

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, December 8, 2008
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:40 PM by Chairman Firenze in the Selectmen's meeting room. Selectmen Leclerc and Jones were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

One Day Liquor License

Ms. Betsy Parrot appeared before the Board to request a one-day liquor license for the Belmont Hill School for their alumni holiday dinner. The Board discussed allowing one permit to cover the 4 one-day-liquor-license requests for the Belmont Hill School. Mr. Younger said that this was possible in the future.

The Board moved: To approve the one day liquor license application.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Naming of the New Senior Center

Council on Aging (COA) Chair Joel Semuels and Senior Center Director Nava Niv-Vogel as well as members of the COA appeared before the Board to discuss naming of the new senior center. Mr. Semuels stated that six names were put forth for consideration and that

**“The Beech Street Center
Belmont Council on Aging”**

won the selection.

Chair Firenze said he supports removing the reference of “seniors” and Selectman Leclerc said he hopes that *The Beech Street Center* can be a “center for all” and that it would evoke the Kendall Arts Center.

The Board moved: To accept the COA recommendation to name the new facility:

**The Beech Street Center
Belmont Council on Aging**

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Electric City Cars – License Class I and Class II

Mr. Paul Elwood, Manager of Electric City Cars, appeared before the Board to request a License Class I and Class II for the sale of electric vehicles. These are low speed vehicles, he explained. They can't go more than 25 mph within a city and they can't go on a highway or roads with speed limits greater than 35 mph. They have 4 seats and cost about \$19,000. The Board expressed safety concerns with the 25 mph maximum.

The Board moved: To accept Electric City Cars License Class I and II request.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Younger noted that this license also needs to be renewed for January 2009.

The Board moved: To renew Electric City Cars License Class I and II effective in January 2009.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Police Receive 9/11 Award

Chief McLaughlin appeared before the Board to note that the Belmont Police Department and several employees have been selected for a 9/11 award for work on a high risk domestic violence case. The following were selected: Lt. Donahue; Sergeants Watkins, Daily, and Hurley; Detectives Kennedy and Long; and Officer Coppi. In November, Officer McCue was recognized by the Boston Celtics for reviving an elderly Watertown resident.

The Board moved: To formally recognize these individuals by putting letters of commendation in the officers' files.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Liquor Licenses Renewal

Mr. Younger noted that the following establishments have appropriately submitted applications for the annual renewal of their alcoholic beverage licenses: Belmont Country Club, Asai, Andros Diner, Brother's Pizza, Kashish, Patou, Pho and Thai, Shangri-La, Savinos, Stone Hearth Pizza, Il Casale (not yet opened), Vintages and Spirited Gourmet.

The Board moved: To renew the licenses of the above named establishments.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board and Mr. Younger reviewed the available licenses at this time. There is one restaurant license available for “all alcohol” (2 out of 3 are in use) and one “beer/wine” retail license available. There are no available restaurant “beer/wine” licenses available at this time (all 8 are in use). Chair Firenze stated that he would like the Board to discuss either adding to the available number of licenses or changing the seating requirements (39 seat requirement for beer/wine). He said that this should be revisited, but that to avoid a conflict of interest he would not be a part of any discussion, as it could impact his son’s business.

Committee Appointments: Conservation Commission (CC)

The Board discussed adding an associate member to the CC. There are 7 permanent full members currently. Selectman Leclerc noted that it would be good to have an alternate who could learn about the complicated issues and then be ready to move into a full position when it arises. Chair Firenze said that he would like the CC to be comprised of only 5 members, with 2 alternates. The Board agreed to leave it at 7 members with no alternate appointments and convert permanent positions to alternates as people resign.

Town Administrator’s Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- An energy independence pledge will be made if the Board is interested.
- The naming of Town Hall rooms (accompanied with a fiscal donation) could be discussed at a future Board meeting.
- Concord Ave. landfill title search is completed, awaiting results.
- Auditorium lighting work will begin next week.
- The search committee for school superintendent is going well.
- Mr. Younger submitted to Board a new document with dates/times of items pending.
- VFW lease is ready to be signed.

The Board moved: To sign the VFW lease. If the lease is not signed by the VFW within 30 days, it becomes null and void.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

OTHER

Chair Firenze reviewed the following items:

- Uplands developer negotiations– The mediation and appeal process was discussed by the Board. Mr. John Giorgio, Belmont Town Counsel, spoke from the audience on the appeal, the Conservation Commission, and the motion to dismiss.
- Townsend Road traffic email - Mr. Younger will follow up.

- The Board of Selectmen will not meet on December 29, 2008. They will meet in January on the 5, 12 , and 26. The Board will meet on February 2 and 23, and on March 2 and 16. In April, the Board will meet sometime around the 6th (town general elections will be held on Monday, April 6) and on the 13th. Town Meeting will be held on April 27.
- The Board will meet on January 12 to primarily discuss budget issues.
- Parking commission letter was forwarded to Mr. Conti.
- Mr. Younger stated that the Board will meet at a morning meeting in executive session to discuss the issues relating to traffic flaggers.
- Parking Committee – To resolve the Cushing Square employee parking issues, it has been suggested that parking on Belmont Street could be “permit parking” during the day for employees of Cushing Square. Chair Firenze asked Mr. Conti to look into this.
- Two Belmont youth residents who are Arlington Catholic High School students were Co-Captains of the winning football team. The Board will recognize the youths for their achievement at an upcoming meeting.
- *The Belmont Citizen* has asked for an article pertaining to what the Board is looking ahead to in 2009. Chair Firenze asked Mr. Younger and Mr. Conti to draft the article and Board will add their comments and edits.
- Mr. Conti will respond to an email about the expense of holiday lights in Belmont Center.

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into Executive Session at 9:13 PM to discuss litigation. The Board will not return to open session.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During executive session, no substantive motions were made. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm.)

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Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator