

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Tuesday, February 23, 2010
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to open session 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, along with John Giorgio and Jeanne McKnight from Kopelman and Paige, and Bob McLaughlin.

Executive Session

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

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

(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and passed unanimously.)

The Board returned to open session at 7:22 PM.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were none.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Petition for a Sidewalk and Pedestrian Crosswalk - Trapelo Rd.

Mr. Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development, and resident Robert Silverman appeared before the Board to discuss a residents' petition for a sidewalk and pedestrian crosswalk on Trapelo Road. Mr. Silverman read the petition (160 signers) to create a sidewalk extension and crosswalk from Trapelo Rd. to Pleasant Street in Waverley Square. Chair Leclerc asked if the present crosswalk was wheelchair accessible. Mr. Clancy replied that, no, there may not be ramp access. Mr. Silverman noted that the access from Andros Diner is not shoveled properly (in front of the residents' houses) and as such is icy and dangerous.

Mr. Clancy said that there has never been adequate funding to address this issue or similar issues throughout town. Crossing safety is a part of the long-term Trapelo Road project. He said he is hoping to have the Trapelo Road corridor re-design approved by

2014 and that state funding will be freed up for this project. Clancy stated that the light and crosswalk near Andros Diner, while a little out of the way, is at least an option for pedestrians crossing..

Selectman Jones asked about the Trapelo Road and sign project – Is this consistent with that overall plan? Mr. Clancy said that he thinks this would be part of the project, but that he is not sure what Mass Highway would say about this piece specifically, e.g.. the sidewalk and crosswalk. Selectman Jones said that if this would be acceptable to the state, he might try to allocate the money to do this.

Selectman Firenze asked how many people need to cross in this area on a given day. Mr. Silverman estimated 100 people per day. He added that to wait four or five years is too long to have this area remain unsafe.

Ms. Nancy Marsh, Waverley Woods site manager, joined the conversation. She said that the Waverley Woods development provided a partial sidewalk. She said that the area is heavily traversed every day. Cars drive too fast when turning onto Rt. 60, she noted.

The Board discussed the configuration of the area.

Mr. Younger asked is this the first priority area to address for traffic mitigation as opposed to somewhere else in town? Selectman Jones acknowledged that there is more than one area needing safety attention. Jones will seek an interest in Capital budget funding, while Mr. Clancy will pursue this issue on a state level.

Removal of Parking Signages

Mr. Clancy remained before the Board to discuss the removal of parking signs. Mr. Conti (on behalf of the ad hoc parking group) noted that the following signs needed to be removed: the “Handicapped Parking” space on Marlboro Street and a “no parking here to corner” sign on Grove and Belmont Streets. Clancy added that Grove Street will have no parking on it in five years, but in the interim it would be ok to have parking there. Mr. Conti added that the parking group would like to remove various “advanced warning” signs ahead of crosswalks and stop signs. It would be appropriate, he said, for Mr. Clancy to have authority to remove these signs on his own. Selectman Firenze noted that there are a lot of extraneous signs in existence throughout town. Clancy agreed, but said it may not be worth the effort to remove some signs. He added that advanced warnings when added to an intersection are initially useful, but after a few years, the signs can go.

The Board moved: To approve all three of the above recommendations.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Human Resources Consolidation Discussion and Health Insurance Rate Setting

Mr. Younger led the discussion on these items as HR Director Diane Crimmins is sick. Selectman Firenze said he has concerns about not moving ahead with HR consolidation.

Selectman Jones agreed and said that we have to face consolidation head-on. Chair Leclerc said that if it is less efficient and more costly to consolidate, we should not do it. Consolidation in general is a good idea, he said, but we don't want consolidation to compromise the mission of these departments.

The Board discussed.

Mr. Younger proposed that the Board focus on consolidation of the following: building facilities, HR, legal/labor counsel, and finance. The Board agreed to formulate a citizens committee to analyze consolidation of these areas.

The Board moved: To appoint citizens to a consolidation committee to review and study the consolidation of HR, Building facilities, and legal counsel. The Board will appoint members and the SC will appoint one or two members. The goal of this group is to have a recommendation in 30 days.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Younger will contact SC Chair Rittenburg. By March 15th, the Board members should appoint their choices to the committee.

Health Insurance Rate Increase: Mr Younger said he is recommending a 5% increase in premiums this year by utilizing \$260K from the health trust funds to offset the cost. Selectman Jones asked about trend analysis. Mr. Younger will get that information to the Board.

Belmont Explorer Program

Mr. Dave Harrington, Belmont fire fighter, appeared before the Board to discuss a program for youth who are interested in fire programs. This program is an offshoot of the Boy Scouts program. It is self-funded and consists of a group of self-directed people who may be interested in careers in fire service. Mr. Harrington would like the Board's support before reaching out to the community.

The Board moved: To support the program and allow the use of the fire station under supervision of the fire chief.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Foundation for Belmont Education FBE – One-day Liquor License

Ms. Ellen Kassaraba and Ms. Carolyn Boyle, from the FBE, appeared before the Board to request a one-day liquor license for the FBE Spring Gala

The Board moved: To grant the request of the FBE for a one-day liquor license for the Spring Gala with the condition of proper bartending certification.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Wellington School Debt Document

Mr. Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer, appeared before the Board to request that the Board sign the Wellington School loan notes. Mr. Carman explained that this project has a total cost of \$39M. The town is bonding the project for \$26.7M and the state is covering \$12M. The \$26.7M will be borrowed at a 3.7% interest rate (an excellent rate due to Belmont's AAA bond rating). The taxpayer impact is \$230 in additional tax dollars per year for the average home. Board members signed the appropriate loan notes.

Budget Discussion

Chair Leclerc noted that the Board is facing several budget decisions. Does Belmont need an override? When would it be placed on the ballot? For how much money? Voters may want some choices regarding amounts (high/low amount) and a menu of who is served (school/public service). The Town will need to create an available-revenue budget in case an override does not pass. Chair Leclerc said he would like an override to be enough to support a level-services budget for next year. Selectman Jones advised picking a number that can be passed. He added that FY12 will be a bad year regarding state aid and pension funding. Selectman Firenze noted that the Board does not yet have the information to set an override number. There are still unknown factors relating to consolidation, salary increases, and state aid. The Board agreed that an available-funds budget is needed and will team with the Warrant Committee subcommittee meetings, as follows.

Selectman Jones: Capital Budget and Public Works
Selectman Firenze: Culture/Recreation and Human Services
Chair Leclerc: Public Safety (fire and police)

[Note: Since this meeting, Selectman Firenze and Chair Leclerc have switched departments (i.e., Firenze now will work on Public Safety, Leclerc on Culture, etc.)]

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- Liquor licenses – This spring's Town Meeting will have a article to change the "all alcohol" restaurant license seating requirement. Following the Town Meeting, this will require approval from the state legislature. The Board will need to determine how many licenses to make available. Currently, two are used, and one is available with the 130-seat requirements. Mr. Younger recommends seven additional licenses, for a round number of 10. The town will have to go back to Town Meeting if it needs more than 10 licenses in the future. The article will also reduce the seating requirement from 130 to 60. The Board discussed the warrant and its potential impact on current beer and wine licenses.
- Mr. Younger thanked two DPW workers for fire alert notifications.
- Public trash receptacles – Mr. Castanino has been asked to research if the current receptacles are in the proper places and if they are properly utilized.

- The Wellington modulars are occupied; the traffic situation will be monitored.
- PILOT program – The Assessors will meet with private schools in town.
- Appraisals are underway for Benton Library (sale and lease) and Woodfall Road.
- The unfunded mandate list has been sent to Representative Brownsberger.
- The Benton Library Re-use committee will meet Thursday, February 25th.

ACTION BY WRITING

The following establishments have requested license renewal: Brigham's, Full Spectrum Motors, Select Café, and TNT Service Corp.

The Board moved: To approve the above named establishments for license renewal requests.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

OTHER

Chair Leclerc noted that the Belmont Farmer's Market has requested to go forward again this year. Leclerc said that perhaps this group could be given the permission to hold the Market under "Action By Writing" without requiring the group to appear in person.

The Board moved: To review the Belmont Farmer's Market status in the "Action By Writing" section of the next Board meeting.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of Board of Selectmen Minutes — November 16, 2009, October 5, 2009

The Board moved: To approve the above noted minutes.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

OTHER (continued)

- A letter from Mr. Mark Clark regarding the library will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Energy Commission appointments will be made at the March 15th Board meeting.
 - The FY11 Minuteman assessment for Belmont has been lowered and the per pupil cost is also lowered.
 - Regarding the Selectmen's goals, Chair Leclerc and Mr. Younger will meet to formulate a list.

Chair Leclerc would like to request that the Board not meet on Monday, April 5 – the date of the General Election. The Board will meet Wednesday, April 7th at 6:30 pm for its organizational meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved: To enter into Executive Session at 9:32 pm to discuss litigation and collective bargaining. The Board will not return to open session.

(During executive session, no substantive motions were made. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 pm.)

—
Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator