

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Monday, February 10, 2014  
6:00 PM**

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA  
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**CALL TO ORDER**

A joint meeting of the Board and the School Committee (SC) was called to order in open session at 6:11 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 Marshall were also present.

SC Chair Graham called the SC to order at 6:11 p.m.

Chair Paolillo reviewed the agenda, noting that the Board will hear the town and school FY15 budget presentations.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

[There were none.]

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

**Joint Meeting with the School Committee – FY15 Budget Presentations**

Members of the SC appearing before the Board: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair; Members Cunningham, Fiore, Lougée, Shuster, Slap; Superintendent Kingston; Assistant Superintendent Darius; Finance Director DiCologero

***Town Presentation***

Mr. Kale noted that this is a balanced and an available revenue budget. He said more money may become available from the state. He noted that this process has been collaborative with both town and school departments. The total budget is \$94,868,500, which is an increase of 3.4%. Most of the revenue (80%) comes from property taxes. The town/fixed costs and school allocations are \$46,248,000 and \$46,156,000, respectively.

Mr. Kale reviewed the major changes in revenue and expenditure assumptions, as well as the FY15 expenditures by function. The major change from preliminary available revenue estimates include an increase in State Aid of \$556,000 and a reduction of \$145,000 in actual Minuteman assessment charges. Both these available budget amounts have been allocated to the FY15 School Budget. He reviewed where the FY15 revenue is generated from, e.g., property taxes (80.5%), state aid (8.9%), ambulance receipts (.85%), free cash (2%), building permits (.63%), and other taxes (3.4%).

Regarding expenditures, Mr. Kale noted that 70% of the total budget goes to salary and other benefits. He reviewed where the other 30% is expended, e.g. non-salary (22%), debt service (5%), capital-roads (1%), capital-discretionary (1%) and capital-operating (1%). The Capital Budget of \$1.245M to support capital projects. Mr. Kale then reviewed where money is spent on the pavement management program. He noted that funding will need to be identified for the Belmont Center reconstruction project, if it is to move forward.

Mr. Kale reviewed the use of reserves used to balance the FY15 budget. He noted that there are additional program priorities that were not able to be funded. He reviewed areas that would be restored, if more funding was available, including School Resource Officer, Additional Capital Budget Support, Facilities Maintenance, School Staffing and Departmental Staffing, in Human Resources, Health, Council on Aging, Library, Fire and Public Works.

### ***School Presentation***

Dr. Kingston stated that the budget is balanced and conforms to the strategic goals that inform the department's priorities. He reviewed the primary budget objectives. He then reviewed the existing contractual commitments that must be met. He reviewed the technical budget assumptions, including the allocation from the town, Chapter 70, Minuteman assessment, grant funding, LABBB credit, athletic based fees, and Capital Endowment money. He noted that the need to hire 18 FTEs (in FY14) to meet increasing enrollment and service delivery has been carried forward in the FY15 School Budget.

Unknown variables concerning the budget include the results of collective bargaining, an unknown increase in enrollment, legislative additions/deletions, and increases or decreases in federal grants.

Primary cost drivers include salary obligations, increased student enrollment, and mandated SPED costs. He then reviewed what the available revenue cannot support, e.g., various new positions, a School Resource Officer, instructional materials, professional development, etc. He reviewed the department's priorities if more funding was made available.

The Board agreed that the budget process was smooth and acknowledged the work of the parties involved.

Mr. Cunningham noted that citizen input is a part of the process and is just at the beginning phase. Ms. Shuster stressed that while the School Budget has grown at 4.1%, it still creates a gap given Proposition 2-1/2 funding restrictions. This deficit is occurring on top of increasing enrollment, she said, the trends of which are concerning.

SC Chair Graham adjourned the SC at 6:58 p.m.

The Board took a 5-minute recess.

Chair Paolillo acknowledged that members of a Cub Scout Troop are present to watch the Board meeting. Three cub scouts introduced themselves.

### **Underwood Pool Building Committee (UPBC) Presentation**

Members of the Underwood Pool Building Committee (Chair Paulsen, Mr. Steve Sala, Mr. David Kane, Mr. James Smith, Ms. Ellen Schreiber, and Mr. Joel Mooney) appeared before the Board to provide a presentation on the design proposal of a new pool and to request that new pool debt exclusion be placed on the April 1<sup>st</sup> ballot. Mr. Tom Scarlata, the principal designer from B, H & A, and Ms. Deborah Marai and Mr. Tom O'Neil, Owner's Project Managers from Pinck, were also in attendance.

UPBC Chair Paulsen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She provided a review of the UPBC's work to date. She said she would like to see a debt exclusion put on the ballot for April 1 asking for funding for a new Underwood Pool.

Mr. Scarlata reviewed the issues concerning the Underwood Pool. He noted that the pool is failing and the bath-house is not up to code. He then reviewed the project goals concerning improvements and enhancements.

Mr. Scarlata presented the proposal, which includes two pools including a diving area, lap lanes, and family pool area. He reviewed parking changes, sidewalk adjustments, and landscape improvements. He then discussed the benefits of the two-pool design.

Mr. Scarlata explained that the new design is above ground level, which will allow for better water control flow and filtration. He then detailed the plumbing requirements, noting how these requirements influenced the design of the two bath-houses.

Chair Paolillo raised a question about extending the pool season. It is possible to do so, depending on staff availability.

Regarding costs of the preliminary design, Mr. Scarlata provided a breakdown and noted that the total projected construction cost (which includes all expected fees and contingencies) is \$5.2M. The Board discussed the contingency fees. Selectman Rojas seemed to think that the contingency estimates were low. Chair Paolillo asked if this design had an impact on staffing.

Ms. Paulsen noted that 2013 (\$298,000) and 2014 (\$2,000,000) CPA funds would offset the \$5.2M projected cost. The Debt Exclusion would therefore come in around \$2.9M.

Town Treasurer Carman discussed the impact of this proposed debt exclusion on the average taxpayer. He said that the average single family homeowner would pay \$48 a year over 15 years. He said the residents will get to vote on this proposal on April 1<sup>st</sup> if the Board of Selectmen approves the ballot question and Town Meeting will discuss the CPA appropriation in May if the debt exclusion passes.

Chair Paolillo thanked the UPBC for the work. He expressed his support for a new pool. He said the Board is well aware that there are other capital needs in town, which will be assessed by the Financial Task Force. Selectmen Rojas and Jones agreed as well.

Mr. Mooney noted that the construction process would start in September, should the debt exclusion pass.

*The Board moved:* To put a debt exclusion concerning the Underwood Pool on the town ballot on April 1, 2014. (Chair Paolillo read the proposed wording of the ballot question) The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Ms. Paulsen thanked Mr. Castanino, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Kale, and the Board for their efforts.

The Board took a two-minute recess.

### **Clark House Discussion**

Historic District Commission (HDC) Chair Michael Smith, and Mr. Sean McDonnell, from the Architectural Heritage Foundation, appeared before the Board to provide a Clark House update. Mr. Smith said that three items are required to sustain the house: a site, a use, and funding. There is still not a use for the Clark House. The Historical Society is presently using the Library. Regarding site, there is no parking on School Street. Without a site or use, he said, it may not make sense to pursue funding from the CPA.

Mr. McDonnell apprised the Board of the dismantling process of the house. He said the house would be stored in containers and could be used at a later date. The process would occur in spring or summer. Mr. Smith said that putting this house back together will be challenging.

Ms. Caroline Bishop and Ms. Kit Dryer approached the table. Ms. Bishop asked about the site where the Wellington station is located. Chair Paolillo said that funding is a concern, both to secure a site as well as funding for ongoing operating costs. Ms. Bishop said that once a site and a use are established, fundraising will be the next step.

The Board discussed issues relating to establishing a site, a use, and funding as well as issues concerning insurance and dismantling.

Mr. Carman noted that the field near where the house is presently located will be in full use starting mid-August.

Chair Paolillo said that, while he supports the Clark House, there is little the Board can do while the issues of location, site, and funding remain unresolved.

*The Board moved:* To amend the license agreement with the Architectural Heritage Foundation for the Clark House to September 1, 2014. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Vote on Dates and Times to Open and Close Warrant for Town Meeting**

*The Board moved:* To open the Warrant on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. and to close the Warrant on Monday, March 10 at 3:00 p.m.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board signed the Warrant.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

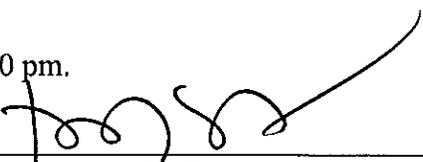
Monday, February 24, 2014 at 7:30 at the Beech Street Center (Cable TV Advisory Hearing)  
February 26 and 27 (Wed. and Thursday) at 8:00 a.m.  
Monday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m.

**Executive Session**

*The Board moved:* To enter into executive session at 8:19 p.m. to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. The Board will return not to open session. A roll call vote was taken: Chair Paolillo said aye, Selectman Jones and Rojas also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* To exit Executive Session at 8:40.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.



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Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator