

Approved by
the Select Board on:

4/5/2021

SELECT BOARD JOINT MEETING WITH THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021

REMOTE MEETING

7:00 PM

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: April 23, 2021

TIME: 9:17 AM

A joint meeting of the Select Board and School Committee was called to order at 7:00 pm. Chair Epstein called the Select Board to order. Catherine Bowen called the School Committee to order. Tom Caputo, Adam Dash and members of School Committee were present. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin, Assistant Town Manager Jon Marshall, Director of Community Development Glenn Clancy, and Director of DPW Jay Marcotte were also present.

[Deferring community announcements and notes approval until later time in meeting.]

ACTION BY CONSENT

Legislative Update with Senator Will Brownsberger and Representative Dave Rogers

- Senator Brownsberger announced that the Federal government has released a new relief package called American Rescue Plan Act 2021. The town may be eligible to get up to \$8.6M in aid from federal government with funding released from State. This aid comes with restrictions on use and is essentially for broadly defined, COVID related issues. The town will need to look carefully at the eligibility criteria and see how it translates to our needs. Also, Chapter 70 may be funded above the previous estimate by the governor. There are other things to discuss regarding New Zoning Law and Stretch Code, but this can be done on a less busy night.

Epstein opened public hearing at 7:05 on Location Petition Request from National Grid for Work Order #90000207671 – School Street. Motion to lay National Grid work order request #90000207671 on the table. Motion approved by 3-0.

[Epstein said we will return to public hearing after the discussion about relief package has completed.]

- Representative Dave Rogers said that \$1M is targeted to schools in the relief package. They are still finalizing regulations on how money can be spent. The funding is earmarked in specific ways, but is a welcome development. He added that the State budget is in reasonably good shape based on modeling forecasts. Revenue was predicted to fall \$6M to \$7M, but that hasn't happened.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO BROWNSBERGER AND ROGERS:

Bill Anderson asked when do we expect the funding to be released? What are restrictions?

- Brownsberger answered that the 1st installment (\$7.6M for Town) would be released within 90 days, and the 2nd half comes 12 months after that. Limitations of use:
 - 1) broad response to negative economic impacts of COVID (aid to small businesses, households, etc.);
 - 2) premiums to eligible workers responding to COVID;

- 3) replacement to lost town revenue that can be attributed to COVID; and,
 - 4) necessary investments in water, sewer, broadband.
- Brownsberger said that the town is eligible to receive up to \$7.6M as long as certified. Application works with certification so we don't need to provide inventory of purposes just have to certify it will be used appropriately and then have to show it's been used as indicated.

Aaron Pikcilingis, TMM, pct. 6 asked if the funds are available for general operating expenses?

- Brownsberger said that if it's a response to public health emergency and loss of revenue, then it can be used for operating expenses. The school component of the funding has more flexibility than the town component.

Nicole Dorn – Does guidance show that we should be making any decision regarding override related to funding?

- Brownsberger replied that the Secretary of Administration of Finance said the numbers should be reviewed as preliminary and subject to change. He cautioned that towns should not use relief funds to make estimates on override. But Brownsberger said that we could use for currently unplanned expenses.

Mary Lewis asked if we already budgeted for FY22 COVID expenses, can this funding be used for both town and school? Did we already calculate what our revenue loss was due to COVID?

- Garvin reported that school and town purposefully didn't include COVID expenses within operating budget for FY22 because they were anticipating state aid. She said that there are costs put in a "COVID parking lot" that this funding could address. In terms of revenue shortage, she looked at FY19 taxes and it's less than \$1M based on a quick survey of actuals vs. estimates
- Tom Caputo said that the town was expecting that Chapter 70 would be reduced in coming year. He asked if there was potential for Governor's budget to be increased?
- Brownsberger reported general government aid will not change, but Chapter 70 could be increased by about \$300K.

Erin Lubien asked a question about deferred spending. She asked if there were activities that needed to be paused during pandemic in school and town, where would those numbers fit?

- Garvin said there was not any specific program deferred due to COVID.

Charlie Conroy asked what about guidance about businesses? Could we provide funding with this relief fund for people behind on their rent?

- Brownsberger said the money could be used to aid impacted industries and for rental assistance, however he cautioned that this money cannot be used as a reimbursement, spending has to start after March 1.
- Supt. Phelan thanked both the Senator and the Representative. He said, as Patrice Garvin pointed out, the budget process we have gone through with all groups anticipated revenue coming in from state. We were banking on federal dollars. But he is excited to determine if any items in the "COVID parking lot" can be covered by this relief bill.
- Senator Brownsberger said that people can go to Willbrownsberger.com for more info.

Tom Caputo presented a slide presentation to further explain the proposed funding from state and how it affects FY22 budget:

- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 has uncertainties at this point, but we are sharing the info we have. The plan is administered through the state, for small towns with under 50,000 people, and Belmont qualifies.
- There are two buckets of money 1) Local Stability Fund of \$7.6M and, 2) School fund of \$1M. All info is preliminary.
- Eligibility restrictions are based on four areas:
 1. Belmont may not be able to make use of the full \$7.6M in operating budget. But it may be opportunity to use for reduced revenue due to COVID related expenses, which the Town Administrator has estimated would be about \$800K.
 2. Response to pandemic or its negative economic impact includes assistance to households, small businesses non profits, or to aid travel and hospitality. This money may not be available to defray operating budget, but may be valuable to the community.
 3. In regards to premium pay to eligible workers, performing essential businesses. Belmont doesn't have plans in FY22 for premium or hazardous pay for workers so we may not be able to use to offset operating budget under this category.
 4. Funding is available for investments to capital Improvements to municipal water, sewer and broadband. We have opportunity to make capital improvements to water and sewer, but these are enterprise funds so any incremental investment in these areas will defray rate increases, but don't impact FY22 operating expenses.
- Caputo explained that these are one-time, short term funds that will not affect the structural deficit.
- Representative Dave Rogers said that Caputo's slides were helpful. He reminded everyone that State projections were very negative when pandemic set in, and we are doing better than we expected. He also anticipates, that educationally, Belmont will receive a little more money than in the original Governor's budget.

[Epstein announced return to public hearing.]

Motion to remove the public hearing on National Grid work order request #90000207671 from the table. Approved by vote of (3-0).

Public Hearing on the Grant of Location Petition Request from National Grid for Work Order #90000207671 – School Street

Garvin announced that Mary Mulroney from National Grid is here along with Jay Marcotte and Glenn Clancy to discuss this agenda item.

- Mary Mulroney brought forth the request. Mass DOT is narrowing the sidewalk on the existing station side and widening it on opposite side. The new station will be underground on the other side of the street and will be covered by the new sidewalk. Epstein said the sidewalk work is part of the Safe Routes to School project.
- The work will be done in 6 to 8 weeks in normal weather conditions. National Grid will start in early June. Police details will be needed.

- Clancy said the timing is critical. Mass DOT will advertise the Safe Routes to School project on July 1. By the time they open bids, it will be mid to late summer. National Grid needs to do work before Mass DOT turns over work to contractor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT NATIONAL GRID PROJECT:

Ann Paulsen asked if they could describe where the sidewalk will be narrowed and expanded? She said she would also like to know if National Grid will be responsible about keeping sidewalk level in front of Wellington, everything is uneven.

- Clancy said the project is on Wellington School side, heading eastbound, 100 to 125 feet before curb cut in front of church parking lot. Sidewalk will be widened from 10 to 10 1/2 feet. Regulator is wider than the current sidewalk. In order to manage traffic, the solution will shift the travel lanes temporarily until the beginning of Mass. DOT work.

Catherine Bowen asked if that side of sidewalk will be widened and the narrowing is just temporary? Will there be temporary accessible pathway for parent and students entering the school to ensure safety?

- Clancy said nothing has changed in design. National Grid has to install new regulator. He explained that National Grid and MASS DOT consultant have been working several weeks to find spot.
- Jay Marcotte said he would review and make sure it is safe.

{Epstein closed the public portion of the hearing.}

Public Hearing on the Grant of Location Petition Request from National Grid for Work Order #90000207671 – School Street

Motion made to approve request from National Grid for work order #90000207671 which entails National Grid replacing station 232 on School St. and relocating it on proposed wider sidewalk in front of St. Joseph's church parking lot. New station will be underground 6 inch regulator installed flush with new sidewalk. Approximately 400 feet of 12-inch piping will be relayed down School St. to feed new station. Station will have 20-inch outlet that will be tied to existing 16-inch main. Station will be installed before DOT paves new sidewalk. Temporary sidewalk will be permitted to protrude onto road by 3 feet before DOT starts Safe Roads to School project. Granite curbing will be removed across from new station and sidewalk will be narrowed down to maintain road width at all times. Motion approved by vote of (3-0).

Deferral of Leonard St. item:

Leonard St. plan is being revised and revised plan will be presented at Tuesday, March 23th meeting. (Tuesday additional meeting).

Discussion and Possible Vote to Designate Emergency Changes to Some Polling Places for the April 6, 2021 Town Election, Due to COVID and the Return to School (Item Added)

- Ellen Cushman reported about readiness of polling places. Three of the polling stations are located in elementary school gyms. Belmont will be returning to in-school learning on April 5th

and election is next day. She discussed the issue with John Phelan, Patrice Garvin and Department of Health. We decided collectively, that we can accommodate the voting in the three elementary schools in addition to the other five locations. We will work with schools to make sure appropriate COVID guidelines are being followed, hence, Belmont will not be changing any polling stations.

- Supt. Phelan said the challenge was fitting our students in building and keeping 6-foot distance for lunch. Wedding style tents have been rented for lunch outside to space students out.

Motion made to approve the Election Warrant for the April 6, 2021 annual town election at the polling locations as shown on the draft Election Warrant presented by the Town Clerk, being the same polling locations as typically used in the past. Approved by vote (3-0).

Other Announcements from Town Clerk's office:

- Cushman said the Town is encouraging voters to use absentee mail-in voting, if it is a problem for them to get to polls. You must register for absentee ballot and signature is required. Applications went out in Belmont Light bill. Deadline to apply for absentee vote is 5 pm on March 31. We are encouraging residents to use drop off box at front of town hall. You can pick up absentee applications in box at town hall, or use the application received in February light bill, or write note and tell us where to mail it.
- Voter registration is due on March 17 at 5 pm. You can register to vote at: www.registertovotema.com. Ballot question is at bottom of ballot.

Vote to Open Town Meeting Warrant, Add Article, Vote to Close Town Meeting Warrant

Garvin raised discussion and possible vote on two new Annual Town Meeting warrant articles:

New Warrant Article #1: Tony DiCologero from schools:

- Costs for providing transportation to foster children can be partially reimbursed from state. In order for school dept. needs to sign a standard MOU with three state agencies. It requires one time vote from TM. General reimbursement is 20%. Any reimbursement is general revenue to town, not school. 2019-20 School dept. expended \$32k for transportation and we get 20% of that back.
- Garvin said this came up after the warrant was closed. George Hall provided her with the language that is in the Board's packet for tonight. Because the warrant is still in draft form, it is up to the Board to decide whether to add articles and finalize the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Garvin said it would be open only tonight just for the purpose of discussing and adding the two proposed new articles, and then closed immediately.

New Warrant Article #2: Adam Dash

- Dash saw that Somerville was asking the State to move forward the "Mass. Payment in Lieu of Taxes" legislation which allows towns to collect 25% of tax value for non-profits that have property value over \$15M. If this law were allowed to pass, then the Town could require PILOT payments. Collecting PILOT payments has been a concern raised by the public for a long time. It would be good to have a debate on the matter at Town Meeting. Dash said this legislation has been sitting at the State and may need a push by towns.

- Caputo agreed that this would help to jump start PILOT funds. Epstein observed that the non-profits definition could include churches and hospitals.
- Dash said text of this particular letter of support could be same as used by Somerville. Dash read the text of non-binding letter of support drafted by Somerville for the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ellen Schreiber asked, in terms of scope of non -profits, does this include Habitat where land would be restricted? It sounds like public purpose wouldn't matter.

- Dash said that, if the law passes, Belmont would be able to opt in to the PILOT requirement, but would not be required to do so. Now, we can't require PILOT payments at all.

Mike Widmer (Town Moderator) said he's not aware of this specific legislation. He said this is a complicated issue and there are pros and cons. It might be good for Select Board to not rush to put it on the Town Meeting warrant without a fuller understanding of repercussions and public input. There will be too many questions for Town Meeting and not enough time to debate it.

Elizabeth Dionne (TMM pct. 2., member of Warrant Committee), said that the Warrant Committee has been looking at the issue of PILOTs, and they have a report that has been waiting on information from the Board of Assessors. The Assessors are in agreement that the bill is important, but it won't stop the need for override. She said there may be a misconception that PILOTS would add significant revenue.

- Epstein said that he agrees that a public discussion is needed before Town Meeting and that maybe it should be moved to the Fall 2021 Town Meeting.
- Caputo said he supports this in principle but we may need more discussion before Town Meeting.
- Epstein said it would be useful to get the report from the Warrant Committee, and in addition to comments by Mike Widmer, there may be need for a public forum.
- Dash said that, if the law passes, it would be an opt-in for towns, so there would be a chance for a later discussion about whether or not to opt in if it passes. Epstein said we need to study the law as it stands now and Caputo said we should get more info from Warrant Committee.
- Select Board members agreed that it should wait for further discussion and study.

Motion to open the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Approved by vote of (3-0).

Motion made to add to the Annual Town Meeting warrant an article regarding reimbursement for foster student transportation as described in this meeting. Approved by vote of (3-0).

Motion made to close the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Approved by vote of (3-0).

Town Moderator – Request to call 2021 Annual Town Meeting to be held by Remote Participation

Widmer summarized the request:

- Under the legislation passed by state in the middle of pandemic, towns are allowed to have remote participation at TM. It requires a letter from the Moderator to the Select Board and then the Select Board must approve a remote Town Meeting. This will be the third remote Town Meeting held in Belmont. Ellen Cushman, Town Clerk, pointed out one error in the letter;

that the Fall Special Town Meeting should be Sept. 21, and 23, 2021. We need to approve the letter so we can continue to have the Annual Town Meeting through remote participation.

- We drafted legislation that would do this by remote participation if completed before June 30, 2021. That would protect us if the state ended the current pandemic emergency. Widmer thinks we should do a remote Annual Town Meeting in June, too. He hopes we can go back to in-person Town Meeting in Fall 2021.

Motion made to call the Annual Town Meeting to begin on May 3, 2021 to be held by remote participation. Approved by vote of (3-0).

- Epstein announced that due to time constraints the only article to be discussed at this meeting is the Indigenous Peoples' Day article. The others will be discussed at a later date.

Perkins & Will Presentation on the Site West of Harris Field – joint meeting with School Committee

[Catherine Bowen said School Committee will be called to order once a quorum has been reached.]

Stephen Sefton from Perkins and Will presented on study for Belmont rink adjacent to west of Harris field.

- The goals of the study were to look at the existing facility and the possible renovation or new ice rink, look at broader site with new configuration, develop cost estimate and support efforts for future RFP. Currently they are four weeks into the study. Tonight, he will be sharing some initial site ideas. After this week, the goal is to do cost analysis and finish report by the end of the month.
- The program has to meet the national federation of state high school standards in fields and ice rink. Cost model built around minimum cost replacement for rink. Four ice hockey locker rooms, visitor locker rooms, and family use. Outside of ice rink, soccer, softball, baseball, and discus and shot put in another field. We were also asked to look at viability of adding tennis courts. And then parking is large area of 90 spots for students and 20 spots for day rink use.
- [Showed aerial views of other municipality fields.] Intent is to make it an all-season facility.
- [Showed existing plan of overall site.] Commented that current building lacks sufficient space for High School and community use and there are limited spectator areas. We are looking at adding a softball field, parking, bigger building and clear drop off and pick up area in parking lot. The only way to provide all fields is to have overlap; which will limit simultaneous play. The footprint is going from 29K sq. feet to 55K sq. feet.

Three renovation schemes were considered:

- 1) Retains superstructure and built around structure on west side of area. This plan includes dedicated ice locker room and field locker room that can support stadium and field use. Using existing facility gives sustainability, and good proximity to Harris Field. Not near Concord Ave. We were able to fit baseball and softball field without overlap. This plan is more expensive than other plans. Five tennis courts would not fit (challenge to fit one court.) One court is equal to 20 parking spots.
- 2) Build new facility, but rotate it 90 degrees. This allows the creation of consolidated parking, with set back from street and allows more freedom on west side. Fields are a little more overlapped here.

This plan overlaps existing foot print, so there is the need to demolish and then rebuild which would take longer. Tennis courts overlayed with parking, so loss of parking is large (would lose 75% of parking with five courts.) This is the only option where one tennis court could fit for recreation use.

3) Western option includes rotating the building 90 degrees and placing on the farthest Northwest edge. Plan includes splitting parking and grouping fields. This plan frees up some of facility construction and allows existing facility to operate while new one is being built. The orientation of building would help preserve energy and light. Distance from stadium is further away and sharing facilities with rink and stadium would be a challenge. Five tennis courts could not be incorporated. 2nd option would be best for having any tennis courts.

- Epstein said it seems you can get 3, but not 4, options. Bill Lovallo said the expectation was that all sports could be run out of the new structure.

[School Committee has quorum. Catherine Bowen called meeting to order.]

- Dash noted these fields overlap a lot. Sefton said this is not unusual for a JV field. There are other fields so High School can still play. For recreation use, tennis courts can be oriented anywhere. Safety issue for tennis, not as important as baseball.

Comments from School Committee and Select Board to Stephen Sefton, Perkins and Will representative.

- Amy Checkoway commented that it looks like field space is tight. Are all options different costs? Stephen said that renovation scheme #1 would be most expensive. But more findings are necessary.
- Tara Donner asked if #2 option could fit recreational tennis court and fit parking. Stephen responded that if you put all five courts in plan, then 100 parking spots are reduced to 20. Stephen said that parking is consolidated in option #2. In triangulated area, recreation tennis court and fields could fit.
- Who has the authority to make exception to parking requirement? Bill Lovallo, Chair of Belmont MS/HS building committee said there has been a lot of discussion about number of parking spaces. There will already be less student parking than there is today. They wanted to accommodate students so they would not park in neighborhoods. This was based on the number of permits from 2018. All things are debatable.
- Donner asked if the athletic director had a chance to weigh in on scheduling of fields for practices? Supt. Phelan said that while it may not be ideal for fields to overlap, we are thankful to have those fields.
- Caputo asked if they took into consideration the possibility of putting tennis courts inside the rink space in the off season. Stephen said that you could fit four tennis courts indoors. But their evaluation indicated it would be costly for storage and maintenance to break down ice sheet every year. Epstein said that NFHS dictates that outdoor courts are required for HS use. So indoor courts could not be used for competition.
- Dash asked what the time line is for getting an answer for Town Meeting. Stephen said that to get five courts, you are going to have to give up parking or field use. To get one recreational court, it is possible in the second option. Accommodating five courts is not possible unless something else gives.

- Catherine Bowen said that if parking numbers are lower than estimated, then they could consider designs that would allow shift of placement of courts.
- Stephen said Option #1 has biggest benefits for field and Option #2 has the second most space, but all fields can be accommodated in every option. It turned out to be too costly to build tennis courts over the parking.
- Bowen confirmed that the rink could be used year round. What would be the impact if there were a change to student parking needs? Phelan said that discussions of parking was always surrounded by incentives for not using cars. He said they have been trying to keep parking along Harris Field and to develop a good balance. They wanted to make sure neighborhoods didn't have too much street parking. Even if we limit the amount of students getting parking passes and changing rule, students will always end up parking on the streets. Bowen would like to limit parking use of students and strive for less asphalt, more green space.
- Phelan said that goal over time is to provide a safe walking and biking campus. With the Community Path underpass, we are opening up the Winn Brook side of campus and that will reduce impact of traffic and make campus more accessible.
- Garvin said that she would caution moving parking off site. Parking for the pool and library, which are nearby, is necessary for other events. Removal of parking will affect the neighborhood.
- Epstein said this discussion helped us focus on key constraints. We cannot have a public discussion tonight. He proposes another community forum to ask questions and consider parking issues. That may mean we can't get this on the Town Meeting in June. He would like to conclude the joint meeting and then convene again.
- Evelyn Gomez asked if there is there any conversation regarding underground parking. Bowen said it's a particularly expensive and non-desirable option due to the nature of the land. Bill Lovallo reported that adding underground parking to this site would be \$2M to \$3M extra.
- Tara Donner asked in option #2, given that softball and baseball overlap anyway, has it been evaluated whether softball and baseball could be combo field? Stephen said it wasn't considered due to limitations of use.
- Donner said school needs to prioritize parking vs. supporting alternate modes of transportation. Community needs to continue to weigh in on this. Bill Lovallo, said the number of parking spaces are less than what existed before.
- Epstein said this discussion will reconvene once more information is received from the architect.

[Epstein announced a five minute break and that the Select Board would reconvene at 9:45.]

Motion to adjourn the School Committee approved by its members.

[Epstein resumed the Select Board meeting.]

Update from the Structural Change Impact Group

- Travis Franck reported that SCIG held Public Forum last Thursday. Residents and Warrant Committee members came up with ideas about multi-use space, tax services, broad band

services, and a variety of other ideas from the community. Ideas can be submitted through form at tiny.url.com/belmontchange or the town website.

- A matrix will evaluate which departments are affected, classify type of ideas and then evaluate based on feasibility, impact, and expediency of implementation effort. Our goal is to help flush out ideas, not make decisions.
- Franck expects to have another Town Forum after Town Meeting. We meet every other week and are breaking into subgroups.

Vote to Approve Facilities Contract Amendment #4 with Guardian Energy Management Solutions of Marlborough, MA in the amount of \$208,698 (summarized by Jay Marcotte.)

- Town has capital funds set aside to replace the second boiler at Winn Brook. This would involve retrofitting of domestic hot water and removal and replacement of second boiler. We will get rebate of \$4K per boiler.
- We have prior year capital and energy conservation and school has revolving money for this project. Calculation of energy savings, save \$5590 per year. Water upgrade save \$400 per year. These are at least 30 years old. The state inspector deemed this needs to be replaced ASAP. The work will start during April vacation.

Motion to approve contract amendment #4 Guardian Energy Management Solutions for \$208,698 which includes Winn Brook domestic hot water installation (\$99,999), hot water (\$99,999), project coordination (\$8700). Approved by vote of (3-0).

Discussion and Possible Vote on One Lane Closure of Leonard Street and Outdoor Dining

Vote on Leonard St. closure will be deferred to the March 23rd meeting. Date of closure will likely not start until May so there will time to finalize plan.

Discussion and Vote to Set Health Insurance Rates for Fiscal Year 2022

- This topic was discussed in prior meeting with a suggested 3% rate increase by Patrice Garvin, but the Select Board needed a formal analysis from Sue Shillue, the town's consultant.
- Sue said that health ins. costs are cyclical over a five-year period. The number of claims were reduced this year due to delay in preventive services.
- Every fiscal year we project costs of active plans (HMO and PPO). The projection for this year was \$ 13.1M. However, based on claims in February, we expect \$12M before end of fiscal year. With this trend, claims would come in at 12.9%. A 3% increase in rates would generate a cushion of \$500K. She said it's good to have cushion during COVID. Fund trust balance was \$5.2M at beginning of year. If we take out the reserve required, it would be at \$6M, which would be fine.
- Sue said the biggest uncommitted reduction of reserves was in FY 18 when rates were deficient by \$1.4M. Epstein commented that means there would be a \$2M hit to uncommitted reserve. That seems to be worse case and it's in the original projection.
- Members agreed that 3% looks reasonable. Balance of trust is currently \$5.4M for reserves.

Motion made to reduce health insurance rate to 3% for FY22. Approved by vote of (3-0).

Discussion and Possible Vote on Positions on Town Meeting Warrant Articles

The only warrant article to be voted tonight is regarding Indigenous Peoples' Day.

[Students Alex Fick and Laura Ovcharova joined meeting.]

- Epstein said draft resolution was received from Alex and Laura and it went to Town Counsel for review. Select Board will put resolution on TM warrant. Alex and Laura said they were fine with some of the suggested edits, but not others.
- Epstein suggested that he would like to see the following "whereas" clause added:

"Whereas establishing Indigenous Peoples' Day in Belmont as a counter celebration for Columbus Day in no way denies the discriminations and injustices experienced by generations of Italian immigrants or diminishes the invaluable contributions of Italian Americans to the country."

- Dash said that in 1st whereas clause, the "cite location ordinance..." should be taken out, as suggested by Town Counsel. Town Counsel also wanted to remove resolution #3 because it doesn't apply. It is a reference to a celebration committee which Belmont does not have. The other whereas clauses had graphic language and we can leave it in or not, but Dash would prefer to leave them in. Dash said that he does not think the additional clause proposed by Epstein is necessary or relevant.
- Garvin said the #4 resolution needs to be reviewed by John Phelan because it talks about the schools.
- Caputo said he agrees with removing resolution #3. He would like to hear from the schools about #4. He thinks the graphic inflammatory "whereas" language could be struck. As for Epstein's proposed addition, Caputo is not sure that this should be about Italian-Americans.
- Alex had reached out to Asst. Superintendent Darius, and she said it needs to go to the Select Board. Five out of six school committee members have given support. Dash said we can leave #4 in and, if it's an issue with Town Meeting, then it could be removed.
- Epstein will not support the article without his additional language. The decision was made to do a series of approvals based on what is agreed by each Board member.
- Dash said we will do three separate motions.

Motion made to remove from the first "whereas" clause the wording "...cite local ordinance if there is one", and to delete resolution #3 for reasons previously stated. Approved by vote of (3-0.)

Motion made to strike language in "whereas" clause #3 as outlined by Town Counsel, "including trafficking women and girls as young as nine," and to strike language in clause #4, "... and all told millions of indigenous persons were exterminated in the Caribbean Basin alone." Approved by vote of (2-1). Dash voted against.

Motion to recommend favorable action of the Indigenous People's Day article, as amended. Approved by vote of (2-1). Epstein voted against.

Accept Donation of Funds for a Memorial Park Bench at Grove Street Park

Jon Marshall said the Select Board had approved this bench at a previous meeting in February, but at that time the funds hadn't been raised. Since approved, the group raised \$3,050. Norveen Van Hal,

passed away and the residents in area presented the bench idea to the Recreation Commission and Select Board.

Move to accept donation for a memorial park bench at Grove Street Park in amount of \$3,050. Motion approved by vote of (3-0).

Discussion and Possible Vote on Select Board Appointments to the Diversity Task Force

Epstein summarized: in a previous meeting we voted for Town, Human Rights and Belmont Against Racism appointments to the Diversity Task Force. That leaves seats for the Vision 21 Implementation Committee, Community Organized for Solidarity (COS), Belmont Chinese American Association and the schools. The choices emerged from recommendations from the chairs or representatives of each group.

Motion made to appoint the following persons to the Diversity Task Force:

Jennipher Burgess, COS

Roger Fussa, Vision 21 Implementation Committee

Lixin Qin, Belmont Chinese American Association

Denise LaPolla, Belmont Public Schools.

Motion approved by vote of (3-0).

- Two remaining spots are open to residents and there were many good choices.
- Epstein said it was difficult to make decision about appointments and it is difficult to be fully representative because there are so many diverse groups in Belmont. He suggested Julie Wu, Gloria Pimentel and Pritha Mitra-Stiff.
- Dash thinks a South Asian voice needs to be heard and he leaned towards Pritha Mitra-Stiff. He also was moved by Jordan Biggers' statement of interest, and he likes Sally Sennot. This will start with the Task Force having a 6-month term, and eventually move onto something bigger.
- Caputo hopes that the Task Force will engage the entire community. Caputo would like to appoint Jordan Biggers. He likes that he is a new resident to Belmont. He feels Julie Wu also would bring a good perspective and she has been involved in other town programs.

Motion made to appoint Jordan Biggers and Pritha Mitra-Stiff to the Diversity Task Force. Approved by vote of (3-0).

Vote to Approve New Class II Business License for Boston Motor Werks, LLC, 1000 Pleasant Street, Belmont

Motion made to approve the Class II license for Boston Motor Werks, LLC. Approved by vote of (3-0).

Discussion on Committee Appointment Timeline

- Jon Marshall wanted to lay out proposed timeline for the Select Board. We will reach out to committee members whose terms are expiring and to chairs of committees to get input.
- Dash commented that usually this is a Summer activity, and it seems early to address this, particularly during the Annual Town Meeting season.
- Epstein said if appointments end on June 30, we need to get process started.

- Jon Marshall said we need time to get in applications so we know how many new appointments we need. Garvin said we can reach out to see who wants to be reappointed and then if there are vacancies then we can work on that later. Sometimes people don't pay attention until last minute.
- Jon said we could try moving to mid-May. But if we wait too long, we may start losing people.
- The Select Board was supportive of this approach.

FY22 Budget Update and COVID Relief Bill Potential Impact Discussion

The School and town budgets are out. The Warrant Committee is working on their budget report. Capital Budget Committee chairs sent e-mail with comments about School Committee in regards to Chenery roof. Garvin wants to make sure the Select Board knows that there is no debt exclusion contemplated for the Chenery roof. The article for borrowing for the roof has been removed from the Town Meeting warrant because the Capital Budget Committee needs more information.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Cooks Corner, March 26 at 1:15 pm, Nava cooking Sicilian Easter cake, Cassata. Preregister at Beech St. Center.
- Virtual Passover Seder, March 29 at 5:30 pm run by Dana Bickelman. Contact Beech St. Center.
- Safety and Well Being for Seniors. District Atty. Ryan discusses scams related to COVID. Held on March 16 at 11 am. This will be posted on website and it will have contact info. Or you can call Beech St. Center.
- Two-part program: debate March 19 at 10:30 am with candidates for Belmont Housing Authority and Board of Health; second debate on March 19th at 4 pm with candidates for School Committee. Zoom contact info will be posted on town website. Contact COA or Beech St. Center for more information.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- January 11, 2021 – Executive Session (tabled from 2/8 and 3/1 meeting)
- January 27, 2021 – Special Meeting (tabled from 2/8 and 3/1 meeting)
- January 21, 2021 – Special Meeting (tabled from 3/1)
- January 22, 2021 – Joint Meeting (tabled from 3/1)
- February 8, 2021 – Regular Meeting (tabled from 3/1)
- February 8, 2021 – Executive Session (tabled from 3/1)
- February 11, 2021 – Joint Meeting (tabled from 3/1)

Edits were made by the members to the minutes.

Motion made to approve amended meeting minutes of January 11 Executive Session, January 21 special meeting, January 22 joint meeting, January 27 special meeting, February 8 regular meeting, February 8 Executive Session, and February 11 joint meeting. Motion was approved by vote of (3-0).

COVID UPDATE:

- Garvin said we received 150 vaccines earmarked for Belmont and anyone over 65, should call Board of Health to get vaccine. Belmont held a regional clinic three weeks ago and they are going to honor second shot.
- Epstein said he knows a letter will be going out to say we think vaccines should be made available at local Health Centers.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Local Rapid Recovery Planning Program (LRRP)

Garvin reported that the town received \$60K from State from a local rapid recovery grant. This is a technical assistance grant to help study a specific area. We have determined that the Trapelo/Waverly/Cushing area would be good place to focus on. Jon will work with the Economic Development Committee on this project. The technical assistance will allow us to apply for other grants. The goal is to help find private and state grants and it may be possible to tie this into the new state stimulus money.

Additional Select Board Meeting date(s)

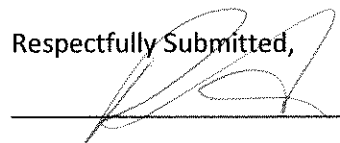
Garvin announced there will be an additional March 23rd Select Board meeting.

SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT

- Long Range Capital Planning met.
- Community Preservation Committee approved moving ahead with the CPA article for a 5th tennis court at Winn Brook.
- Capital Budget Committee is meeting weekly and is completing budget recommendations.
- High School and Middle School Building Committee is meeting this Friday.
- Epstein said that residents wrote letters to the MPO on the Community Path complaining about the overall planning and process. This same issue has resurfaced from last year. MPO is anxious about approving money for projects if there is significant community opposition. The Community Path Project Committee will do the first draft of a letter to go out from Select Board. Garvin said that the MPO is starting to receive positive letters about the Path as well.

Motion made to adjourn Select Board meeting of March 15, 2021. Approved by vote of (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator