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**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
HOMER BUILDING GALLERY
Monday, March 31, 2014
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:04 pm by Chair Paolillo in the Homer Building Gallery. Selectmen Jones and Rojas were present. Town Administrator David Kale and Assistant Town Administrator Marshall were also present.

Chair Paolillo reviewed the evening's agenda.

Chair Paolillo informed the audience that a retired Belmont Fire Fighter, Lt. John C. Madden, Jr. passed away. He held a moment of silence in honor of Lt. Madden's passing.

Chair Paolillo then acknowledged that this is Selectman Jones' last Board meeting. He highlighted Selectman Jones' 20 years of service to Belmont, including six on the Board of Selectmen. Chair Paolillo then unveiled the portrait of Selectmen Jones. Selectman Rojas expressed his appreciation in having learned much from working with Selectman Jones.

The Board thanked Selectman Jones and he, in turn, said that he has and will continue to care deeply about Belmont.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

Mr. Vincent Stanton, a Royal Road resident, said that he has a concern about the Belmont Center reconstruction project, specifically the plans to widen the southern part of Concord Avenue. He said there is another way to achieve more parking places, in his opinion.

Mr. Clancy, Town Engineer, approached the table to address Mr. Stanton's concerns and suggestions. He noted that the original scope of the project included work in the vicinity of the pedestrian underpass, including filling in the area in front of the existing stone wall in order to create green space adjacent to railroad property. However, this proposal has been eliminated from the project due to a lack of funding and the challenges of securing approvals from the MBTA. Mr. Clancy further stated that widening Concord Avenue to gain more on street parking will not impact this area however off street parking along the railroad property as proposed by Mr. Stanton is outside the scope of the Belmont Center project but could possibly be accommodated in the future under a different project.

Ms. Nancy Reppucci, TM member, asked about replacing the seating at the Belmont High School Auditorium, which is in deplorable condition. Mr. Kale said that a plan is being considered to repair some of the seating. He said extensive repairs are not advised, because the ADA requirements will be triggered. This was discussed. Chair Paolillo suggested that perhaps

TM could be held at the Chenery Middle School.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Continuation: Royal Road Petition (National Grid)

Mr. Dennis Regan (and two colleagues: Mr. Thomas Mulkeen and Ms. Susan Scarcella from National Grid) appeared before the Board to request approval on the Royal Road Petition. Mr. Regan explained the details of the petition. The Board discussed the petition. Mr. Clancy approached the table to hear the Board's concerns about the 12-inch gas main line that will be installed.

The Board moved: To approve the request for the 12-inch gas main line for Royal Road (at the Lion's Club).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Armenian Genocide Proclamation

Chair Paolillo read the Proclamation.

Mr. Jirair Hovsepian, Chandler Street, appeared before the Board regarding the Armenian Genocide Proclamation. He read a statement pertaining to the Genocide. He thanked the Human Rights Commission for its support. He then asked those in attendance to stand for a moment of silence in memory of those who perished in this genocide.

Chair Paolillo thanked Mr. Hovsepian.

Think Big Think Belmont: Cushing Square Improvements

Ms. Heather Walsh from Think Big Think Belmont (TBTB), and Mr. Chris Benoit, Spirited Gourmet Owner, appeared before the Board to discuss Cushing Square Improvements. Ms. Walsh said the mission of TBTB is to make Cushing Square a desirable place to shop. She said one area of improvement pertains to lighting (the number of lights as well as the wattage). Mr. Clancy approached the table to partake in the conversation.

Ms. Walsh said that more trees and landscaping would be another area for improvement in Cushing Square. The Board agreed that trees would be helpful. Mr. Clancy said that trees are a part of the Trapelo Road plan. Chair Paolillo suggested that Mr. Clancy attend the next TBTB meeting.

Mr. Benoit then discussed the topic of angled parking. Mr. Clancy said that angled parking can cut into the sidewalk width, and has been dropped from the Belmont Center plan. He added that the Trapelo Road project is a Mass DOT project, as such, it would be difficult to change at this point.

The Board discussed parking options in some detail.

Selectman Rojas noted that TBTB has sponsored some wonderful events in Cushing Square.

Update: Minuteman (Assessment and Agreement)

Mr. Bob McLaughlin (WC member) appeared before the Board to provide a Minuteman regional agreement update. Mr. McLaughlin noted that Belmont's assessment is down slightly because its enrollment is down slightly. Regarding the agreement, he said that the revised version is an improvement over the existing agreement. The revised agreement offers a slight improvement for Belmont.

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the highlights of the changes.

- Capital Cost Apportionment based on a three-part formula consisting of 1% assessment to each member community, 50% of capital cost based on average four-year enrollment, and 34% of capital cost based on combined property value and household income of the member community. (Instead of based on the percentage of the prior year enrollment.)
- Operating Cost Apportionment based on the percentage of average four-year enrollment. (Instead of prior year enrollment.)
- Debt Issuance: unanimous consent from all 16-member towns is still required. If a town votes against a project, a withdrawal mechanism kicks in.
- Withdrawing from the District requires two-thirds vote by Town Meeting for the Town proposing to withdraw and a majority of Other Member Towns.
- Capital Cost Obligations for New Members to the District have a potential for four-year phase-in of capital cost allocation.

Regarding the proposed new facility, Mr. McLaughlin stated that enrollment for district and non-district communities (which impact the size of the proposed school) is still a major issue. The Board reviewed the fees, enrollment numbers, and the debt impact for Belmont.

Chair Paolillo noted that the proposed enrollment number is much higher than the current enrollment warrants.

The Board discussed next steps with Mr. McLaughlin.

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 8:35 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and if the Chair so declares. The Board will return to open session. A roll call vote was taken: Chair Paolillo said aye, Selectman Jones and Rojas also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Return to Open Session:

The Board moved: To exit Executive Session and return to Open Session at 8:57 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: Chair Paolillo said aye, Selectman Jones and Rojas also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Paolillo noted that a Pay Study had not been done in 11 years.

The Board moved: To accept and approve the Pay Study Plan, as presented.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Special Employee Approval

Mr. Kale informed the Board that Mr. Robert MacGaw holds two positions: By-law Review Committee and Election Registrar which prevents him from being sworn in as a member of the By-law Review Committee unless members of the By-law Review Committee are designated as Special Employees. In the past, the Town has designated committees and its members as special employees.

The Board moved: That pursuant to Chapter 268A, Section 1 (n), the Board of Selectmen hereby classifies members of the By-Law Review Committee as Special Municipal Employees.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Harris Field Construction Contract Award

Mr. Kale informed the Board that TM approved the Harris Field construction project and that three bids were received. He reviewed the repairs that are involved. Mr. Kale agreed with Mr. Castanino that the Board accept the bid and the contract.

The Board moved: That the contract for replacing the synthetic turf multi-purpose athletic field, track and related work at the Harris Field Complex, including the five alternates, be awarded to Quirk Construction of Georgetown, Massachusetts as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, based on its bid price of \$815,300, and that the Town Administrator, David Kale, be and hereby is authorized to execute the contract for said work on behalf of the Town of Belmont, subject the approval of said contract as to form by town counsel.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- Mr. Kale discussed formalizing the Board's current practice as a policy with regard to soliciting feedback and information from various Committees, Boards, and Commissions when it is considering the substantial renovation or demolition of a municipal building.

The Board moved: That the Board of Selectman formalize its practice into a policy so as to solicit feedback and information in the formal decision-making process from various applicable Town Committees, Boards, and Commissions (i.e., Historic District Commission, Planning Board, Capital Budget Committee,

Recreation Commission) when it is considering the substantial renovation or demolition of a municipal building. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that various stakeholders have the opportunity to provide timely information to the BOS in order to facilitate an effective and efficient decision-making process regarding the disposition of municipal buildings.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

- The Waverley Square Parking Lot will need to be shut down during April for about 6 weeks, resulting from the Trapelo Road reconstruction work. The residents in the neighborhood will be notified that cars may be parking on the side streets. The Board of Selectmen discussed the impact on the neighborhood and the need to keep residents informed. Also, the Police will need to monitor the situation to mitigate as many parking problems as possible.
- The Board of Selectmen is scheduled to vote the warrant at its April 7, 2014 meeting and on April 22, the Board will vote on specific Warrant Articles.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2014

The Board moved: To approve the meeting minutes of 3/10/14.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

March 10, 2014: Executive Session

The Board moved: To approve the Executive Session of 3/10/14.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

March 17, 2014

The Board moved: To approve the meeting minutes of 3/17/14.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. (Joint with Warrant Committee)

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 7:00 at the Beech Street Center (Precinct Meeting)

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm.



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator