

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, December 15, 2008
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Session

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in Executive Session at 7:03 PM by Chairman Firenze in the Selectmen's meeting room to discuss litigation. The Board stated that it will return to Open Session. Selectmen Leclerc and Jones were present. (Town Administrator Tom Younger was not present for the Executive Session. He arrived at 8:05). Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti was present.

(During executive session, two substantive motions were made and passed unanimously.)

The Board moved: To come out of executive session at 7:50 PM.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Belmont Lions Track Light Donation

Mr. Joe Griffin of the Belmont Lions Club appeared before the Board to donate a check for \$2,000 from the Lions Club to help fund the track lights. The track lights are a worthy cause, Mr. Griffin said, that benefit many people in the community. The Board thanked Mr. Griffin and the Belmont Lions Club for the donation.

Honoring Several Belmont Youth

Arlington Catholic students and Belmont residents Steve Kerins and Steven Pagliocca (Co-Captains) and Coach Serg Clivio appeared before the Board to receive a citation for their Division Three Super Bowl championship during which they defeated Norton High School 32-20 at Gillette Stadium.

Chair Firenze read a Proclamation honoring Mr. Kerins and Mr. Pagliocca.

The Board moved: To sign the Proclamation.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Belmont Veterinarian M. M. Eamara – John Maguranis

Dr. Eamara and Animal Control Officer John Maguranis appeared before the Board to receive a citation for providing exemplary service to the town. Selectman Jones read a Proclamation honoring Dr. Eamara and his staff. The Board thanked Dr. Eamara for his dedication and then thanked Mr. Maguranis for bringing him to their attention.

New Computer Use Policy – David Petto

Mr. David Petto, IT Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the new computer use policy. Belmont currently has a policy, Mr. Petto said, but the new one is updated and more comprehensive. Mr. Petto said he used Medford's policy as a template. Chair Firenze noted that the policy was very thorough. Mr. Conti reviewed the Town's current policy for employees. The new policy will be implemented on April 6, 2009.

The Board moved: To endorse the new computer use policy.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Firenze said that he would like a statement on how the IT department will be organized for the town – with an emphasis on the *overall town perspective*.

Superior Trading Corp. License Class II

Mr. Daniel Wagner, 81 Richardson Road, appeared before the Board to request a renewal license to buy and sell automobiles. The automobiles are bought at auction, he said, and the bookkeeping is done out of his home. No cars are stored or displayed on the premises.

The Board moved: To approve the license request.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY WRITING

Harvard Lawn Fire Station - Transfer of Potential Sale

Mr. Younger said that the attorney for the current owner has requested a transfer of ownership of the deed from the current owners to the new owners. The property will remain single family and the new owners will alter the inside design slightly, but the exterior façade will remain the same. The Board briefly discussed that the RFP conditions would remain the same.

The Board moved: To assent to the transfer of the title to Katherine James and Anthony Dowers for the property known as the Harvard Lawn Fire Station on Fairview Avenue.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (*continued*)

Facility/Room Naming Rights Discussion

Mr. Younger said he is inquiring if the town wants to look into “naming rights” for various buildings, rooms, and/or outdoor facilities, e.g., the Winn Brook tennis courts. What this means is that, upon receiving a generous donation from a citizen, the town would name a building (for example) in honor of the donor. Presently, there is a resident who has expressed interest in donating \$150,000 to repair the tennis courts at the Winn Brook school. Mr. Younger asked the Board for direction as to whether he should look further into this area. Chair Firenze said he was in favor of doing this, although he hopes the money raised would be commensurate with the naming of the facility. Chair Firenze suggested Mr. Younger look to see how other communities are doing this. Selectman Jones suggested looking to see how non-profit organizations handle naming rights. Selectman Leclerc said he is interested in naming rights for something that otherwise wouldn’t get funded. He is not enthusiastic about naming existing rooms. In naming things just for money, it can become crass and commercial and may violate the town’s dignity.

Mr. Younger will investigate further and report back to the Board.

Teen of the Month Award

Ms. Allie Shea appeared before the Board to receive her “Teen of the Month” award.

Selectman Leclerc read a Proclamation honoring Allie Shea for support of her field hockey teammates both on and off the field.

Human Rights Commission Discussion

Members of the Human Rights Commission appeared before the Board to discuss the Commission’s membership status. Mr. Younger provided some background information on membership numbers, vacancies, years of service, etc. Chair Firenze noted that 21 individuals have cycled through over the past several years. He also noted that there are no applications for the four current vacancies. The Board discussed some of the issues relating to the Commission’s “receive and investigate” charge. The Human Rights Commission has received letters and phone calls pertaining to racially charged issues.

Selectman Leclerc said he appreciated the Human Rights Commission’s presence and role, regardless of the volume of investigations. The Commission is a town-sanctioned resource and gives people a place to go with concerns, said Leclerc. Chair Firenze said that he was uncomfortable with the Commission’s role because serious abuses need to be dealt with by the Board of Selectmen. He said that the small amount of activity coupled with the difficulty in generating new members leads him to ask the Commission to look

hard at their charge and review it, examine where to focus efforts and look at membership numbers, etc.

One Commission member said that its role was to educate and be available to prevent abuses. The small number of calls reflects well on the town and should be viewed as a success for the Commission. Another Commission member, Ms. Williams, pointed to the mere uncertainty of the Commission's status as a reason why people may not have come forward to be on the Commission.

Chair Firenze asked the Commission to review their goals and objectives and to come back to the Board with a recommendation on the appropriate member numbers.

Mr. John Robotham, Belmont Against Racism (BAR) President, spoke to support the continuation of the Human Rights Commission. He honored the Board's past support of human rights in Belmont. He suggested that the Board continue to support the Commission. Dr. Solomon reiterated the support for the Commission. The presence of an official town body is a palpable plus for Belmont. He referenced the Armenian Genocide issue as an area that the Commission handled well in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen.

Chair Firenze said he felt that that issue (the Armenian Genocide) would have been more effective to have been handled at the Board of Selectmen level directly. Selectman Jones said that serious issues need to be addressed by the Board, but that general assistance to citizens is well handled by the Commission.

Mr. Robotham, in answer to a question from the Chair, stated that BAR works well with the Commission – there is a balance to what they do.

The Board moved: To reappoint Connie Williams to the Human Rights Commission for a three year term.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Firenze again requested that the Commission look at their charge and decide how to move forward.

The Board will meet with the Recreation Commission in January.

Street Opening Permit Process - Peter Castanino

Mr. Castanino, DPW Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the street opening permit process. The effort, he said, is to create a comprehensive and effective program that meets the state's requirements. Mr. Castanino is recommending a permit fee for street openings which will generate some revenue. He is also recommending the hiring of a street opening inspector. The permit fees could offset the salary of the inspector. Bylaws (passed in April Town Meeting) are in place to create regulations for street opening permits. Mr. Castanino has created a draft of regulations for street opening for

Belmont; he is hoping to have a set of regulations in March 2009. Mr. Castanino is meeting with Mr. Clancy to develop a set of town construction standards. The Board and Mr. Castanino discussed street patching. Chair Firenze noted that the town is taking the area of street patching very seriously.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- *Senior Center* – The construction timeline will be discussed with the Senior Center building committee. The end construction date appears to be at the end of May. Chair Firenze would like the costs of the delay analyzed and to enforce the penalty clause.
- *Pleasant Street* – This project will be closed out soon.
- *Pavement Management* – Mr. Clancy is looking at 2009 road lists.
- *VFW Lease* – It needs to be signed by January 8, 2009 or it becomes null and void.
- *Homer Building Generator* – It will be installed next week.
- *GIC* – The state is looking at ways to make it easier for communities to enter the program. Belmont is doing well on its self insurance program.
- *Blanchard Road Rotary* – Should be completed this week.
- *Winn Brook Tennis Courts* – Private funding is being generated in the amount of \$150,000. Repairing the tennis courts would not have been in the Capital Budget. Grove Street and PQ tennis courts would be next in line.
- *Church/School Parking Lots* – A group of religious leaders have requested to meet with the Board in January 2009. The Board has referred the issue of church parking to the Planning Board, but will meet with this group, as requested, in January.

ACTION BY CONSENT

[There were none.]

OTHER

Chair Firenze reported on the following items:

- *Email Notification Discussion* – Mr. Younger said that emailing to Town Meeting members regarding meeting announcements, etc. (not legal notices) is being looked into. TM members would need to be officially asked for their email address through a direct mailing, which costs money. Chair Firenze said he supports email notification. Mr. Younger will get more information and report back to the Board.
- *Mega Meeting discussion* is scheduled for January 12, 2009. The Chairs of the Permanent Building, Capital Budget, and Warrant Committees should be present at this meeting on 1/12/09.

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 9:52 to discuss contract negotiation. The Board will not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During exectutive session, no substantive motions were made. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 pm.)

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator