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**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, March 19, 2012
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. Interim Town Administrator Kellie Hebert was present.

Chair Jones thanked Selectman Firenze for his seven and a half years of service to the Town of Belmont in his role as a Board member. Chair Jones noted that this is likely to be Selectman Firenze's last evening Board meeting. Selectman Firenze acknowledged the staff and committees in Belmont. He said it was a difficult decision to move on, but the right one for him at this time. He thanked the residents of Belmont as well.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Vote on Warrant for Annual Town Election to be held April 2nd, 2012

Ms. Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Town Clerk, appeared before the Board to discuss the Warrant for the annual Town Election to be held on April 2, 2012. She noted that the Warrant needs to be signed by the Board members. She said all eight precincts will vote at seven locations. She encouraged residents to vote in this election.

The Board moved: To approve the Warrant for the Annual Town Election on April 2, 2012.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board members signed the warrant.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

A resident, Mr. John Dieckmann, asked about the selling of the municipal town lot near the old CVS. He said the developer has threatened to turn the land into all 40B. Chair Jones said that the P & S is about to be signed. The Board agreed that the Planning Board will appropriately oversee the proceedings pertaining to the Cushing Square development.

PILOT Program

Members of the Board of Assessors, including Mr. Reardon, Mr. Lavery, and Mr. Millane, appeared before the Board to discuss PILOT programs throughout Belmont. Mr. Lavery said a request has been submitted for payment from the town's non-profit, non-tax-paying properties.

So far, \$36,800 has been received as a PILOT payment. He said the expansion of non-profits costs the town a significant amount of money (\$175K). He said he intends to stress the services that they receive from the town, including: roads maintenance and fire and police services. Mr. Lavery noted that either in-kind or actual payments are hoped to be realized either this year or next. He added that the Belmont Hill School is responsible for a loss of \$100K by expanding their campus and buying up private property. He stressed that it is important to make the public aware that payment has been requested from these non-profits.

Chair Jones said he is extremely disappointed to see that Belmont Hill School has taken more property off the tax roll, which results in higher taxes for the residents of Belmont.

The Board discussed this issue with the members of the Board of Assessors.

Vote on Contract for Purchase of New Ambulance

Fire Chief Frizzell and Assistant Fire Chief Davison appeared before the Board to discuss the purchase of a new ambulance. Chief Frizzell began by reviewing what he accomplished since his last meeting with the Board on March 5. Regarding the bid review, he said, he compared Belmont's data with other like communities. He said Belmont's bid was low and he looked to see why there was only one response. Chief Frizzell said that, having done the comparisons, the price of the bid is a fair price. Regarding the trade-in, this price seemed average for trade-ins and the truck will be repurposed. He said the bid seems fair and is in line with what has been paid in other communities. He said he thinks the contract should be awarded to Greenwood.

Chief Frizzell explained (in answer to Selectman Firenze's question) how an ambulance remount would work. He outlined the pros and cons of this option. He stated that, overall, it is not worth doing a remount from a fiscal perspective.

Chief Frizzell then discussed the 2002 and 2007 ambulances.

The Board moved: To, on behalf of the Town of Belmont, take the following actions:

- (1) Accept the bid submitted by Greenwood Emergency Vehicles of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, to supply one Horton Ambulance on a Ford Chassis as specified in a document titled "Information for Bidders, Form for Proposal, Specifications, Contract and Bond for, 2012 Rescue Ambulance in Belmont Massachusetts dated February 6, 2012" in the amount of Two Hundred Sixteen thousand and sixty-four dollars (\$216,064.00);
- (2) Approve "Alternate #1" to dispose of excess Town property through trade-in of one 2002 International AEV Ambulance VIN # 1HTMNAAM12H536389 for a credit amount of eight thousand dollars (-\$8000.00); and
- (3) Approve and enter into a Contract with Greenwood Emergency Vehicles of North Attleboro, Massachusetts to purchase one Rescue Ambulance as per their bid with

alternate #1 approved for a total contract amount of two hundred eight thousand and sixty four dollars (\$208,064).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board members signed the contract.

One Day Liquor Licenses

*One Day Liquor License, Wine and Malt
Folk Art Center
Saturday, March 31, 2012
at The First Church in Belmont, 404 Concord Avenue*

*One Day Liquor License, Wine and Malt
Friends of Belmont Public Library
Friday, March 30, 2012
at the Belmont Public Library, 336 Concord Avenue*

The Board moved: To approve the one day liquor license requests for the events on March 30 and 31 as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Belmont Center Parking Management Plan Approval

Mr. Jay Szklut, Planning and Economic Development Manager, and Mr. Jason Schrieber, Principal with Nelson Nygaard, appeared before the Board regarding the Belmont Center Parking Management Plan. Mr. Schrieber reviewed the highlights of the parking analysis done in Belmont Center throughout 2011. He said there were surveys as well as public meetings held throughout last year. He said they also met with the Belmont Center Business Association. He then reviewed the guiding principles, which include: convenient parking on Leonard Street, poor commuter parking access, and neighborhood concerns. Most residential streets in the area are empty all day, but Farnham Street is an exception to this. He noted that the parking lot in back is confusing to park in as a result of poor signage.

Mr. Schrieber then reviewed the 17 key findings. He said the key to all of this is to better manage the existing available parking. He stressed that residential parking issues may be caused by insufficient commuter parking. He suggested that Royal Road could accommodate the commuter parking demand. He then suggested that permits could be sold from individual streets with the revenue coming back to the block of streets for improvements.

Mr. Szklut said he would like, at some point, the Board's endorsement to adopt the plan. The Board agreed that the proposed parking plan made sense overall and observed that most towns have their customers pay for more convenient parking. Selectman Firenze said that the businesses are in favor of this as well.

Mr. Szklut noted that he is working in concert (on the Parking Management Plan) with Mr. Clancy's plan to make Belmont Center more pedestrian-friendly.

Mr. Rosales, of 48 Farnham Street, said he is encouraged to see that the parking on Farnham Street is finally being addressed. The residents of that street are desperately needing some relief from the on-street parking congestion. It is a problem that stems from Center employees parking there. Farnham Street has become the free parking lot for Belmont Center, he said. This is a safety issue for the residents of Farnham Street.

Mrs. Rosales, also of Farnham Street, noted that there is a disabled resident on Farnham Street and her medical team cannot access her home as a result of the employee parking.

Selectman Paolillo said that parking permits could be given to the employees for them to park in the Claflin Lot.

Another woman from the audience, who commutes from Belmont, said that the needs of the commuters also require attention. She said there is a real safety issue for commuters to get to Concord Avenue. She added that there is absolutely no safe way to get across Concord Avenue.

The Board moved: To accept the actions as outlined by the Belmont Center Parking Manager Plan.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Szklut said he would like to meet with Sgt. Mailhot to address the issues of Farnham Street immediately.

Discussion on lot of land abutting 2-4 Grant Ave. Property

Mr. Rosales and Mr. Austin Bennett (who lives at 4 Grant Ave.) appeared before the Board regarding the lot of land abutting 2-4 Grant Ave. property. Mr. Rosales introduced Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, who have lived on Grant Ave. since 1965. He said that adjacent to that property is a lot called the "White Street extension". This area has been maintained by the Bennetts for almost 50 years. The Bennetts attempted to buy this piece of property, but Town Meeting did not approve it.

Mr. Rosales said that the town does not own this piece of property. He offered that there is a statute that states that the abutters assume ownership if the town does not have a record of ownership. The other abutter to this property is Mr. Ed King, who owns Waverley Insurance. Therefore, the Kings and Bennetts each own a section of this property.

He submitted that the town has no rights to this piece of property. He then reviewed the history of this property dating back to the 1850s and 1950s. He summarized that the town has no ownership, easement, or right of way to this property. He said that Mr. King supports the Bennetts' desire to become owners of this piece of land.

Mr. Rosales requested that the Bennetts receive some legitimacy in acquiring this property.

Selectman Firenze noted that the Bennetts have not been paying taxes on this property. Mr. Rosales replied that the Bennetts have been open to paying taxes or making PILOT payments, once the ownership issue is settled.

Selectman Firenze noted that the questions that were unanswered at TM have now been appropriately answered. The Board agreed that it was sympathetic to the Bennett's desire to officially own this property, but that TM did not support it. Selectman Firenze noted that the town is not opposed to having the Bennetts assume this land and pay taxes on it.

The Board moved: That the Board does not oppose any efforts by the Bennetts to assert any legal rights to this property, pending Town Council's confirmation of the assertions made by Mr. Rosales at this meeting tonight.

The Board discussed the wording of a motion reflecting that the Town does not own this property and supports the Bennett's asserting their rights to this property.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Appointment of Members for Community Path Advisory Committee

The Board decided that the appropriate number of members for this committee is seven.

The Board moved: To appoint Joseph Noone, Price Armstrong, John Dieckmann, Kevin Sullivan, Jeffrey Roth, Cosmo Caterino, and Brian Burke, Jr. to the Community Path Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board noted that there were many other applicants interested in being appointed to this committee and they are appreciative of everyone's interest and efforts to volunteer their time for this project.

Judith K. Record Memorial Conservation Fund

Ms. Kit Dryer, Ms. Martha Moore, and Ms. Rosalie Kerr, all representatives of the JK Record Fund, appeared before the Board to discuss the Judith K. Record Memorial Conservation Fund. Ms. Kerr noted that the Lone Tree Hill Wall is a stone wall that required preservation. She said restoring the wall reflects that conservation land is a priority in Belmont. She provided further details regarding the restored stone wall. She showed photos of the wall, which is over 600 feet long.

The Board thanked them for their efforts and requested that the photos hang in Town Hall.

To Discuss Belmont's Sponsorship of NuRide

Chair Jones noted that the Energy Commission is seeking the Board's support in promoting bike

riding, car ride sharing, and public transportation – noting that there are rewards for Belmont's Energy Commission for being a part of this. Showing support for NuRide will not cost Belmont any money. Selectman Firenze said he will support this if NuRide is a non-profit organization.

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Hebert reported on the following items:

- The budget is wrapping up, and the department heads' supplemental requests will be heard this week.
- She and Town Accountant Chitra Submaranian met with the Chair of the WC regarding the available revenue number.
- The Health Insurance meetings are ongoing.
- The Solar Panel initiative discussions are ongoing.
- Warrant Articles will be reviewed by the Board on Wednesday morning.
- A brief update of two grant opportunities, including a parks grant and a Department of Justice grant to fund two Police Officers.
- The Capital Budget Committee has met and discussed its priorities and recommendations for the FY13 Capital Budget.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Belmont Center Business Association (BCBA) approval for Town Day event

The Board moved: To approve the BCBA's request to hold the Town Day event.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Livery License

*Pete's Livery Services
16 Grove Street*

The Board moved: To approve the Livery license request as noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

New Common Victualler's License

*Moozy's
2 Trapelo Road*

The Board moved: To approve the Common Victualler's license request as noted above, contingent upon receiving a certificate of permanent occupancy.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Proclamation of Public Works Week, May 20-26, 2012

Chair Jones read the Proclamation. Selectman Paolillo suggested that this proclamation be read at Town Meeting. Ms. Hebert noted that the Open House for Public Works will be held on Saturday, May 5.

OTHER

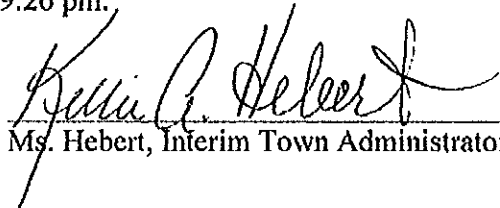
Selectman Firenze Other:

- He met with DCR regarding the old skating rink on Route 2. He will meet with Representative Brownsberger regarding this topic as well.
- He passed off some packets of information to Chair Jones regarding ongoing Selectmen issues.

Selectman Paolillo Other:

- He requested an update on the Town Administrator search. Chair Jones said that there will be a day-long meeting in mid-April to review the top ten resumes.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm.


Ms. Hebert, Interim Town Administrator