

MINUTES
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 18, 2005
SPECIAL SESSION

Call to Order

The Board convened in special session at 2:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

McLean Conservation Restriction Letter

The Board moved: to approve a letter from Senior Planner Tim Higgins to the State's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs relative to future cemetery land transfer at McLean's.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Letter to Editor on Appointing the Town Treasurer

The Board of Selectmen discussed a draft of a letter to the Belmont Citizens Herald's Editor from the Board regarding the April 2005 Town Elections' ballot question on the nature of the Town Treasurer position (appointed versus elected). The Board suggested a few changes which Chairman Solomon will implement in order to finalize the document.

Printing Town Reports

The Board discussed a document from Committees and Commissions Coordinator Sandra Curro relative to the printing of this year's Annual Town Report document.

The Board moved: to approve the printing of 60 copies of the 2004 Annual Town Report for an approximate cost of \$630; and further that the report also be made available on the web site and on CD disks (when requested).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Preparation for Special Town Meeting

The Board moved to: approve the appropriation of an additional \$1.5 million for the new fire stations.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chairman Solomon also reviewed Monday night's schedule (March 21, 2005) and reminded the audience that a budget session will be held immediately after the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7:30pm.

FY 2006 Budget

The Board moved: to approve two positions in the Police Department and one position in the Fire Department which were first brought forward to the Board of Selectmen at their January 10, 2005 meeting.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen recessed for a few minutes then resumed its open session.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the Interim Budget Director's revised "Cuts and Adds" for FY 2006. The Board discussed implementing various cuts and adds to the Capital budget, School budget and Town budget as well as the possibility of an override for this year and the next.

The Board moved: to avoid an override by dividing up the Capital Budget's potential shortfall into two halves, the first one to come out of the Capital Budget and the second one to be evenly split into three tiers to be taken out of the School budget, the Town budget and the Capital budget respectively. The Board also recommended that additional upward revenues be evenly split between the School budget and the Capital budget and that downward revenue will be negotiated.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chairman Solomon debriefed the Board about an email he received from Ellen Cushman O'Brien requesting guidance relative to the legal representation the Town should seek, following Mr. Lee Smith's departure from the Morrissey and Hawkins law firm.

The Board agreed~that Town Counsel Kopelman and Paige~should when all is said and done conduct a final review of this transaction to see if all aspects of the Memorandum of Agreement~and other~deal documents have been fully complied with.~ If Lee Smith is still actively involved with this project, he could finish

execution before K&P's final review. If not, that Kopelman and Paige take over this transaction.

Selectman Brownsberger distributed copies of a first draft debt policy.

Selectman Brownsberger also related a conversation he recently had with Sewer and Stormwater Committee Chair Ralph Jones about sewer projects.

The Board moved: to express its broad support for Mr. Jones' initiative and to authorize Mr. Jones' committee to develop a proposal to bond the Town's current work.

The Board also moved: to authorize Mr. Jones' committee to study the blocking of water rates and sewer rates and requested that Town staff be supportive of this effort.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to direct Public Works Department Director Peter Castanino to take measures to avoid running up a deficit of the Sewer Enterprise Fund; and to keep the Board of Selectmen informed, should this deficit rise.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen also discussed a memorandum from Town Counsel relative to the application of CORI law to youth commissions.

The Board moved: to refer this letter to Human Resources Director and requested that a process be put in place for all appointments to the Recreation Commission and Youth Commission to be in compliance with this new law.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board referred a letter recently submitted by Ms. Carbone of 51 Oxford Avenue, to the attention of the Public Works Director for his recommendation.

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy related to land acquisition; and further that the Board shall not return to open session.

The motion was approved unanimously (3-0). Selectman Firenze recused himself from the executive session.

The Board adjourned its open session at 4:30 pm.

Dr. Paul Solomon, Chairman
Board of Selectmen