

APPROVED BY SELECT BOARD

June 26, 2023

Minutes of the
Town of Belmont
REGULAR SESSION
of the
SELECT BOARD
June 5, 2023

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: July 21, 2023
TIME: 9:59 AM

To view the recording of the meeting, please click [HERE](#).

Call to Order: Mr. Paolillo called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Select Board Members	Present	Staff Members	
Mark Paolillo, Chair	Yes	Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator	Yes
Roy Epstein Vice Chair	Yes	Jennifer Hewitt, Assistant Town Administrator & Finance Manager	Yes
Elizabeth Dionne, Member	Yes		
Others Present			
Leslie Davidson, Treasurer Candidate		Michael Widmer, Moderator	Yes
Taylor Yates, Planning Board Candidate		Geoff Lubien, Chair, Warrant Committee	Yes
Anthony Sacca, June License Applicant	Yes	Taylor Yates, Candidate for Planning Board	Yes

Discussion and possible vote on positions for warrant articles and possible amendments for Segment B of the May 1, 2023 Annual Town Meeting (ATM).

Article 22: Amendment to the School Budget submitted by Michael Crowley.

Mr. Paolillo explained that the amendment requests an additional \$250,000 for the School Budget plus \$38,000 to Employee Benefits from Free Cash to hire two FTEs and engage a consultant to advise on delivering OOD services. The School Committee voted 3-3 on this amendment. There was a discussion of whether or not to support this amendment.

Mr. Epstein explained that there was support at the Budget Summit for the concept of these items, but that sufficient funds are already available, so he feels this amendment is unnecessary. He then explained where the funds are located and how they became available for these purposes.

Ms. Dionne explained her experience trying to get her son in-district services. While she supports in-district services whenever possible, she pointed out that the funds could be used for anything once the School District controls them. She then shared her other objections to the amendment, especially because of the need she sees for funds to support economic development and future override expectations. Ms. Dionne suggested that some ARPA funds could be used for the type of request, because they are designated.

Mr. Lubien said the Warrant Committee had not taken this amendment up yet but explained the Committee's objections to using one-time funds for on-going expenses. He also explained his concerns about a probable override next year and agreed that the funds requested in the amendment already exist in the budget.

Mr. Paolillo expressed his concerns about the financial situation next year and spoke about the work that had been done to create a responsible budget.

A Motion was made to recommend unfavorable action for the Amendment to Article 22 submitted by Michael Crowley. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Mr. Paolillo said that he had spoken to some of the authors of the amendment about offering some one-time funds for the consultant, if it becomes clear that the funds are not available in the budget. He felt this would help reach a compromise and resolve some of the divisiveness around this issue. The amendment would have to be withdrawn as a condition of this compromise. He said some numbers being discussed are \$40,000 to \$100,000 although he feels \$100,000 is too much. He explained the benefits of trying to reach this compromise and how this could be done.

Mr. Paolillo's suggestion was discussed, and he suggested the following motion: *To approve the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in the amount of \$x to the extent needed, for an outside consultant to review, assess, and provide strategic planning support to build capacity in the Belmont Public Schools to allow current students placed in out-of-district placements to return, or to prevent future out-of-district placements provided that this approval is contingent on withdrawal of the Crowley amendment and provided further that any funds not spent by June 30, 2024 shall revert to the Select Board for reallocation to other projects within the Town.*

There was a discussion of the suggested motion, with Mr. Epstein expressing his lack of support because the funds are already available. He supported having Town Meeting discuss this issue and decide, as did Ms. Dionne.

Mr. Epstein reviewed slides which discuss this amendment that he prepared for use at Town Meeting.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A. Human Resources Director announcement: Ms. Garvin said the new HR Director started but that she had recently married so her last name is now King, rather than Spencer. Ms. Garvin and Mr. Paolillo reviewed Ms. King's qualifications and experience.
- B. Sample Tax Bill – Proposed FY2024 Q1/Q2 Implementation: Ms. Hewitt explained that the first two bills are estimates and the last two are actuals, and explained the process used to reconcile the bills. She then explained how the state allows the estimated tax bills to be calculated, saying that Belmont has previously used a method based on the previous year's tax bills. She proposed that Belmont change to a projection method, based on expected tax rates. This would make the bills more even and avoid wide swings. There was a discussion of this recommendation and how to communicate the change to residents. The Board supported the approach as long as residents are notified.

ACTION B CONSENT: Proclamation for Floyd Carman.

A Motion was made to approve the Proclamation for Floyd Carman to be read at Town Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Ratify the selection of Leslie Davidson as Town Treasurer, effective June 26, 2023.

Ms. Garvin reviewed the history of this position becoming appointed. She then reviewed Ms. Davidson's qualifications for the role. The Board discussed her extensive experience and supported the appointment. She will start June 26, 2023.

A Motion was made to ratify the selection of Leslie Davidson as Town Treasurer, effective June 26, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Discussion and possible vote on committee resignations, appointments and reappointments:

Planning Board, resignation and appointment:

Mr. Paolillo thanked Mr. Haglund for his service on the Planning Board since 1999.

A Motion was made to accept the resignation of Karl Haglund from the Planning Board, effective June 5, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Ms. Dionne also thanked Mr. Haglund for his service and suggested there be a policy about how long a resident can serve on a committee or commission. She made the suggestion just to ensure there is space for new talent and perspectives.

A Motion was made to appoint Taylor Yates to the Planning Board as a Full Member, term to expire 6/30/2024. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Zoning Board of Appeals, resignations:

Mr. Paolillo thanked Mr. Ianuzzi and Mr. Zarkadas for their service. There are now two openings for full members, and Ms. Dionne said she knew of one interested applicant.

A Motion was made to accept the resignations of Nicholas Ianuzzi, Jr and Demetrios "Jim" Zarkadas, from the Zoning Board of Appeals, both effective June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Mr. Epstein asked if two associate members should now be elevated to full members. There was a discussion of this question.

There was a discussion of the terms for ZBA members and the size of the Board as being determined by state statute.

Vote to approve Renewal of Antique/Secondhand Goods Licenses:

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| 1 | <u>As Tyme Goes By, 97 Trapelo Rd.- Annette</u> | 6 | <u>Belmont Jewelry Place, 5 Williston Rd. -Levon</u> |
| 2 | <u>Hannon</u> | 7 | <u>Terzia</u> |
| 3 | <u>BenchCraft Jewelers, 383 Trapelo Rd. – Tony</u> | 8 | <u>Westcott Mercantile, 63 Leonard St – Mary</u> |
| 4 | <u>Minassian</u> | 9 | <u>Thomajan</u> |
| 5 | <u>All That Matters, 400 Trapelo Rd. – Ursula Weaver</u> | 10 | <u>Dick's Place, 360 Trapelo Road, Richard Chandler</u> |

Mr. Epstein asked if the businesses have requested the renewals, and Ms. Garvin explained that these come from the Clerk's Office yearly. There was a discussion of this question.

A Motion was made to approve the renewal of the Antique/Second Hands Good Licenses of the above-listed businesses. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Vote to approve Renewal of Taxi License: Yellow Cab of Belmont, 61 White Street, Louis Truscello

A Motion was made to approve the renewal of the Taxi License to Yellow Cab of Belmont, 61 White Street. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Vote to approve Renewal of Junk License: A. Sacca Junk, 51-53 Baker St., Anthony Sacca

A Motion was made to approve the renewal of the Junk License to A. Sacca Junk, 51-53 Baker St. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Appoint Town Administrator as authorized representative for the purpose of signing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports pertaining to Belmont's MS4 General Permit.

Ms. Garvin explained the purpose of this request.

A Motion was made to appoint the Town Administrator as the authorized representative for the purpose of signing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports pertaining to Belmont's MS4 General Permit. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Approval of Minutes

May 8, 2023 Regular Session: Mr. Epstein said in the discussion of amendments being submitted close to Town Meeting he changed "the Board" to "the Chair". Ms. Dionne changed Dave Blazon to David in the attendance list, and pointed out some grammatical errors.

May 10, 2023 Water & Sewer Rate Public Forum: Mr. Epstein said Ralph Jones is not the Sewer Committee Chair as there is no Sewer Committee. Ms. Dionne said that Line 6 should read "operating with a deficit" and indicated that fiscal years should be shown consistently (i.e., FY2023 rather than FY23). She added that the last line before adjournment should read "thanked the participants".

A Motion was made to approve the May 8, 2023 Regular session minutes as amended and the May 10, 2023 Water & Sewer Rate Public Forum minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

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- June 7, 2023 at 5:30pm.
- June 26, 2023 at 7:00pm.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting of the Belmont Select Board Committee to Town Meeting, and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Peghiny
Recording Secretary