

**BELMONT WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**FINAL**

2016 MAY 26 PM 12: 06

**MAY 11, 2016, 7:30 P.M.**

**CHENERY COMMUNITY ROOM**

Present: Chair Libenson; Members Alcock, Dash, Epstein, Fallon, Gammill, Helgen, Lisanke, McVay, McLaughlin, Mennis, Sarno, Schreiber; Selectman Baghdady; School Committee Rep. Burgess-Cox

Town Administrator Kale

Members Absent: Starzec

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chair Libenson.

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

***Approval of Minutes***

The minutes of 4/27/16 were approved with two abstentions.

The minutes of 5/2/16 were approved with four abstentions.

The Education Subcommittee minutes of 5/9/16 were unanimously approved.

***Capital Budget Committee (CBC) Budget ~ Discussion and Vote***

**Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Budgetary & Financial Articles**

***Article 14: Appropriation of Capital Expenditures***

Chair Libenson invited CBC Chair Mahoney to the WC table.

CBC Chair Mahoney began by referencing some of the handouts. She explained the highlights of the CBC budget process. She noted that there was an influx of one-time money. The initial Capital allocation was \$1.4M but the fire station settlement of \$985K was added to this amount. And there was almost \$228K in turn-backs. She explained the background on the Harris Field Press Box and explained how the funding was patched together, e.g., using remaining money from Harris Field 1 and 2 projects (\$165K), plus Boosters and private donations (\$75K). Another \$50K still needs to be raised.

Member Helgen suggested that the Town allow Harris Field to be rented out as a way of raising revenue to help cover Harris Field costs. CBC Chair Mahoney agreed.

CBC Chair Mahoney stated that \$2.5M is being spent on pavement and sidewalk

management. She noted that money has been allocated (\$50K) to create a sidewalk priority study. Also, Arlington and Belmont will share a sidewalk sweeper to clean the sidewalks. Belmont's share of that cost is \$26K.

CBC Chair Mahoney then explained the Animal Control van request as well as the Library boiler request. She also explained the Firefighter Turn Out gear request, which does not fully fund the gear, but augments the Fire Department's contribution. The funding for the ambulance replacement was also explained.

Member Helgen added that the Public Safety subcommittee is requesting more detailed analysis of the ambulance situation – the replacement, the staffing, and the funding. Member Gammill asked if the sidewalk priority study would produce information for inclusion in the town's GIS data layers.

She reviewed the Facilities Department requests, including the security upgrades for the town and schools. Next, she reviewed the Pavement Management allocation, Chapter 90, and Water/Sewer allotments.

Member Fallon, the WC's CBC liaison, added that she supports the budget, noting that the requests were all appropriate. She spoke briefly about the DPW situation, noting that the current ventilation situation is unhealthy and it is unlikely that the building will be replaced in the near-term. She also discussed the sidewalk maintenance fund, noting that, going forward, it will be treated as a separate line item (therefore the funding will be safeguarded). Member McLaughlin briefly explained the fire station settlement.

School enrollment was briefly discussed. Enrollment, it was agreed, will be an ongoing challenge. CBC Chair Mahoney noted that more Modular Units may be needed down the road. The WC then discussed with the CBC members the nature of the items that could not be funded this year.

*Member Fallon moved:* Favorable action on Motion A (\$2,631,343).  
The motion passed unanimously.

*Member Fallon moved:* Favorable action Motion B (\$1,601,700 for Pavement Management).  
The motion passed unanimously.

*Member McLaughlin moved:* Favorable action Motion C (\$125,000 for the Press Box).  
The motion passed unanimously.

***Article 13: Authorization for Up-Front Funds for Chapter 90 Highway Improvements***

*Member Gammill moved:* Favorable action Article 13 (Chapter 90).  
The motion passed unanimously.

***Article 9: Enterprise Funds for Water and Sewer and Stormwater Services***

*Member Fallon moved:* Favorable action on Article 9, Motion A.  
\$6,807,918 (Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund).

Mr. Kale explained Article 9. Member Gammill asked about the nature of the expenditure. Selectman Baghdady explained the Board's policy on the setting of the water and sewer rates. He noted that the town has no discretion on the largest component of these fees.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Member Fallon moved:* Favorable action on Article 9, Motion B (\$9,175,087 for Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund).  
The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the Warrant Committee report, Chair Libenson explored a comparison of the FY16 to FY17 Capital Budget expenditures, noting that there is a 7.2% increase. He and CBC Chair Mahoney discussed the turn-backs, the one-time money, and the starting budget allocation of FY16 and 17. Mr. Kale added that there is bonding money (debt costs) within the Capital Budget.

The WC briefly discussed points relating to the CBC section of the WC report.

***Overall Budget ~ Discussion and Vote***

***Article 10: FY17 Budget Appropriation***

Chair Libenson suggested that WC Subcommittee chairs lead the discussion on the Motions A – I, of Article 10. He stated that the WC will vote on Motions A – I tonight.

*Member Schreiber moved:* Favorable action on Section A, General Government.  
The motion passed unanimously.

*Member Mennis moved:* Favorable action on Section B, Pension Benefits.

The WC discussed this motion briefly.

The motion passed unanimously.

The WC discussed Motion C.

*Member Fallon moved:* Favorable action on Section C, Town Retirement Health Insurance (pay-as-you-go), plus several other pieces.  
The motion passed unanimously.

*Member Helgen moved:* Favorable action on Section D, Public Safety.  
The motion passed unanimously.

*Member Gammill moved:* Favorable action on Section E, Public Schools.

Member Gammill provided some background information on the school budget, noting that, while the warrant article is just for the General Funds appropriation to the schools, the complete budget that the school administration uses also includes grants and revolving funds and that the Education subcommittee reviewed the complete school budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Libenson raised a question about the Minuteman appropriation and how it is impacted, given that several member towns have left the district. The WC briefly discussed these issues.

*Member McLaughlin moved:* Favorable action on Section F, Minuteman.  
The motion passed unanimously.

*Member Dash moved:* Favorable action on Section G, Public Services.  
The motion passed unanimously.

*Member McLaughlin moved:* Favorable action on Section H, Human Services.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Libenson explained Section I.

*Member Fallon moved:* Favorable action on Section I, Debt and Interest on Debt.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Libenson noted that the remaining financial articles will be discussed at a future WC meeting.

***Article 12: Authorization to Transfer Balances (\$4.4M)***

Mr. Kale explained Article 12 and answered questions relating to the article.

*Member Dash moved:* Favorable action on Article 12, Sections A – J.  
The motion passed unanimously.

The WC did not vote on the second motion under Article 12.

***Warrant Committee Report ~ Discussion and Vote***

Chair Libenson provided an overview of the WC report. He then requested that Member

Gammill read the appropriate motion concerning the Report.

*Member Gammill moved:* That the Warrant Committee authorize the Chair to deliver its Final Report on the FY17 budget to the Town Clerk. The Final Report should be based on the draft presented to the WC on May 11, 2016, on the discussions at its May 11 meeting, and other edits by the Chair that correct typos and factual errors, enhance clarity or otherwise improve the Final Report.

Chair Libenson reviewed the report, adjusting numbers and requesting additional information in places. The WC then discussed the report, as it stands right now, offering department-by-department adjustments.

Chair Libenson thanked the WC for their work on the report.

The motion passed unanimously.

### ***Updates: Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Minuteman***

**Board of Selectmen:** Selectman Baghdady reported that the BOS have called two Special Town Meetings at the June Town Meeting. One will address interior cell antennae. The second will address the Incinerator Site. Town Meeting will need to accept the state's appraisal. The Incinerator Site will need to be capped and it appears that Belmont will not have to pay additional funds to acquire the site.

**School Committee:** No report.

**Minuteman:** Member McLaughlin reported that all the other towns voted to support the new building. It appears that Dr. Bouquillon will not be recommending a district-wide vote; it is unclear what the Minuteman SC will put forth.

### ***Adjournment***

Member McLaughlin moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Gibalerio  
WC Recording Secretary