

**BELMONT WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
FINAL**

2016 APR 15 AM 8:59

**APRIL 6, 2016, 7:30 P.M.  
CHENERY COMMUNITY ROOM**

Present: Chair Libenson; Members Alcock, Dash (arrived at 7:59 p.m.) Fallon, Gammill, Helgen, Lisanke, McLaughlin, Sarno, Schreiber, Starzec; Selectman Baghdady; School Committee Rep. Burgess-Cox

Members Absent: Epstein, McVay, Mennis

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by Chair Libenson.

Chair Libenson began by turning to the first item on the agenda.

***Approval of Minutes***

The minutes of 3/2/16 were approved with one abstention.

***Discussion and Vote remaining CPA Proposal***

***Winn Brook Tennis Courts***

Chair Libenson invited Ms. Margaret Velie, Chair of the CPA Committee, and Mr. Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer, to the WC table to discuss the Winn Brook Tennis Courts. Chair Libenson explained why the WC tabled this vote. He noted that there has been ongoing discussion concerning the number of appropriate tennis courts for the town, given that some courts are going offline.

After a very brief discussion:

*Member Gammill moved:* Favorable action on the Winn Brook Tennis Courts.  
The motion passed unanimously.

***Discussion of OPEB Funding Advisory's Group Work To Date***

Chair Libenson invited Dr. Ralph Jones, Chair of the OPEB Funding Advisory Group, and Mr. Geoff Lubien, member of the advisory group, to the WC table to present on the OPEB Funding Advisory's Group Work to date. Dr. Jones stated who was on the advisory group and the nature of their work. He noted that there is not actual data on retiree health information; assumptions and guesses have been used in the past. Wayland has begun to collect real data on the health costs of its retirees and this has lessened its OPEB liability by about 20%. Belmont, he said, has set out to collect real data on retiree claims, as well. Once the data is known, the real work can begin.

Dr. Jones continued: Belmont has managed its health care costs well, thus making OPEB more manageable. The advisory group will evaluate financing approaches on OPEB costs and will use data from other towns as well (to establish state averages). The group will meet soon with Ms. Parker, Director of Human Resources, to study the real data. Hopefully, policy recommendations can be formulated that will keep the costs down.

The WC discussed some of the costs associated with funding this liability. Chair Libenson provided some summary analysis on the report. He noted that looking at the actual costs may eventually save Belmont money and that low health care growth could lower the town's overall liability.

Selectman Williams joined the table. He noted that gathering the real data will be valuable, going forward. He spoke to the *practicality* of the unfunded liability number. He explained various approaches to addressing this liability.

Member McLaughlin said he is concerned about the Town's AAA rating. Dr. Jones spoke to the amount (the percentage) that might need to be applied to this liability.

Selectman Baghdady acknowledged the advisory group for their efforts.

Chair Libenson thanked the advisory group.

### ***Board of Selectmen Update Part I ~***

BOS Chair Baghdady reported that the Board of Selectmen signed the warrant for the May 4, 2016 Special Town Meeting at its meeting earlier in the day. Chair Libenson then asked the WC to review the warrant articles for both the Annual Town Meeting and the May 4<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting.

### ***Review of the Warrant Articles***

Chair Libenson distributed the TM and STM articles. He said the WC will need to decide which articles it will vote on. He reviewed the index of articles.

Chair Libenson stated that the WC is charged with making recommendations to Town Meeting on Articles which have a fiscal appropriation or have a meaningful fiscal impact on the town.

The WC will not review Articles: 1, 2, 3, 5.

Selectman Baghdady explained Article 4 – Demolition Delay. This will extend the delay for one year. Chair Libenson took a straw poll. It was determined that the WC will opine on Article 4.

It was determined that the WC will opine on Article 6. Article 7 (CPA) is complete.

Under the budgetary articles (Segment B), the WC will likely opine on all the articles (8-17).

The WC will opine on Articles 18 and 19.

Member Helgen requested an update on the sources and uses of free cash. Chair Libenson stated that the WC will discuss free cash next week.

The WC discussed Articles 11 and 19 – Transfer of Funds to the Stabilization Fund. A question of redundancy arose. Article 11 may concern “excess levy capacity”. Selectman Baghdady will investigate.

Chair Libenson then explained the three STM warrant articles:

- I. Minuteman Debt Authorization for Borrowing
- II. Appropriation of Woodfall Road Money to Fund the BHS Feasibility Study
- III. Free Cash Transfer to Fund the Modular Units

Selectman Baghdady explained the rationale for funding the modulars via free cash. Chair Libenson noted that the WC will opine on all three STM articles.

Chair Libenson informed the WC that it will vote on Articles 4 and 6 as well as the three STM articles next week, April 14, 2016.

In answer to Member Sarno’s question, SC Rep Burgess-Cox explained the need for the CMS modular units, which is due to current enrollment issues.

Chair Libenson requested that Member McLaughlin provide an update on Minuteman.

Member McLaughlin informed the WC that the building proposal will go forward unless one town votes no. The choices are both bad, he said. He then explained the process by which the vote will go district wide – but this is a murky area. He raised the issue of the “opting out” towns voting on the project, even though they are not responsible for the debt.

The WC discussed issues relating to the proposed Minuteman project.

### ***Updates: Board of Selectmen (Part II) and School Committee***

**Board of Selectmen:** Selectman Baghdady reported that Selectman Mark Paoillo is the new Chair of the BOS, but that he (Baghdady) will remain WC liaison until the end of the fiscal year. He noted that the BHS Building Committee met on Monday and that Mr. Bill Lovallo is the Chair. Issues relating to the new/renovated BHS building were briefly discussed (enrollment, incorporating the library, adding grade 8, etc.).

Selectman Baghdady provided a brief update on Cushing Village. The Toll Brothers are exploring purchasing the property. He explained how this relates to the sale of the parking lot (the P&S), the Land Development Agreement, the accruing fees, etc.

**School Committee:** SC Rep Burgess-Cox reported that the SC will meet on April 12, its first meeting since the recent election. (Chair Libenson had earlier noted that Ms. Burgess-Cox will continue to serve as the SC liaison to the WC for the balance of the current fiscal year.)

### *Subcommittee Updates*

**Human Services:** Subcommittee Chair McLaughlin informed the WC that the HS subcommittee has met with the Library and the Health Department and is progressing.

**Education:** Subcommittee Chair Gammill noted that the Ed Subcommittee has met several times. In addition, some members have attended the SC's Finance Subcommittee meetings about the FY17 budget. The Ed Subcommittee is awaiting full answers to questions they submitted to the SC. He will work on the draft for the subcommittee to review shortly.

**General Government:** Subcommittee Chair Schreiber informed the WC that meetings with the departments are ongoing and information is being collected. She stated she is looking forward to the new template.

**Public Safety:** Subcommittee Chair Helgen informed the WC that the PS subcommittee has met once and has meetings set up with Fire and Police.

**Public Services:** Subcommittee Chair Dash informed the WC that the PW subcommittee has met with department heads. The draft is done and will be submitted in Word format.

**Capital Budget Committee:** Member Fallon said that the CBC has met with department heads to hear their capital requests. She said the straw poll vote will occur next week. The requests are all appropriate and urgent while the amount of money to distribute is not sufficient.

**Minuteman:** This report will be submitted by Mr. Jack Weis. Members McLaughlin and Gammill will coordinate with Mr. Weis.

Chair Libenson noted that budget forecasting work is moving forward. A small group of WC members are working on this. At some point, this information will be offered for public consumption.

### *Adjournment*

Member McLaughlin moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m

Submitted by Lisa Gibalerio

WC Recording Secretary