

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, November 2, 2009
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair Leclerc in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectman Firenze was present; Selectman Jones was not. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were none.

ACTION BY WRITING – Part I

Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust – Signing Bond

Mr. Carman, Belmont's Treasurer, appeared before the Board to request that the Board sign the water and sewer bond pertaining to the Wellington project in the amount of \$1.8M. The Board signed the appropriate papers.

The Board moved: To approve the request and sign the relevant bonds for the Wellington project.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

VFW All Alcohol Club Licensing Hearing

Mr. William Monahan, VFW attorney, and Sergeant Healy, Senior Vice Commander, appeared before the Board to discuss the VFW alcohol club liquor license. Chair Leclerc asked if the utility bills have been paid up. Sergeant Healy said that he had recently received notice of being behind on the bills. Selectman Firenze noted that the town would assume liability for bills after June 30, 2008. (Records show that water bills have not been paid.)

There was discussion of an event in May 2009 where there was a disturbance and a bartender had served alcohol at the VFW without a liquor license. The Board of Health has raised issues. Ms. Moulthrop voiced concern about alcohol and food being served at

the facility as well as the fact that smoking is not allowed where food is being served. Mr. Younger offered that a food services license would be needed.

Mr. Monahan asked if this license could be issued contingent upon all of the following issues being cleared up: Board of Health, police details for large events, and TIPS certification. The Board agreed and stated that if an event such as the one in May 2009 occurs again where if alcohol is served inappropriately, a hearing would be held by the Board and a decision on whether to revoke the liquor license made based on the evidence.

The Board moved: To issue a liquor license to the Belmont VFW post pending compliance with state and local laws and contingent upon all issues being resolved including bills paid, Board of Health, and TIPS certification.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Sergeant Healy noted that the VFW's financial situation has changed (somewhat) in the last three years. He said that the community has been helpful in supporting the projects that were needed, such as a new roof. He said they are now able to budget for a new carpet and other cosmetic issues, as well. The \$1,000 liquor license fee seems like a lot of money and the VFW is hoping that the Board would take this into consideration when determining the fee.

Chair Leclerc said he would be willing to negotiate a reduced rate for this year and work up towards a \$1,000 fee. A \$1,000 is the average fee across the state, he added.

The Board moved: To charge \$1.00 for the liquor license for the remainder of 2009 and 2010 with the intention of increasing the fee in future years.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Request of Sergeant Promotion and Auxiliary Police

Mr. Younger said that the Police Chief is requesting that the Board support the promotion of Officer David Sullivan to Police Sergeant.

The Board moved: To support the promotion of Officer David Sullivan to Police Sergeant.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

The Police Chief recommends that the following people be reappointed as Auxiliary Police Officers: Gerry Benoit, Robert Coate, Ronald Hurley, Gregory Johnson, David Jones, David Kern, Todd Larsen, Daniel MacAuley, Robert McQuaid, Christopher Murphy, Vickie Norvaisa, Thomas O'Brien, Edward Pendergast, James Riccio, Wade Ripley, John Steeves, and Colby Weston.

The Board moved: To support the reappointments of the above named people.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

The Police Chief recommends that Ms. Kerrie Mahoney be appointed as a Auxiliary Police Officer.

The Board moved: To support the appointment of Ms. Kerrie Mahoney.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Tennis Court Repair Program

DPW director Peter Castanino appeared before the Board to discuss the tennis court repair program. He noted that he was requested by Mr. Younger to evaluate the tennis courts around town. Last summer, he met with and discussed the issues relating to tennis courts with Mr. Younger, Recreation Director Bill McKenney, and Assistant DPW Director Mike Santoro to try to figure out how to move forward with courts that have been closed for several years. The proposal (FY11 impact of \$12,000) includes removing the courts at Grove Street. The fencing and pavement would also be removed, and grass and loom would replace it. Also in FY11 (\$12,100), at Winn Brook, two of the four courts are open. We would like to repair the other two for four total courts there. In FY12, we would like to fix the PQ courts (\$12,100).

The Board discussed that in addition to these courts there would be eight courts available at the High School (which are maintained by DPW). Chair Leclerc said that this is a balanced approach to address tennis court repair throughout the town.

The Board articulated its support for this plan.

Committee Appointments – Cultural Council

The Board discussed appointments to the Cultural Council.

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Rebecca Richards and Ms. Sarah Bruya to the Cultural Council assuming Ms. Richards has time to serve.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Warrant Discussion

This item is postponed to the November 16, Board of Selectmen meeting.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- The legislation regarding the Red Light cameras is moving forward at the state level. Belmont's letter of support is on file.

- The Benton Library appraisal is underway in anticipation of leasing the building. Chair Leclerc asked about the group that wants to create an Educational Collaborative. The Board discussed the RFP scenario. Mr. Conti noted that the terms and conditions of the RFP have not yet been determined.
- The MBTA will be contacted next week regarding the removal of double electric poles.
- A letter has been sent in support of retaining the bookstore on Leonard Street..

OTHER

Selectman Firenze would like to set up a joint meeting of the SC, the WC, and the BOS to discuss and explore Professor Christensen's Core Survey offer and asked Mr. Younger to help arrange the meeting.

Selectman Firenze said this is a valuable opportunity to identify core services that Belmont residents would be willing to pay for.

Chair Leclerc wants to make sure that the Board's budget meetings with department heads are scheduled and open to the public. The Board discussed the timing and goals of the meetings as well as the guidelines that would be given to the departments. Selectman Firenze discussed the budget process in the Town.

ACTION BY WRITING (*continued*)

Warrant Posted in Precincts (Senatorial Election)

Chair Leclerc read the list of Precincts which will be utilized for voting in the Special Election on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 for the office of US Senator.

The Board moved: To approve the request for the Special Election for the office of US Senator for January 19, 2010.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

The Board moved: To also approve the request for the Special Primary Election for December 8, 2009.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

The Board signed the appropriate papers.

Regional Resolution

Mr. Younger noted that he and Representative Brownsberger had met regarding regionalization efforts with Arlington and Watertown. Mr. Younger added that he will take the initiative in this effort.

The Board moved: To approve the resolution to pursue regionalization efforts with Watertown and Arlington.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

The Board signed the resolution.

OTHER (*continued*)

Various Topics

- **Unfunded Mandates:** Selectman Firenze raised the issue of unfunded mandates. He requested that the town and school make a list of unfunded mandates, including the cost. Mr. Younger noted that the Special Election is an unfunded mandate example.
- **Minuteman Study Group:** Chair Leclerc said the group has two views, those who think that Minuteman is not doing enough to reduce operating and per-pupil cost, and those who think they have done enough. This is not settled as of yet, but will have an impact on Town Meeting as the Minuteman resolution may or may not need to be dismissed. The group is not unanimous.

Executive Session

The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:10 to discuss a) the physical condition of an individual, b) security, and c) value of real property. The Board will not return to open session.

(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and failed to pass. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm.)

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator