

MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2007  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
TOWN HALL  
7:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

II. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were no questions.

III. ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Senior Center Building Committee Announcement

Neil Hagerty gave a report on progress made on the Senior Center project. The project will go out to bid tomorrow. The bids will be opened on December 12 with the goal of beginning construction by the spring. He thanked Town staff for their assistance.

Verizon Petition - Common Street

Dan Fitzgibbon appeared for Verizon to request permission to place underground conduit on Common Street in response to a resident request for service. The Selectmen expressed their concern about the quality of street patching.

The Board moved: To approve the petition with the understanding that the proposed 4 inch pipe will be at least 18 inches below the surface.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Police Promotions - Captain, Lieutenant and Sergeant

Police Chief Richard McLaughlin appeared before the Board. He recommended the following officers for promotion: Lt. Peter Hoerr for Captain, Sgt. Brendan O'Leary for Lieutenant, Sgt. James MacIsaac for Lieutenant, Detective Kevin Shea, Officer Mark Hurley, and officer Kim Hurley for Sergeant.

The Board moved: To approve the promotions effective Sunday, December 2, 2007.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Placing Speed/Thickly Settled Signs

Traffic Sgt. James MacIsaac appeared before the Board to discuss posting speed limit signs. In order to post a speed limit sign, state law requires that a traffic study be conducted. The speed limit is then set at 85% of the average speed that people are driving at. This could mean that a speed limit ends up being higher than anticipated or desired. Belmont's roads are mostly considered "thickly settled" which means a standard 30mph speed limit. The state will allow the

Town to put up a diamond shaped yellow warning sign that says Thickly Settled 30 mph, as distinct from a speed limit sign. The distinction would not impair traffic enforcement in any way.

The Board moved: To approve the placement of Thickly Settled signs on Trapelo and Pleasant Streets as the Police Department believes appropriate and to encourage the strict enforcement of the speed limit in these locations.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

#### IV. ACTION BY CONSENT

Belmont Center Business Association 17th Annual Holiday Celebration

Lions Club of Belmont Annual Christmas Tree Sale

The Board moved: To approve both requests.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

#### V. ACTION BY WRITING

Water Main Contract - Kilburn Park Area Improvement

The Board moved: To sign the contract.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Ambulance Billing Write-Off

The Treasurer is requesting permission to write off \$9400 of outstanding bills that are deemed uncollectable.

The Board moved: To sign the write-off of unpaid bills.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

#### III. ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger thanked Paolini Construction for paving the Rock Meadow parking area at no cost to the Town. He then reported on the following items:

" Departmental budget submissions are coming in on schedule today and internal budget meetings will begin next week.

" The Town has received signed agreements from the Belmont Country Club finalizing the Woodfall Road land swap. The next step is to determine what method to use to best dispose of the property (auction, RFP etc.)

" The Board is meeting tomorrow with the Police Station Feasibility Study Committee for an update. Following that, the Board will discuss progress in achieving its goals and setting revised goals for the future. This will begin the Selectmen's process of evaluating the Town Administrator's performance, with the goal of creating a consolidated review to be made public on Dec. 1.

" The CPA committee will have its first meeting tomorrow at 7:30 PM.

" Road construction: Cross and Washington Streets are substantially complete. Pleasant Street sidewalk work is continuing and estimated time of completion is in the spring because of the onset of winter.

" Landscaping work is being done around the Homer Building with the assistance of the Belmont Garden Club.

" Free cash has been certified at \$2.9 million which is higher than anticipated.

" The Conservation Commission has received a grant for \$19,000 for the Rock Meadow project.

" The MBTA remains interested in the idea of consolidating Belmont's train stations and will be coming to the Board with a proposal to formally study the usage of the stations.

#### Keyspan Road Discussion

Keyspan representatives Mike Smith and Mike Bruno appeared before the Board along with Public Works Director Peter Castanino and Community Development Director Glenn Clancy. Chairman Firenze explained that as the Town has been spending more money on road reconstruction, there have been increasing concerns about the quality of utility road work. There was a repair job on Washington Street that could have been done earlier, but instead didn't begin until after the street was repaved. Waverley Street has been dug up multiple times since it was reconstructed. The residents will be unlikely to support spending further money on road reconstruction if the new roads are just going to be dug up again.

Mike Smith explained that a Grade 1 leak must be addressed immediately but a Grade 2 leak only needs to be addressed within 15 months by state regulation. A Grade 3 leak is non-hazardous. All Grade 2 and 3 leaks are checked regularly. Also, once every three years, Keyspan walks all over Belmont proactively looking for leaks. Keyspan also asks the Town for a list of its paving projects at the beginning of the construction season so they can ride the streets for leaks and make any repairs before the street is paved.

Mr. Clancy said that Keyspan was notified about Washington Street in January 2006, in plenty of time to repair leaks. The Town and its residents should not have the responsibility to worry that a utility is going to come and dig up a new road. If it weren't for the vigilance of a resident at this location, we would be talking about a recent excavation on Washington Street.

Mr. Smith said he cannot speak to the particulars of this case until he has had a chance to investigate, but is willing to come back before the Board with an explanation. Mr. Clancy pointed out that reconstruction work could cause a Grade 2 or 3 leak to become a Grade 1. Keyspan will investigate and report back.

#### Pavement Management - FY08 Construction Plan

Mr. Clancy explained that the plan for road construction for FY08 had to take into account ongoing utility projects and water quality issues in the Wellington Brook watershed. The 2008 plan does not include any roads that are believed to require water or sewer work. After the consultant has prioritized the streets in the water main replacement project, Mr. Clancy will return to the Board with the remaining four years of a five year pavement management plan. The funding (\$3.4 million) and resources to accomplish these roads in 2008 are already in place.

The Board moved: To approve the recommended plan for pavement management in FY08.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

VI. OTHER

The parking group will look at "parking migration" issues in Belmont Center and factors associated with resident permits. It was clarified that Belmont has no obligation to provide parking for non-residents to use public transportation.

#### Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations and not to return to open session.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0). The Board entered executive session at 9:23 PM.

(During executive session, two substantive motions were made and passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 9:56 PM.)

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Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator