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MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Monday, March 7, 2016  
7:00 PM

APPROVED  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DATE: 4-11-2016

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Sami Baghdady in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Mark Paolillo and Jim Williams were present. Town Administrator David Kale was present; Assistant Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall was not present.

Chair Baghdady reviewed the agenda.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

Mr. Roger Colton, Chair of the Energy Committee, asked about his recently submitted request that the Board adjust the cap on the solar energy panels. The panels are selling very quickly. He would like the Board to meet as the Light Board, at its earliest convenience, to address this issue. Chair Baghdady said the Board could meet prior to its scheduled meeting next Monday night. Mr. Colton requested that the Board contact Mr. Jim Palmer. The Board briefly discussed this topic with Mr. Colton.

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

**Presentation of OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Funding Advisory Group Interim Report**

Dr. Ralph Jones – and from the audience, Mr. Michael Widmer, Ms. Elizabeth Allison, Mr. Geoffrey Lubien, Ms. Chris Doyle, and Mr. Richard Waring – of the OPEB Funding Advisory Group appeared before the Board to discuss the Interim Report.

Dr. Jones began by thanking the advisory group. He provided an overview of the work that the group undertook. He stated that the goal was to create a model – which could impact policy – concerning OPEB. He noted that census data was taken from the town and applied to the working model. While the actual claims costs for retirees on active plans are not yet uncovered, that would be the next step. Analyzing this information could reduce Belmont's overall OPEB liability. He said that using claims data will be both useful and cost-effective for Belmont. He spoke to the town of Wayland's experience using real data.

Chair Baghdady commended the work of the advisory group. He stated that the actual claims costs for retirees on active plans is presently being compiled by HR Director, Jessica Porter.

The Board discussed issues concerning OPEB, specifically the collection of the data noted. Selectman Williams added that this will support the town's AAA rating. He then asked about

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MEMBERS OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Mayland's experience – specifically, the reduction in the unfunded liability. He noted that he submitted a citizen's petition concerning the town's OPEB contribution. He requested that the Board vote on the current strategy/contribution. Chair Baghdady said that a lot of thought went into the strategy and that the Board should not change it without data. Selectman Williams agreed, but suggested that the Board vote to confirm the strategy.

Mr. Widmer added that the state is unlikely to provide OPEB relief in the coming years. He said that the advisory group is discussing the possibility of recommending modest adjustments in Belmont's retiree health care benefits.

Ms. Allison suggested that a section of the interim report be read aloud. Chair Baghdady read the third bullet on page 2 concerning the containment of health care costs, which has been remarkably good.

*The Board moved:* To accept the Interim Report of the advisory group and to support the advisory group to continue their work using additional retiree cost data.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board thanked the group for their excellent work.

Selectman Williams raised the topic of the Pension obligation. He would like the Board to revisit this issue with the Retirement Board (RB), specifically with Mr. James Slowman (of the RB). Mr. Carman suggested that Mr. Tom Gibson, Vice Chair of the Retirement Board, be included in the meeting.

#### **Discussion and Vote of Solid Waste Collection Contract Extension**

Mr. Jay Marcotte, Director of the DPW, appeared before the Board to discuss the contract extension concerning solid waste. Chair Baghdady noted that this topic has been discussed previously by the Board and that information has been posted to the town's website.

Mr. Kale explained that the two-year contract is a bridge for the next long-term contract. This issue has been discussed since last fall. He noted that will occur during the time-frame of the extension, e.g., understanding the changes in the market place, exploring alternative methods of solid waste collection, assessing types of containers, reviewing the overall policy, doing community outreach to provide information and receive feedback, exploring a recyclable drop off site, developing solid waste audits surveys, informational materials and meetings, etc. He also explained the formation of an advisory working group and the solicitation of public input. All of this work will result in an RFP that will go out during the two-year period which will reflect the policy decision made by the Board of Selectmen

The Board briefly discussed issues relating to the solid waste contract extension. The Board agreed that surveying the public to receive input and holding Precinct Meetings to inform the residents and keep them updated, are good ideas.

#### ***Comments from the Public***

Mr. Doug Koplow, Town Meeting member, expressed support for the two-year extension. He said it will allow time for community input, which will be very useful going forward. He suggested that the Board move swiftly, as the two-year period will go by quickly. Selectman Paolillo asked Mr. Koplow about Belmont's recycling participation rate.

Mr. Kim Slack, 23 Taylor Road, asked about the cost to the town for the two-year extension. Mr. Marcotte replied that the expense is due to wages, which are set by the state.

*The Board moved:* To approve the two-year Solid Waste Collection Contract Extension with Russell, Inc.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Baghdady thanked Mr. Marcotte and Kale.

### **Review of Warrant for Annual Town Meeting**

Mr. Kale noted that Assistant Town Administrator Marshall has drafted a document concerning warrant articles. He then explained that Segment B of Annual Town Meeting (held in June) would mainly deal with financial articles (along with two citizen's petitions) while Segment A (held in early May) would have other articles. Mr. Kale discussed other issues that may need to be raised under a Special Town Meeting, e.g., funding a feasibility study and related items for the high school project now that the project has been invited into the process and a Building Committee has been formed, and funding the six modular units at the Chenery, which will cost over \$1.5M. He suggested that free cash might possibly be used to fund the modular classrooms. He then raised the topics of both the Incinerator site and the Minuteman debt and how they might need to be dealt with.

The Board briefly discussed issues relating to the topics raised by Mr. Kale. Selectman Williams raised the Woodfall Road sale. Residents, he said, have expressed concern that the lots sold for \$1.75M and the developer is selling homes totaling almost \$7M. Mr. Kale explained the process, noting that this is the second time it went out to bid. He touched on the Covenant between the Town and Belmont Country Club and the deed restriction. He noted that the area is challenging to develop because of the wetlands. The Board discussed this issue briefly. They also discussed mechanisms for funding these various items – modular units, feasibility study, etc.

Selectman Paolillo spoke to the Minuteman building project. The Board will need, at some point, to decide how to handle the new building proposal. He explained that the new revised agreement, with regard to the building debt, will need to be addressed. It is not clear which agreement will be in operation, depending on when DESE votes on the revised agreement. The new building needs a unanimous yes vote (across the 16 member towns) and it is unclear if that will happen.

The Board discussed the new building proposal, including the size of the building.

**Approval of a Request from the Belmont Center Business Association to host their 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Day Event in Belmont Center on Saturday, May 21**

The Board expressed its support for this event.

*The Board moved:* To approve the request for Town Day for May 21, 2016, details noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- **FY17 Capital Budget:** The department requests are in and the CBC (Capital Budget Committee) will review and make recommendations at its upcoming meetings. The Board agreed that it will also review the requests. Selectman Williams asked about the process by which the Board will discuss the CBC budget. He then raised the issue of the total percent increase of the FY17 budget, as well as the budget forecasting. Mr. Kale explained the budget projection process, which uses the Financial Task Force model.
- **Police Station Feasibility Study:** This report is now available for the Board's review.
- **MBTA Station at Waverley:** There are no new updates, but hopefully there will be an update by next month. Selectman Williams spoke to the MBTA issues concerning Waverley. He would like to be in contact with the MAAB, concerning upgrading Waverley.

**Committee Liaison Reports**

*Permanent Audit Committee*

Selectman Williams stated that Ms. Marion Cote has retired and will need to be replaced. Her retirement may impact the date of the audit.

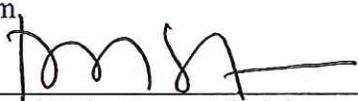
**Executive Session – Cushing Village**

This Executive Session will be held on Thursday, March 10.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 8:30 a.m. – Town Hall, Selectmen's Room  
Thursday, March 10, 2016, 8:30 a.m. – Town Hall, Selectmen's Room  
Monday, March 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall, Selectmen's Room  
Monday, March 28, 2016, 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall, Selectmen's Room

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

  
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Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator