

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, December 17, 2012
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Paolillo in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Jones and Rojas were present. Town Administrator David Kale and Assistant Town Administrator Kellie Hebert were also present.

Chair Paolillo reviewed the evening's agenda.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Vote to Approve the new Annual Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2013

Mr. Robert Reardon, Mr. Charles Laverty, and Ms. Maryanne Knorr (Acting Assessing Administrator) from the Board of Assessors appeared before the Board to request that the Board approve the proposed tax classification rate and to approve the non-adoption of the residential exemption. Mr. Reardon said that the tax rate is based on the Board of Selectmen's classification vote. He said the Assessors will suggest a recommendation of a classification 1 – which means everyone in town pays the same tax rate. He added that Belmont's commercial tax base is low enough to support the classification 1. He explained that Belmont would not collect more tax dollars if the classification were changed; it would just shift the burden to the small businesses.

Regarding the residential exemption, Mr. Reardon said that new growth came in at \$720K, which reflected that land values have increased. He then noted that the overlay number is now \$852K, up from \$800K. He said the excess capacity came very close to the estimation: \$45K.

The board briefly discussed issues relating to the topics outlined above.

The Board moved: To approve a tax classification of 1.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To not adopt a residential exemption.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board signed the appropriate papers.

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TOWN CLERK
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Request from the Architectural Heritage Foundation and the Historic District Commission (HDC) to extend the lease on the Thomas Clark House for one year

Mr. Michael Smith, HDC Co-Chair, and Mr. Sean McDonald, Architect for the Clark House, appeared before the Board to request that the Board approve the request to extend the lease on the Thomas Clark House. Mr. Kale confirmed that Legal Council approved this request. Mr. Smith then reviewed that he has been in touch with a local church about moving the Clark House to a new location, next to the Armenian Church on Concord Avenue.

The Board moved: To approve the request to extend the lease on the Thomas Clark House for one additional year to February 6, 2014.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Lease Renewal – Friends of the Benton Library

Ms. Elizabeth Gibson, President of the Friends of the Benton Library, appeared before the Board to request that the Board renew the lease for the Benton Library. She reviewed why the Benton Library has been preserved as a library via a public/private partnership with the town. She said that the library runs with volunteers, receives about 50 visitors a day, and works smoothly with the neighbors.

She then requested an extension to the license agreement so that the Benton can continue to run. She said there are funds available to meet the capital needs and that a new furnace may be one of those needs in the very near future.

The Board expressed their support for this undertaking.

The Board moved: To renew the lease for the Benton Library until December 31, 2014.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Vote in BOS Liaison for Belmont Housing Trust (BHT)

Ms. Todreas Gardner (of the BHT) appeared before the Board regarding this issue.

Chair Paolillo reviewed that the Board has appointed a liaison for the more substantive committees in town and that the purpose of this liaison is to keep aware of what is happening with this committee and to report back to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Kale gave a brief update on the Inclusionary By-Law, noting that the goal is to have a warrant article ready for the April Town Meeting. The Board requested to be kept informed on this topic.

The Board moved: To appoint Selectman Rojas to serve as Board liaison to the Belmont Housing Trust.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Update: Government Structure Committee (GSC) – Governance of Light Department

Mr. Robert McLaughlin, Dr. Paul Solomon (GSC Chair), and Ms. Becky Vose appeared before the Board to discuss a proposal regarding the governance of the Light Department. Dr. Solomon said that this committee has been meeting for almost five years. He noted that there are two outstanding recommendations that the GSC has put forward: changing the role of the Town Administrator (TA), and changing the governance of the Light Board.

Regarding the Light Board, Dr. Solomon explained the recommendation, noting that the Board of Selectmen (who currently serve as Light Board) would appoint a Light Commission made up of people who have electricity expertise. Mr. McLaughlin said that selectmen do not generally have the electricity expertise to oversee this particular board. He added that consideration needs to be given to the timing of this recommendation given that the new substation (\$53M) is coming down the pike.

Chair Paolillo agreed that the major project (the new substation) gives him pause regarding the timing, but that otherwise he agrees with the recommendation.

The Board discussed the details of this issue in more detail.

Chair Paolillo stated that the Board has a fiduciary obligation as the executive branch of government to oversee this large financial undertaking, e.g., the new substation. Dr. Solomon asked how much the new substation would impact the recommendation of the GSC. The Board agreed that this issue needs more vetting before it gets on the floor of Town Meeting (TM).

Regarding the TA position, Dr. Solomon offered that strengthening the role of the TA is another issue the GSC would like to bring to TM. The Board will meet again with the GSC to further discuss this issue.

Committee Appointments: Council on Aging (COA), Vision Implementation Committee (VIC)

Mr. Joel Samuels, from the COA, appeared before the Board regarding the COA appointment. He said he is recommending Mr. Ted Dukas to fill the role. He briefly reviewed Mr. Dukas' credentials.

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Ted Dukas to the COA.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Paolillo asked to defer the VIC appointment until the January meeting. He said he'd like to meet with the VIC Chair, Mr. Tim Bowman, before the appointment is made.

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel or to conduct collective

bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union personnel specifically, health care for union personnel. The Board will return to open session.
A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed to approve unanimously (3-0).

Return to Open Session:

The Board moved: To return to open session at 8:20 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously via a roll call vote (3-0).

The Board moved: To approve the MOA agreement with the Belmont Police Superior Officer's Association.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- He participated in a conference call with the Massachusetts School Building Authority regarding Belmont High School; the statement of interest (SOI) for the high school project was not approved in the latest process. A new SOI will need to be filed this spring for consideration with the MSBA. In preparation of developing a new SOI, an Advisory Building Committee will be reviewing and updating the facilities study that was prepared several years ago as part of this process.
- Mr. Kale updated the Board on the FY14 preliminary revenue estimates which were presented to the Warrant Committee. These revenue estimates will be updated throughout the budget process as new information is received.
- Mr. Kale gave an update regarding the Underwood Pool. The pool will need remedial repairs before it can open next summer. The total cost is approximately \$30K which includes filter ventilation and painting. About \$15K of the funding will be identified from current budget balances. However, a Reserve Fund Transfer through the Warrant Committee may be necessary this spring if additional funds from existing budgets cannot be identified. There are other issues that cannot be addressed and that will require a variance from the Board of Health as well as the State Department of Public Health.

The Board moved: To approve the expenditure of existing balances within the current budget to address the pool violations and to approve the submission of a reserve fund transfer to the WC for half of the stated total costs (about \$15K) to allow the process to move forward.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of One Day Liquor License

Paradise Family, Beech Street Center, 266 Beech Street
Bar Mitzvah Party, Saturday January 12, 2013 - Wines and Malt only

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

Acceptance of Donation

Vote to accept donation from East Cambridge Bank to the Fire Department for the use of S.A.F.E. program in the amount of \$1,500. Chair Paolillo read the letter from Fire Chief Frizzell. He then thanked East Cambridge Savings Bank.

The Board moved: To accept the donation from East Cambridge Band as noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board then briefly discussed school safety in light of the recent tragedy in Newtown, CT. Chair Paolillo noted that reinstating the School Resource Officer position needs to be discussed during the upcoming budget season.

Common Victualler's Licenses

Chair Paolillo noted that some of the businesses requesting license renewals are not up to date with their utility bills. Mr. Kale indicated that there are processes for the Town to collect outstanding balances.

The following Common Victualler's License Renewals were approved subject to Department reviews and final approval by the Town Administrator.

Belmont Country Club - 181 Winter Street

The Belmont Country Club has requested extended hours from 6:00 am to 1:00 am for the entire calendar year of 2013. The Police Department has approved the request.

The Board moved: To approve the Common Victualler's License Renewal and the extended hours request by the Belmont Country Club as noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

<i>Brugger's Bagel Bakery</i>	<i>41 Leonard St</i>
<i>Comella's</i>	<i>43 Leonard St</i>
<i>C.E. Restaurant</i>	<i>271 Belmont St</i>

The Board moved: To approve the Common Victualler's License requests as noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Il Casale - 50 Leonard St

Il Casale requested extended hours on December 31, 2012 to January 1, 2013 at 1:00 a.m. The

Police Department did approve the request and has signed off.

The Board moved: To approve the Common Victualler's License Renewal and the extended hours request for December 31, 2012 by Il Casale as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

<i>Fiorella's Express</i>	<i>263 Belmont St</i>
<i>Kashish</i>	<i>61 Leonard St</i>
<i>Gen Sushi</i>	<i>61 Concord Ave</i>
<i>Gregory's House Pizza</i>	<i>27-29 Leonard St</i>
<i>Michael's Pizza</i>	<i>191 Belmont St</i>
<i>Pho & Thai</i>	<i>63 White St</i>
<i>Patou Thai Restaurant</i>	<i>69 Leonard St</i>
<i>Shangri-La</i>	<i>149 Belmont St</i>
<i>The Sweet Peach</i>	<i>628 Trapelo Rd</i>

The Board moved: To approve the Common Victualler's License requests as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Savino's, 449 Common St

Savino's requested extended hours on December 31, 2012 to 12:00 a.m. on January 1, 2013. The Police Department has approved the request and has signed off.

The Board moved: To approve the Common Victualler's License Renewal and the extended hours request for December 31, 2012 by Savino's as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

<i>Sodexo Operations</i>	<i>115 Mill Street (at McLean Hospital)</i>
<i>Teddy's kitchen</i>	<i>462 Common St</i>
<i>Theo's Pizzeria</i>	<i>389 Trapelo Rd</i>
<i>Vicky Lee's</i>	<i>105 Trapelo Rd</i>
<i>Brothers Pizza & Grille</i>	<i>121 Trapelo Rd</i>
<i>Stone Hearth Pizza</i>	<i>57 Leonard St</i>

The Board moved: To approve the Common Victualler's License requests as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Belmont Pizza *388 Trapelo Rd*

Belmont Pizza requested extended hours for Fridays and Saturdays through 2013 from 11:00 am to 12:00 am. The Police Department has approved the request and has signed off.

The Board moved: To approve the license renewal and the extended hours request by

Belmont Pizza as noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

<i>Kitchen on Common</i>	<i>552 Common St</i>
<i>Asai Restaurant</i>	<i>30 Leonard St</i>
<i>Gustazo-Cuban Café</i>	<i>289 Belmont St</i>
<i>Thyago's Pizza</i>	<i>368 Trapelo Rd</i>

The Board moved: To approve the Common Victualler's License requests as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Outstanding License Renewals

As advised by Town Counsel and requested by Mr. Kale, the Board made the following motion:

The Board moved: To renew those Common Victualler's License Renewal requests previously issued by the Board pursuant to Chapter 140 of the General Laws to all of those licensees to whom the Town Clerk sent renewal notices for the year 2013, as listed by the Clerk, with the issuance of a license to each such licensee being subject to the determination of the Town Administrator, made on or before December 31, 2012, that:

- (1) a complete renewal application from the licensee has been received; and
- (2) the departmental review of each licensee's application indicates no outstanding violations, or unpaid taxes or municipal charges that would be an impediment to the renewal of the license.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY WRITING

Approval of BOS meeting dates from January – June 2013

Chair Paolillo noted that additional meetings will be necessary to meet with department heads. Mr. Kale also noted that there are some joint meetings with the School Committee.

The Board moved: To approve the meeting dates as proposed, until otherwise revised.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Minutes Approval

Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 19, 2012 and December 3, 2012.

The Board moved: To approve the meeting minutes as noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Outstanding Meeting Minutes

The Board moved: To approve the meeting minutes from June 18, 2012 (executive and regular session).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2012.

The motion passed (2-1), with one abstention.

The Board moved: To approve the meeting minutes of April 14 and 21, 2012.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

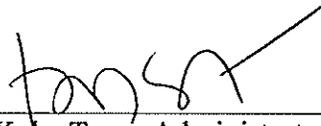
The Board moved: To approve the meeting minutes of March 5, 19 and 24, 2012.

The motion passed (2-1) with one abstention for each set of minutes from Selectman Rojas who was not a Board member for these meeting dates.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings are scheduled for January 7, 2013 and January 28, 2013.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator