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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 28, 2005
REGULAR SESSION

Call to Order

The Board convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of Town Hall. All members were present.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none. Selectman Brownsberger pointed out some inquiries he has received about his health and that he is doing well.

Action by Appointment

Approval of SEIU 2004 Contract

The Human Resources Director appeared before the Board to summarize the terms of the one-year SEIU contract.

The Board moved: to approve and execute three copies of the SEIU 2004 contract.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Capital Budget Discussion

Members of the Capital Budget Committee met with the Board of Selectmen for the FY06 capital budget discussion.

Chairman Mike Speidel reviewed the Capital Budget Committee's position relative to Selectman Brownsberger's draft proposal which consists of the following recommendations:

- Set non-pavement/non-technology capital spending at \$1,178,050 -- an increase of ~\$420,950 or 55% above FY05 levels
- Increase school-side technology spending to 120,000, a 54% increase
- Increase engineering capacity for road projects
- Continue maximal investment in our roads without further appropriation in FY06
- Increase the usage of FY04 free cash by \$500,000 to \$800,000
- Increase the school (non-technology) budget by \$1,386,031

- Allow \$20,000 for increase in the youth budget
- Recognize \$160,000 in additional revenue (as discussed in budget meeting)
- Do not begin reserving for GASB45 (as discussed in budget meeting)
- Through the Warrant Committee, focus on the pension contribution level

Mr. Speidel summarized some of the more critical capital requests totaling over \$4.2 million.

Selectman Brownsberger emphasized his view that an override will not be needed for fiscal year 06, although he anticipates that one will probably be needed for FY07.

Chairman Solomon summarized the four possible different scenarios for the balancing of the budget:

- Taking from the Capital Budget into operating budget
- Making cuts in the Town Budget and adding into the School budget
- A combination of both
- An override

Dr. Solomon stated that at this juncture, the Board is exploring all possibilities and that this capital budget discussion is still in its early phase.

Fire Stations Building Committee

Capital Budget Committee Chair Mike Speidel called a Capital Budget Committee meeting to discuss with members of the Fire Stations Building Committee the rising cost of the new fire stations building project. Mr. McLaughlin related that unanticipated costs have now risen to \$1.5 million, with \$400,000 in additional clean up costs and a construction bid which was \$1.1 Million greater than the architect's estimate.

Mr. McLaughlin asked that the Board of Selectmen call a Special Town Meeting on March 21, 2005 to bring this issue before Town Meeting.

The Board moved to: call a Special Town Meeting on March 21, 2005 at 7:30pm at the High School (pending room availability); and further to open and close the Special Town Meeting warrant effective immediately (pending approval by Town Counsel).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Comcast License Renewal Contract

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and discussed the terms of the Comcast license renewal agreement.

The Board moved: to approve and execute five copies of the Comcast license renewal contract.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board expressed its disappointment in the fact that the senior discount is not included in the contract itself. The Board emphasized the fact that the initial contract had been rejected by the Town and it invited other companies to approach the Town with any competitive offers.

Update from Acting Town Treasurer re: Various Issues

Acting Town Treasurer Daniela Boccia appeared before the Board of Selectmen to request that the Board approve and sign an application for a charter confirming the affiliation of our Dollars for Scholars chapter with Scholarship America.

The Board moved: to approve and sign an application for a charter confirming the affiliation of our Dollars for Scholars chapter with Scholarship America.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Ms. Boccia also acknowledged a bequest from the Estate of the late Miss Barbara Jack for \$153,000. The Board of Selectmen and Ms. Boccia discussed contacting some of her living relatives to express the Town's gratitude.

Discussion of Tree Removal at 2-4 Warwick Road

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a memorandum from North Shore Construction and Development's legal counsel requesting a postponement of tonight's hearing in reference to the removal of a tree at 2-4 Warwick Road on the grounds that they were not notified early enough of tonight's hearing date.

The Board of Selectmen moved: to approve the Department of Public Works request to postpone the tree hearing based on a request received by North Shore Construction and Development; and that a new hearing be scheduled on March 21, 2005.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Litigation – Executive Session

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy related to litigation; and further that the Board shall return to open session.

The motion was approved unanimously (3-0).

Action by Consent

Approval of Minutes (01/10/05; 01/18/05)

The Board moved: to approve all the minutes for the January 10 and January 18 2005 meetings.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Writing

Memorandum from Recreation Director re: Position Upgrade

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a memorandum from Recreation Director Bill McKenney relative to the Recreation Program Supervisor position re-classification and salary adjustment.

The Board moved: to approve the Recreation Director's request for the Recreation Program Supervisor's position reclassification and salary adjustment, with an effective date of July 1, 2004.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board also moved: to approve the Human Resources Director's request for reclassification and salary adjustment (effective July 1, 2004) of the following three positions, as documented in Ms. Jenkins' memorandum to the Board dated February 2, 2005 (without the intent of setting a precedent): Staff Accountant, Administrative Assistant in Health and Administrative Assistant in Building Services.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Ms. Jenkins also requested that the Payroll Technician position be considered for an upgrade and recommended that this position be reviewed by DMG Maximus for a potential upgrade.

The Board moved: to approve Ms. Jenkins's request to ask DMG Maximus to review the Payroll Technician position for potential upgrade.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Kopelman and Paige re: Smoke Free Communities Agreement

The Board moved: to sign an agreement, allowing Town Counsel Kopelman and Paige to represent both the Town of Belmont and Watertown in connection with a Smoke Free Communities Agreement.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Selectmen's Office re: Meeting Schedule

The Board of Selectmen discussed a meeting schedule through the end of the summer 2005.

The Board moved: to cancel its March 14, 2005 meeting date.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to approve the following revised meeting schedule: 3/7/05; 3/21/05; 3/28/05; 4/4/05; 4/6/05 (organizational meeting); 4/11/05; 4/25/05 (Annual Town Meeting); 4/27/05 (tentative if continued Town Meeting); 5/2/05 (tentative if continued Town Meeting); 5/4/05 (tentative if continued Town Meeting); 5/9/05; 5/16/05; 5/23/05; 6/6/05; 6/13/05; 6/20/05; 7/11/05; 7/25/05; 8/8/05.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to approve the following office hours schedule: 3/21/05 (Selectman Firenze); 3/28/05 (Vice –Chair Brownsberger); and 4/11/05 (Chair Solomon).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Health care Insurance Working Group Proposed Charge

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and discussed the terms of the Health Care Insurance Working Group proposed charge.

The Board moved: to approve the draft charge as written except for a correction in the first sentence which reads: "To examine from the broadest possible perspective the challenge of controlling retiree and employee healthcare costs...."

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board also discussed forwarding a copy of the draft charge to the Belmont Citizens Herald for publication and advertising.

Other

The Board of Selectmen discussed some critical upcoming Board appointments on the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals and decided to schedule such a discussion on their next meeting agenda of March 7.

The Board of Selectmen discussed a request from resident Victoria Haase to rename the School Administration Building after the Underwood family.

The Board moved: to approve Ms. Haase's request to name the School Administration building the Underwood School Administration building, provided that the Underwood name will not be etched on the outside of the building.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen also discussed the value of printing the Annual Town reports, which incurs a substantial cost to the Town.

The Board adjourned its open session at 10:25 pm.

Dr. Paul Solomon, Chairman
Board of Selectmen