

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, February 1, 2010
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Leclerc in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Firenze and Jones were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

The Board moved: To enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation, and subsequently to return to open session.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0). The Board entered executive session at 6:01 PM.

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

The Board returned to open session at 7:08 PM.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were none.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

MWPAT Loan Document Water Abatement Trust

Treasurer Carman appeared before the Board to request the Board's signature for the water abatement loan of \$8,186,130.00. Mr. Carman reviewed the process of the loan contract. He acknowledged Mr. Clancy for his work on the bid process and coming in \$3M under what was expected. The loan was approved by the Board in November. Selectman Jones raised a point regarding principal forgiveness. Mr. Carman explained that this is an interim loan at a very low rate. The Board members signed the appropriate loan notes.

The Brendan Grant Foundation – Brendan's Home Run 5K

Mr. Younger reviewed the history of Brendan's Home Run 5K and noted that all the paperwork is in order for this event.

The Board moved: To approve the request of the Brendan Grant Foundation for the 5K run event on Father's Day on June 20th, 2010.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Committee Appointment to Shade Tree Committee

The Board moved: To appoint DeNee Reighton Skipper to the Shade Tree Committee for a three year term.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Leclerc requested to move the Board meeting scheduled for Monday, February 22nd to Tuesday the 23rd at 7:00 due to his travel plans. The Board agreed to do this.

Town Room Rentals

The Board continued its discussion on the topic of Town room rentals. Mr. Conti highlighted two issues: revising the existing policy to allow for alcohol on town rented spaces, and approving the advised room rental fees and policy as a whole. Mr. Younger confirmed that the fees were in line with other communities and that the town would be covering its costs.

The Board moved: To accept the liquor policy and the town rental policy.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board briefly discussed the potential of renting out the Beech Street Center for a wedding.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- Verizon Complaint Filing Report – received only five complaints
- Mandatory Compliance Seminars for Restaurants – will begin in March for licensing procedures
- Vacant Building Fee Program – on hold because of the economic climate; Selectman Jones requested a meeting to know what might work to occupy these buildings. Selectman Firenze said he is in favor of charging a landlord fee if a building is going to be kept empty. The other Board members agreed.

Wellington Building Committee (WBC) Update

WBC Chair Haley and WBC Member, Mr. Joe Barrell, appeared before the Board to provide an update on the Wellington Building Committee's progress. Mr. Barrell began by saying that the modulars should be done by the end of the week. Chair Haley noted that the modulars have heat and power, but no furniture. The move will occur over February vacation. Chair Haley noted that Skanska USA is the recommended Construction Manager at Risk and contract negotiations will begin soon. The contract should be awarded by the end of February, and abatement and demolition will begin on

March 1st. The new School should be ready in the summer of 2011 and for student occupancy that fall. The design drawings are about 90% complete. A cost estimate is due at the end of this month and it looks like everything is on budget, thus far.

Selectman Firenze raised the issue of traffic flow at the high school. Chair Haley said that the plan would be adjusted as needed. A police detail will be on duty for the first week of the high school relocation. Chair Leclerc thanked the committee for their hard work and excellent response to the recent modular fire situation.

Special Employee Status for the Wellington Building committee members

The Board moved: To formally designate members of the Wellington Building Committee as “special town employees”.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator’s Report *(continued)*

- Town-Wide Parking – Regarding commuter parking, Mr. Younger noted that he could not find commuter-parking-only permits in other communities. However, there are many communities that have paid parking lots. He could contact Town Counsel to see if this could be done. Another possibility is that metered parking could be installed, as long as it is not designated for commuters. Chair Leclerc suggested that the town try this out on a gradual basis. Selectman Firenze noted that as Trapelo Road heads toward Cambridge, the meters would need to be placed on Watertown property and we would need to receive Watertown’s permission. The issue of residential parking permits was also discussed. Selectman Firenze said the entire town would become under regulation. There needs to be a comprehensive approach to dealing with parking issues. Mr. Younger asked for direction on how to proceed. The problem is twofold: Belmont is not getting revenue, and residents don’t want commuter cars parked in front of their houses all day. Resident permits are needed so that commuters can’t park there or the town needs to charge for the parking and generate revenue. Selectman Firenze told Mr. Younger to come back to the Board with a recommendation.
- Benton Library Reuse Committee – The Committee is scheduled to come before the Board on March 1st. Selectman Firenze suggested that the Reuse Committee be instructed to hold posted, open meetings to hear input from the neighbors in a separate venue and come back to the Board with a final recommendation.
- Waverley Square Parking – Mr. Clancy will be meeting with the Board on March 1st regarding the Waverley Square parking concept.
 - The unfunded State mandates list is complete – Selectman Jones added that municipal pensions are also mandated by the state legislature.
 - The Grove St, PQ, and Town Field well project will begin on March 1st and should not interfere with soccer schedules.
 - PILOT program – no responses yet to the letter sent out by the Assessors.

- HR Consolidation – The Board is meeting Feb 23 with Ms. Crimmins regarding human resources consolidation efforts and what she has learned from Andover.
- Rink – expense/revenue report is in process
- Winn Brook sewer project – will start March 1st and neighbors will be notified
- The Handicapped-parking spot has been placed in front of Grant Field

ACTION BY CONSENT

There was none.

ACTION BY WRITING

Fire Department – Acceptance of Gifts for S.A.F.E. Program

The Board moved: To accept the gifts from Cambridge Savings Bank (\$5,000) and WT (\$2,500) Phelan Insurance in the amount of \$7,500 for the S.A.F.E. Program for the Fire Department.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

VI. OTHER

- Substation Placement – the BMLD is holding meetings to educate the public on this issue.
- Leonard Street traffic issues – Mr. Younger said this would be on the agenda on March 1st.
 - Groom Construction Demand Letter – a letter was sent to Attorney Hawkins who will follow up.

Mr. Conti noted that Adriana D’Andrea of the Selectmen’s Office did excellent work on the Town room rental planning.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator