the DPW recycling proposal. Mr. Koplow noted that a new contract was signed with Russell Disposal, effective 2011. He then spoke to the "single stream" concept of recycling, which is more efficient and convenient for home-owners, but costs slightly more for the town. He said that single stream seems to increase that amount of recycling and is being adopted by more municipalities across the state. The Board discussed the fiscal impact of a single stream contract versus dual stream.

Mr. Koplow noted that neighboring towns are limiting trash amounts and adding fees. Mr. Mercier said he is not in favor of the "pay as you throw" programs. He said it is difficult for those who own two-family properties, as renters come and go and create a lot of trash when they go. He said "pay as you throw" won't reduce the problem of other people from border towns dumping trash in Belmont.

Mr. Koplow said that savings on single-stream trash can come from lower bid costs, bag sales revenue, and DEP grants. Bag sale rebates could also create savings. He said this could also increase recycling overall and that some of the revenue could fund a recycling coordinator. The Board then discussed the part-time recycling coordinator position.

Mr. Mercier stated again that he opposes any fees for trash pick up.

*The Board moved:* That, in light of savings of more than \$210,000 per year achieved through the re-bid of the Town's solid waste and recycling contract; and potential additional savings through avoided tip fees by boosting the town's recycling and composting diversion rates, the BOS authorize the creation of recycling coordinator on a part-time or contract basis. The position should not exceed \$20,000 in annual salary cost; and shall not accrue benefits. The educational and outreach conducted by this person to boost diversion rates are expected to achieve reductions in waste tipping fees sufficient to pay for most or all of the position's salary.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

### **Proposed Daycare at the VFW, 310 Trapelo Road – Discussion and Vote**

Mr. Bill Monahan, Mr. Ed Mullenney, and Mr. Roger Gaudet from the VFW appeared before the Board to discuss the proposal for a daycare center at the VFW. Mr. Mullenney reviewed that a daycare center seemed to be a good fit for the VFW. He said the Willows Christian Child Care (WCCC) is a multi-lingual facility that is seeking a larger space for its center. By leasing to the WCCC, the VFW will receive some much-needed revenue. Both the VFW and the WCCC are funding improvements to the property (de-leading, new sprinkler system, etc.)

Mr. Younger raised several issues including charging the VFW for its liquor license and that the American Legion Vets hold their meetings at the Senior Center. Mr. Monahan requested that these other issues be discussed at another time.

*The Board moved:* To approve the leasing of the VFW property to WCCC.  
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

### **Grove Street Playground Scoreboard – Discussion and Vote**

Ms. Diane Stafford (mother of Eagle Scout candidate Bobby Stafford, and Troop Committee Chair), Mr. John Owens, Chair of the Recreation Commission, and many Grove Street neighbors appeared before the Board to discuss the Grove Street Playground scoreboard. Ms. Stafford reviewed the project proposal process for a scoreboard at the Grove Street Playground. She noted that the Recreation Commission approved the process and she is requesting that the Board of Selectmen approve it as well. She noted that Belmont Youth baseball favors the project and will help the funding. She reviewed the impetus of the Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Owens concurred with what Ms. Stafford said. He said it is a solid structure. He said he has met with the neighbors and that the Rec. Commission approved this proposal.

Chair Jones said that he understands the neighbors concerns as this issue comes on the heels of the batting cages.

Mr. Tony Guiffrida from Choate Street said that the neighbors are concerned with the direction that the playground is headed. He said he is very concerned as an abutter to the playground. He said that this playground is becoming an athletic field. He said this is not the sports' groups property, it is the town's playground. He said the process has been unfair and prejudiced. This proposal furthers the athletic field concept. This playground, he said, is not intended to be used only by the athletic teams.

Mr. Owens addressed some of the concerns he raised.

Chair Jones said that the batting cages and scoreboard are being seen as permanent placements on a town playground.

Another Grove Street neighbor spoke about the Eagle Scout project. She said this project benefits a very select slice of the community. She said she does not want to see this become a permanent structure. She said she is not comfortable with this proposal.

Ms. Conti, another abutter, asked if there is a ruling about the number of permanent structures allowed on town playgrounds. She said the athletics seasons are short and that this could be a great opportunity for the community to join together on a project.

Ms. Forbes, a neighbor, handed out a historical perspective on this playground. She reviewed the highlights.

Mr. Scott Shetfield, a neighbor, said that the playground needs several upgrades and he would be willing to help with those upgrades.

Mr. Levin, from the Baseball Commission, said that he does not see this as a step toward a sports complex. He said this is an isolated project. He said the footprint is not intrusive to the playground.

Chair Jones said that both the scoreboard and the batting cages are classified as permanent structures and are both on the table. He said he will postpone the vote until Selectman Firenze returns. He said he would like to get a "Parks Commission" perspective on this issue.

Ms. Stafford noted that the project timeframe has constraints.

Selectman Paolillo said he would like more information on who uses this playground.

Mr. Green suggested that the Board talk with Bobby Stafford about the structure.

Chair Jones said the Board will hold a meeting as a Parks Commission body. He is hoping for a satisfying conclusion.

**Town Meeting (TM) Communication Discussion**

Mr. Roger Colton, Mr. Bill Green, and members of the TM Communication Committee appeared before the Board to discuss how the TM body can improve its communication. Mr. Green introduced the members of the committee. Mr. Green noted that the committee hopes to bring some of its ten recommendations to TM in the fall. He reviewed some of the ten recommendations, specifically the ones that will impact the Board of Selectmen.

He noted specifically that the current TM calendar is very tight and needs adjusting. He suggested that the Warrant needs to be opened earlier and closed earlier. He said this would allow for small group discussions on the warrants before TM. He said that if the articles were distributed to TM earlier, it would lead to more knowledge on the topic and more thoughtful amendments. He then said that the annual TM meeting should be held later than it is presently held (perhaps early in May). It is currently held on the fourth Monday in April by Town By-Law.

Mr. Colton said that the actual TM motions need to be in TM member's hands earlier. He said there needs to be an annual community event that focuses on the "big picture" issues. He said this initiative needs to come from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Kevin Cunningham, the Precinct 4 representative, said that this initiative (the suggested annual community event) is intended to fill out the broader town-wide context for TM members, rather than focus on the specific motions decided at any given TM.

Mr. Colton said that new TM members need training sessions. He said that the Board needs to focus mainly on stretching out the calendar and getting the motions out more quickly.

Selectman Paolillo said he would like to hear the Warrant Committee's as well as the Town Clerk's input on the recommendations to change the calendar.

Mr. Cunningham explained in more detail the goals of electronic information (e.g., a website of warrant information) vis-a-vis the overall communication goals.

Mr. Younger noted that there will be a Capital Budget website that will show an update of the process and proposals. He added that some communities keep the annual TM focused on budget and have the fall TM deal with more non-budget items.

## **Committee Appointments and Vote**

### ***Belmont Energy Committee – School Dept. Representative***

*The Board moved:* To appoint Mr. Fred Domenici, from the School Department, to the Belmont Energy Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

### ***Human Rights Commission (HRC)***

Chair Jones said that the HRC as an entity will need to be discussed once Selectman Firenze returns.

*The Board moved:* To appoint student Pallavi Khare to the HRC for a one-year appointment.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

*The Board moved:* To appoint Mr. Jirair Hovsepian to the HRC for a one-year appointment.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

### ***Retirement Board***

*The Board moved:* To appoint Mr. James Sloman to the Retirement Board.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

### **Monthly Capital Budget Update Report**

Mr. Younger provided an update on how he will keep the public informed via a monthly Capital Budget update. He said all of the information will be on the website. He reviewed the following areas:

- what defines a “capital” project
- what defines a “major capital” project
- the value of capital planning
- where the money comes from
- budget transfers
- projects in public safety, public works, town departments, water and sewer, schools, building services, and community development

Chair Jones asked about the process of “priority setting.” The Board discussed this briefly. Mr. Younger requested the Board’s input on capital priorities.

### **Town Administrator’s Report**

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- Belmont was placed on the waitlist for the state’s Library grant. The site of the new Library needs to be determined.
- He thanked the organizations for help in establishing “cooling spots” during the recent heat wave.

### **ACTION BY CONSENT**

### **Approval of June 20, 2011 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes**

*The Board moved:* To approve the minutes of June 20, 2011.  
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

**Junk, Old Metals, and Second Hand Articles License:  
Design Jewelry by GVS, 6 Trapelo Rd  
Dvin Jewelers, 201 Belmont St**

*The Board moved:* To approve the licenses of the above noted establishments.  
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

**ACTION BY WRITING**

**Acceptance of Donation of Funds for Purchasing of Public Solar Trash Container**

*The Board moved:* To accept the donation of funds of \$17,500 to purchase a public solar trash container.  
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Mr. Younger said the containers will be installed this fall.

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

**Executive Session**

*The Board moved:* To enter into executive session at 9:41 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation respectively. The Board will not return to open session.  
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:xx pm.

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Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator