

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, April 8, 2013
8:00 AM**

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CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 8:09 am by Chair Paolillo in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Jones and Rojas were present. Town Administrator David Kale and Assistant Town Administrator Kellie Hebert were also present.

Joint Meeting with the School Committee (SC) and the Board of Library Trustees

Chair Paolillo reviewed the morning's agenda. He noted that this would be a joint meeting with the School Committee and the Library Trustees.

SC Chair Graham called the SC to order at 8:10 a.m.

School Committee Members Present: Chair Graham, Ms. Anne Lougee, Ms. Pascha Griffiths, Ms. Laurie Slap, Mr. Kevin Cunningham, and Ms. Elyse Shuster

School Department Members Present: Interim Superintendent Tom Kingston and Director of Finance Anthony DiCologero

Library Trustees (and Library Personnel) Present: Library Director Maureen Connors, Mrs. Mary Keenan, Ms. Elaine Alligood, and Mr. Matt Lowrie

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Belmont High School (BHS) Statement of Interest "SOI" Approval of Application to MSBA

Dr. Kingston stated that this would be the ninth version of the SOI submitted to the MSBA in as many years. He then explained the SOI approval process regarding the application to the MSBA. He said the purpose of the document is for BHS to be placed in the queue for a building renovation. He said the initial phase would include receiving permission/funding to conduct a feasibility study. The total estimated cost of the actual project is \$75-\$100M. Dr. Kingston requested that the Board vote to support moving ahead with the process.

Chair Paolillo said that the Board fully supports moving forward with this process.

Mr. Tony DiCologero, School Department Finance Director, informed the Board that the MSBA has put forth specific language to be used in the motion.

The Board moved: (Chair Paolillo read the following motion):

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on April 5, 2013 the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Belmont, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 15, 2013 for the Belmont High School located at 221 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Priority 3 - Prevention of the loss of accreditation – based on facilities-related conditions cited in the most recent report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), dated February 22, 2013;

Priority 5 - Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility;

Priority 7 - Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements;

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town or the School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Paolillo thanked the SC for their efforts.

Presentation of BH & A Architects, Feasibility Study for the Underwood Pool and Playground. Follow up with questions and discussion.

Chair Paolillo provided brief background information regarding the impetus for the feasibility study. He noted that a working group was formed to explore where a replacement field could be placed. He said the Underwood Pool site was named as a potential site. Mr. David Kale reviewed the process steps that have been undertaken regarding the feasibility study.

Mr. Thomas Scarlata, Principal of BH & A, Inc., appeared before the Board to discuss the Feasibility Study for the Underwood Pool and Playground. He said he reviewed the existing pool site as well as a relocation of the pool. He stated that he has put forth three options for the pool and park renovation. He touched on some of the challenges pertaining to the surrounding area: trees, dense neighborhood, wetlands, and the slope of the hill. He explained that (in options 2 and 3) the playing field would be placed near where the current (depressed) rink area is located.

Mr. Scarlata then reviewed the “pool profiles” (depth, slope, shallow and deep areas) noting that they are not consistent with current regulations. He reviewed the current filtration system as well as the current bathhouse facilities – both of which have serious issues.

Options 1, 2 and 3

Mr. Scarlata then reviewed Option 1, which proposes to rebuild the pool at the current location and does not allow for a field. This option reduces the size of the pool as well as the bather load. He then detailed Option 2, which relocates the pool up the hill and allows for a field replacement. The field would be fenced in and the pool, under Option 2, would be further reduced in size. Option 3 is similar to Option 2, but it moves the pool away from Cottage Street and changes the access to the pool area.

Mr. Scarlata then reviewed the cost estimates associated with these options.

Questions and Discussions

Board members asked questions about the size of the pool. Selectman Jones asked if the numbers reflected increased pool interest should a brand new facility be built. SC Members then asked several clarifying questions regarding parking, pool size, and field shape.

Dr. Paul Solomon asked if Option 1 would alleviate the groundwater/drainage issue. Mr. Scarlata replied that Option 1 would lift the pool up and the ground water issue would be better controlled.

Mr. Michael Smith, Historic District Commission (HDC) Chair, read a letter that expressed support for Option 1, as it preserves the character of the present historical pool. Options 2 and 3, he read, considerably change the character of the Underwood setting. The letter also expressed several other reasons why Option 1 is desirable, e.g., saving trees, avoiding re-grading issues. Options 2 and 3, he read, put the bathhouse in a less accessible location and further reduce the size of the pool. Neighbors, he read, also support Option 1. The letter then touched on the issues of the field.

Ms. Ann Paulsen expressed her support for Option 1. She noted that the outdoor rink and the sloping field are used for winter sports by many children. She said if the pool is relocated, the winter activities are removed.

Mr. Jim Fitzgerald commented on the multiple-sport demands for the field that would be moved. He reviewed several of the options that have been explored for field replacement. The specifics of replacing field near the pool grounds, he said, were never considered by the Library Trustees.

Ms. Ann Rittenburg said that the traffic flow and parking demands were not made clear in the three options. Mr. Scarlata said that parking (for Options 2 and 3) could be accommodated at the Wellington School. SC Chair Graham noted that the Wellington does have summer programs, thus limiting the parking there.

Mr. Matt Lowrie, Chair of the Library Trustees, said he was surprised not to see a combined new Library/Pool option. He said a new pool is not a Library issue, per se. He said the issue of field replacement problem can be solved. Other options, he said, are being explored for field replacement.

Chair Paolillo said that Options 2 and 3 are not in the best interest of the community, given the impact on neighbors and the increased cost. Selectman Rojas concurred with Chair Paolillo, noting that Option 1 reflects the desires of the town and respects the historic nature of the pool and the landscape around it.

The Board moved: To approve Option 1 as presented by BH&A consultants.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The SC adjourned its meeting at 9:23 a.m.

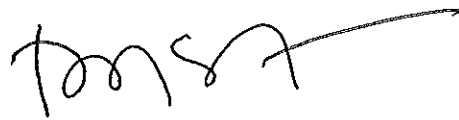
[The Board took a 10-minute break.]

Discussion: Proposed Warrant Articles

Mr. Kale noted that there are changes to several articles, e.g., snow removal, inclusionary housing. He said that the Inclusionary Housing By-Law may need to be postponed until the Special Town Meeting (TM) on May 29, while the details of this by-law are worked out.

The Board moved: To remove Article 27 from Annual TM and to transfer it to the Special TM.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DKale', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator