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**BELMONT WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FINAL**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2012, 7:30 P.M.
CHENERY COMMUNITY ROOM**

Present: Chair Lynch; Members Allison, Baghdady, Epstein, Grob, Helgen, Manjikian, Millane, Sarno; BOS Chair Paolillo; School Committee Representative SlapMembers
Absent: Bruschi, Dash, Libenson, and McLaughlin

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chair Lynch.

Chair Lynch reviewed the WC's schedule. He cancelled the November 14th meeting, suggesting that the time be used for subcommittee meetings. He asked the subcommittee Chairs to provide a short report at the next WC meeting on November 28th.

Approval of Minutes

The WC briefly reviewed the 10/10/12 minutes. Members suggested edits. The Chair tabled a vote on the minutes so that the adjustments could be incorporated into a new draft.

Minuteman Update

Chair Lynch noted that a MM SC meeting was held on October 16th, where the MM SC addressed Belmont's dispute over the validity of their earlier vote on May 22, 2012 to move forward with a feasibility study. The WC's representative Bob McLaughlin attended the meeting. Chair Lynch noted that the MM Superintendent suggested at the meeting that the enrollment concerns raised in Belmont's September 17th letter should be referred to their Legal Counsel without debate. Jack Weis, Belmont's representative on the MM SC, outlined Belmont's concerns, which stalled the quick vote to refer the matter to counsel. The matter was discussed at length and the SC determined that it made sense to address Belmont's enrollment concerns. The issue was ultimately referred to MM's legal counsel and will be addressed further at the next MM SC meeting on November 13th.

BOS Chair Paolillo reiterated that the enrollment issue is a serious concern. He said that the lines of communication are being kept open. Belmont, he said, needs to stay firm in its resolve that the building be appropriately sized.

Vote on OPEB Policy

Chair Lynch directed the WC to the OPEB policy as drafted by Treasurer Carman. The WC asked questions on the Capital Endowment Fund and the Minimum Annual Appropriation. Several members had concerns about including the 2011 numbers in the

policy. In addition, other edits were suggested. Chair Lynch indicated that the WC would defer a vote on this policy, until the suggested revisions are shared with the Treasurer.

Community Preservation Act Projects

Chair Lynch stated that CPA projects need to go before TM for approval. As a result, the WC will need to weigh in on them. He suggested that WC members review the potential projects (a list is located on the town's website). Member Sarno noted that the CPA Committee Chair (Dr. Paul Solomon) informed the WC that the projects will contain a section on financial analysis/impact. Member Allison said that the impact on costs and/or revenues to the town would need to be presented with the financial data. Member Sarno suggested revisiting the CPA analysis that the WC undertook in the fall of 2010.

Budget Calendar

Chair Lynch noted that in that past the WC has developed a budget calendar. He said that he has been in touch with David Kale, Tom Kingston (through Mr. Kale), BOS Chair Mark Paolillo, and the Town Moderator regarding the budget calendar. The Town and School Department budgets will be sent to the WC on February 11th and presented to the WC on February 13th. The budget presentation to Town Meeting will take place on June 3rd and 5th.

Discussion of the Warrant Committee Template

Chair Lynch said he would like to finalize the template by January 2013. He said he is looking for feedback (from the WC) on the existing template to determine if it should be revised. He commented that the report shouldn't be expanded, given the length of prior WC reports, but that it can be streamlined to address the needs and interests of Town Meeting (TM).

Mr. Kale said he hopes to modify the format of the budget narrative as well as the financial sections. He said some of that narrative is too long and can be streamlined. The WC members offered comments on the sections of the WC report. Members agreed that the structure of the Overview section does not need to be adjusted.

Member Millane expressed concern about the lack of a format to address the cost of additional items offered late in the budget process last year, noting that there was insufficient information to capture the total cost of those adds. Member Sarno suggested highlighting major cuts and additions for TM.

Chair Lynch said there should be a more in-depth analysis on budget additions. Member Grob suggested that innovations and longer-term strategic thinking be a part of the budget process. BOS Chair Paolillo agreed and said that long-term strategic planning is necessary. Mr. Kale said that the department heads will have a chance this year to

identify system-wide goals and objectives. Member Sarno suggested that the WC focus on what is most helpful in the report for TM members. Member Allison offered that there was no format last year for additions. She added that the 10-year analysis in staffing was useful information.

Chair Lynch thanked the WC for their input and said that this topic will be revisited.

Updates: Board of Selectman, School Committee, Planning Board

Board of Selectmen: BOS Chair Paolillo noted that the RFP for Woodfall Road is now due on January 31st. He said the Inclusionary By-law revision may impact this property.

In addition, Mr. Paolillo noted that the Underwood Pool RFP is currently being reviewed. The issue of the pool was discussed briefly.

He said he has met with the MA Division of Capital Management and Maintenance regarding the incinerator site title and indicated that the state believes they own the land. If the state owns the land, Mr. Paolillo said it would take a Special Act of the Legislature for the title to revert to Belmont, which could take approximately one year.

BOS Chair Paolillo said that the Board will conduct Precinct meetings in early December. The Board will certify the tax rate on December 17th. He also noted that there are several collective bargaining issues that will be brought to the WC's attention at a future meeting (in executive session).

School Committee: SC Rep Slap reported that the SC has voted to extend Dr. Kingston's contract for one more year, that Amy Spangler has been hired as the new Wellington School principal, and that the School Committee's Finance Subcommittee is meeting with the WC Education Subcommittee next week.

Planning Board: Member Baghdady noted that Cushing Village has been proceeding and that the Board is working with the developer on the plans. Fiscal impact and traffic analysis has been submitted to the PB.

He said that there will be a new bank at 307 Trapelo Road. There is a new retail store on Concord Ave. that will receive its certificate of occupancy soon. A Preservation By-law is being considered to offer incentives to preserve historic buildings that have defined the town.

Public Contributions

There were none.

Adjournment

Member Manjikian moved to adjourn at 8:56 pm.

Submitted by Lisa Gibalerio
WC Recording Secretary