

## MINUTES

Monday, February 4, 2008 TOWN OF BELMONT BOARD OF SELECTMEN TOWN HALL  
AUDITORIUM 7:00PM

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order in open session at 8:26 PM in the Auditorium at Town Hall. All Board members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

### II. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were no questions.

### III. ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Belmont Media Center Annual Report Jonathan Green, Chairman of the Board, and Jeff Hansell, Executive Director of the Belmont Media Center (BMC) presented the highlights from the BMC's required annual report to the Selectmen. In addition to its Board of Directors, the Program Director (Julie DeStefano), and the Community Events Coordinator (Paul Carey), the BMC runs with the help of 70 volunteers who have contributed 1700 volunteer hours in the past year. The BMC's operating expenses are supported by the franchise fees paid by Verizon (FiOS television) and Comcast, not by the Town budget.

Mr. Green summarized programming highlights for 2007, including several new shows: "Daring to Dream", Representative Brownsberger's live office hours, and Belmont's Business report by Chairman Firenze. Media and Video Production classes were offered. The Board of Selectmen, Warrant Committee, School Committee meetings, and Town Meeting were covered as well as certain civic and holiday events. 12,000 total programming hours were produced and broadcast in 2007. Mr. Green addressed the BMC's pressing challenge: space limitation. The 900 square foot space at the high school limits what can be offered to the community. The BMC is exploring space options both at town buildings and in commercial spaces throughout town. The BMC's 2008 plans include an enhanced studio environment, new technology, expanding their space to improve remote broadcast capabilities, increased training, increased coverage of town events, and an enhanced website for homes that do not have cable.

The Board expressed that the BMC was doing an excellent job. Chairman Firenze asked what would happen if the BMC funding dries up? Mr. Green replied that the BMC will keep its equipment, and that the operating revenue from cable bills could be made up by other donations and fees. He said that the pending cable funding legislation doesn't seek to eliminate the funding, but to set limits on it. - Restaurant Liquor Licenses - Expansion and Seat Requirement Representatives from three Belmont restaurants - Osaka, Theo's, and Cafe Fiorella - were present to hear the Board of Selectmen discuss the restaurant liquor license application process in Belmont. Town Administrator Younger provided a brief overview: Until 10 years ago, Belmont was a "dry" town. It can now issue eight Beer and Wine licenses, which have a 39-125 seating requirement. All eight licenses have been issued; none are presently available. Belmont is also approved to issue three all-alcohol licenses, with a 130 seat minimum requirement. Presently two all-alcohol licenses have been issued. There have been no inquiries for the one remaining license as the seating requirement makes it difficult for establishments in Belmont. The Board agreed that there have been no negative impacts from granting these licenses, and in fact they have had a very positive impact for Belmont and the related establishments. The Board also agreed that they would like to see the number of available licenses increased to 12-15 for beer/wine, and see the seating requirement lowered to the 20-25 seat range. This would need to be done by home-rule petition of the Legislature at the request of Town Meeting. The Board also agreed that they'd like to see the seating requirement for all-alcohol licenses lowered, as well, raising the possibility that a restaurant currently holding a beer and wine license could obtain the broader license and free up their beer and wine license for another business.

The Board moved: To ask Town Administrator Younger to discuss with the Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Commission the issue of expanding alcohol beverage licenses and reviewing seat number requirements, and that the Board has expressed a strong consensus to go forward with this.

Motion passed unanimously (3-0). - Roads Stabilization Fund Override Discussion Chairman Firenze stated that since the Warrant Committee voted unanimously at its last meeting to recommend that a Roads Stabilization override be placed on the April ballot, this Board may want to vote on the issue earlier than March 1 (as was discussed at the Board of Selectmen's meeting last week), allowing more time to educate the public as to the need for this override. Chairman Firenze said he remains concerned about not knowing for certain if there is a need for an operating override, but feels certain that the Wellington school issue would not be on the ballot until November.

The Board then discussed the specific language of the Roads Stabilization Fund Override. Selectman Solomon felt that the wording was not clear and that the word "override" did not appear as presently written. Assistant Town Administrator Conti said that this was the standard language for such an override as specified in state law and that wording changes would need to be approved by Town Counsel.

The Board discussed the issue of a potential operating override. There was uneasiness with the idea of having two overrides on the April ballot which could result in both failing. By February 16, the Warrant Committee will share target budget numbers for a non-override budget with Mr. Younger and Dr. Holland, who will then respond with the list of cuts they would need to make in order to reach those numbers. We will then know the consequences of a balanced, non-override budget.

This issue will be put on the Selectmen's agenda for Monday, February 25. - Town Administrator's Report

" Harvard Lawn Fire Station: We are closing the sale on the Harvard Lawn Fire Station. The deed requires the signatures of the Board members. The Board signed the deed for transferring the Harvard Lawn Fire Station to its new owners.

" Woodfall Road: Town Council has received a copy of the letter from the Inspector General approving the sale of this property by direct auction.

#### V. ACTION BY WRITING

- Reserve Fund Recommendation - Clean Harbors Clay Pit Cleanup Costs (Dec 07-Jan 08)

Mr. Younger said the Town will request a reserve fund transfer of \$18,796.70 to cover the cost of cleaning up an oil spill at Clay Pit Pond.

The Board moved: To recommend that the Warrant Committee transfer the requested \$18,796.70 for clean up of the oil spill at Clay Pit Pond.

Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

- Severe Weather Policy for Town Municipal Administrative Employees The Board decided to change the Severe Weather policy wording from "certain conditions" to "unusual conditions" as pertains to the potential for a town wide shut-down.

#### VI. OTHER

Chairman Firenze requested that the Capital Budget Committee review the need for acquiring backup generators with regard to the recent power failure (22 hours over the weekend.) The power failure made it impossible to leave a phone message.

The Board adjourned at 10:21p.m.

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Administrator

Thomas G. Younger, Town