

**SPECIAL PRECINCT MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BEECH STREET CENTER
Monday, April 8, 2013
7:00 PM**

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA
MAY 23 2 21 PM '13

School Committee (SC) Members Present: Chair Graham, Anne Lougée, Laurie Slap, and Hyse Shuster

School Department Members Present: Interim Superintendent Tom Kingston

SC Chair Graham called the SC to order at 7:12 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

Chair Paolillo noted that the Board is still in session from a meeting that began at 5:00 p.m. this evening. He said that he'd like this meeting to end at 9:30 p.m. He then reviewed the agenda topics that will be covered this evening.

OVERVIEW: FY14 TOWN AND SCHOOL BUDGETS

Town Budget

Mr. Kale gave an overview of the FY14 budget process. He said that the budget is not final, as the state aid picture is not known at this point. He reviewed the revenue and expenditure assumptions, noting that conservative estimates were helpful in creating the budget. Mr. Kale then reviewed the use of reserves to balance the FY14 budget. He explained where revenues come from.

Mr. Kale reviewed several initiatives that would increase or save revenues, as well as the requested budget enhancements, should funding become available. Various budget challenges were outlined, e.g., maintenance of free cash, operating budget stability, and building projects across town.

School Budget

Dr. Kingston began by citing the department's strategic goals. He then reviewed the technical budget assumptions for FY14. He noted that enrollment is on the rise. Chapter 70 is assumed to be level-funded and grant funds are assumed to remain the same, as well. Dr. Kingston summarized the revenue sources for the overall budget. He then noted the "adjustments" that were necessary to meet the budget demands.

Dr. Kingston reviewed the impact of the necessary adjustments, e.g., cutting 7.75 positions at the high school. He said that there are several initiatives that cannot be implemented at this time.

He then detailed how he would address the increasing enrollment issue.

Dr. Kingston reviewed the Statement of Interest (“SOI”) that was submitted to the MSBA, as well as the department’s Capital Budget requests. He noted that the SC is engaged in long-term fiscal planning. He also noted that, next year, the department will face a Superintendent search and a contract negotiation with the teachers.

Questions

Ms. Sue Bass asked about the breakdown of the school personnel section of the budget with regard to salaries (teaching salaries and administration salaries).

Ms. Sara Masucci asked about the influx of students and where they are landing, e.g., elementary, high school, etc. Dr. Kingston said the influx is district wide.

A question about free cash arose.

Ms. Maryann Scali asked about the opportunity to donate money to the school departments. She asked if Town Meeting would need to approve this allocation. The answer was no.

Ms. Judith Ananian Sarno asked the SC about naming rights for the high school renovation. SC Chair Graham said that this issue is being looked into.

A question arose about the Health Trust fund cash reserve.

Dr. Kingston answered a question about the high school renovation project.

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Overview

- MSBA Statement of Interest – High School: Chair Paolillo noted that the Board fully supports this endeavor.
- Incinerator Site: Chair Paolillo said that the town does not own the incinerator site parcel, but is looking into this issue. Upon state approval, Belmont may be able to buy the site from the state. He then discussed potential post-closure uses, e.g., open space, recreation space, solar farm.
- Feasibility Study Underwood Pool/Park: Chair Paolillo reviewed the feasibility study process for the pool area. He reviewed the three options for the pool, including the project costs associated with the options. He said that the Board voted to support Option 1, which rebuilds the pool on its present site.
- Library Project: Chair Paolillo said that the replacement field will need to be further explored if the library project is to go forward.

Questions

A question arose about the size of the lap lanes. Selectman Rojas said the lanes were the standard size. Further questions arose about the incinerator site, potential field sites as well as the Pure Coat site.

SELECTED TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES

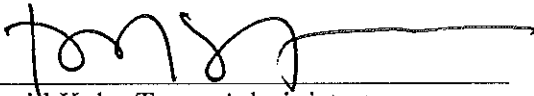
Overview

- Stormwater: Selectman Jones noted that this by-law is required. Mr. Clancy differentiated between the stormwater *permit* and the stormwater *by-law*. He explained the stormwater management program (SWMP), which is required under the permit requirements. The stormwater by-law will help Belmont comply with the permit requirements.
- Residential Snow Removal: Mr. Clancy outlined the by-law, noting that the goal is basically to get the sidewalks cleared.
- Demolition Delay: Mr. Clancy noted that this by-law's goal is to preserve historically significant buildings. He said there will be a six-month delay for residential buildings and 12-month delay for other buildings.

Questions

A question arose with regard to the Clark House. Mr. Smith said the HDC is looking for a permanent location for the Clark House.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 pm.



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator