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MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, November 9, 2015
5:30 PM

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: 12.14.15

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Sami Baghdady in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Mark Paolillo and Jim Williams were present. Town Administrator David Kale and Assistant Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall were also present.

Chair Baghdady reviewed the agenda.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Update: Committee Appointments

Chair Baghdady noted that most committee appointments were made over the summer. But for certain committees, more information was needed, so those appointments are being made today.

Cable Television Advisory Committee

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Chet Messer to the Cable Television Advisory Committee, for a three-year term.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Conservation Commission (ConCom)

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Christopher Morris and Ms. Julie Heller to the ConCom, both for three-year terms.

Chair Baghdady said that Mr. Daniel Nolan should attend the meetings and perhaps he will get appointed during the next round. The Board discussed including alternate members to the ConCom in the near future. Selectman Williams raised the issue of appointing 9 members.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Cultural Council

Chair Baghdady explained the status of the committee.

The Board moved: To appoint the Ms. Rebecca Richards and Ms. Arlyn Roffman to the Cultural Council, both for three-year terms.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

Chair Baghdady explained the status of the committee. Selectman Paolillo stated that the Board should meet with the EDAC. The Board agreed.

The Board moved: To re-appoint Mr. Erik Rhodin and Ms. Lalig Musserian to the EDAC, both for one-year terms.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Human Rights Commission

Chair Baghdady mentioned the addition of a high school student to the commission.

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Seneca Hart as Belmont High School's Representative to the Human Rights Commission.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Recreation Commission

The Board agreed that this is another committee that it should meet with. The Board discussed the applicant pool and then made the following motion:

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Mary Bradley (three-year term) and Mr. Matt Sullivan (two-year term), to the Rec Commission.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Traffic Advisory Commission (TAC)

Chair Baghdady explained the bylaw and the town's tradition with regard to this committee. He recommended at least one appointment and raised the topic of quorum issues. Selectman Paolillo stated that 11 members may be too many for optimal effectiveness.

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Elizabeth Sue Pew to the TAC, for a three-year term.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Financial Task Force Implementation Committee

Selectman Paolillo requested that the Board defer these appointments. The Board agreed to defer.

Vision 21 Implementation Committee Report Review

Mr. George Durante, Chair of the Vision 21 committee, and committee members Ms. Mary Power, Dr. Paul Solomon, Ms. Natalie Leino, Mr. Doug John, and Ms. Jennifer Page, appeared before the Board to discuss the Vision 21 Implementation Committee Report.

Chair Baghdady said that Board intends to meet with committees to receive periodic updates and that this Vision 21 meeting is an example of such a meeting. He commended the committee for their work with the *Meet Belmont* event.

Vision 21 Chair Durante provided a summary of the committee's endeavors, e.g., *Meet Belmont* and the recent town-wide survey. He provided some background information on the survey and noted that the feedback was excellent. Top priorities gleaned from the survey included: maintaining the excellent schools, maintaining the town's buildings (library, for example), and continuing with traffic calming for bikers and pedestrians.

Chair Baghdady acknowledged the committee for their work on the survey. He stated that, while the report summarizing the survey results is helpful and informative, it should not dictate decision making across town committees. Mr. Durante agreed that the survey results should serve as information to *guide* policy. The Board agreed that the document should be used for informational purposes. They also agreed that the survey results should be placed on the town's website.

Mr. Durante added that creating a town-wide calendar was another priority.

The Board then discussed how the survey results could work with the Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted five years ago, by the Board. Also discussed was the mechanisms by which more resident feedback could be gathered. All agreed that gathering more thoughts and feedback from residents would be helpful.

The Board thanked the committee.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- **Belmont Center Business Association Update:** Mr. Kale outlined requests that were made by the BCBA at a recent meeting and the Town's responses to those requests. This included a recommendation of providing free two hours parking at the three municipal lots from 11/27/15 thru 12/27/2015. Chair Baghdady stated that all three business centers have been impacted by the construction. The Board expressed their support for free two-hour parking at the three municipal parking lots.

The Board moved: To approve free two-hour parking at the three municipal parking lots (Waverley Sq., Belmont Center, and Cushing Square) from November 27 – December 27, 2015.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

- **Belmont Youth Hockey Update:** Questions have been submitted and information is being gathered. The School Committee will be asked to approve an access agreement to perform testing on the site.
- **Foundation Budget Review Commission Report:** Board members received copies of this report. This report makes recommendations for revisions to Chapter 70 allocations.
- **Budget Schedule:** Distributed to Board members.
- **Q1 Financial Report:** The budget is on target overall for the first quarter of FY16-September 30, 2015. Some highlights were provided (e.g., excise tax, meals tax, ambulance services, Recreation programs, building permits). Overall, things are trending as expected for this time of year. He is meeting regularly with Department Heads to monitor expenditures. The parking salary line item was briefly discussed. Selectman Paolillo asked about the Worker's Compensation line item.

Other:

Remote Access for members of the Board: Selectman Williams raised the issue of giving the Board remote access to meetings, if one of the Board members is off site geographically. Chair Baghdady said perhaps more information could be gathered. Selectman Paolillo agreed that the notion could be explored further and that teleconferencing occurs frequently in the private sector. Issues related to this idea were discussed. The legal issues and fiscal investment will be further explored.

Retirement Board/COLA: Selectman Williams requested that the Belmont Retirement Board be requested to generate a report to determine the financial impact on the unfunded liability as a result of granting an annual 3 percent COLA on the first \$12,000 of retirement benefit. The Chair noted that there may be other requests which should be collected prior to the scheduled meeting on December 21, 2015 to discuss pension obligation bonds (POB). This BOS meeting will include the Treasurer and the Town's Financial Advisor, First Southwest.

MBTA/Waverley Square: Mr. Vince Stanton raised an MBTA concern in light of the meeting next Monday evening. He said perhaps there could be an "ad hoc committee" formed to explore this issue further. This issue is moving forward quickly. Chair Baghdady stated that this issue will not be rushed through and that the Board is very engaged in the process. The process will be transparent. He encouraged residents to contact the state representatives.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (continued)

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 7:10 p.m. to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and the Chair so declares. The Board will not return to open session. (Cushing Village / Trapelo Road)

A roll call vote was taken: Chair Baghdady said aye, Selectman Paolillo and Williams also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

[The executive session was held in Conference Room 4. See separate minutes.]

Return to Open Session

The Board moved: To exit Executive Session and Return to Open Session for the Verizon Ascertainment at 7:29 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken: Chair Baghdady said aye, Selectman Paolillo and Williams also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Verizon Ascertainment

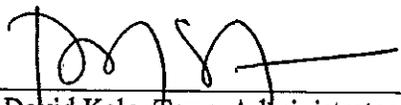
[This was recorded by a Belmont Media Center -provided stenographer.]

NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Beech Street Center

Monday, November 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Beech Street Center

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator