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**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
Monday, March 5, 2012
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 Jones in the Chenery Middle School's Community Room. Selectmen Firenze and Paolillo were present. Interim Town Administrator Kellie Hebert was present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

Chair Jones invited Mr. Muzzioli to the table to present his plan for the former Brigham's site.

Mr. Muzzioli introduced his plan for a new establishment, "Moozy's", at the old "Brigham's" site: 2 Trapelo Road. He said he intends to make some improvements to both the inside and the outside of the establishment. He said there is space out back for public parking.

Mr. Clancy, from the audience, said that parking changes will need to be run by the neighboring abutters. The Board clarified that Mr. Muzzioli has their permission to move forward on cleaning up the lawn area, but the parking scenario will need more investigation.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Vote to Refinance General Obligation Bonds

Treasurer Carman appeared before the Board to discuss the refinancing of the town's general obligation bonds. He explained that by combining the debt of the Town Hall Complex and the Fire Station Project and refinancing the debt, this could save about \$1.4M over the remaining 20 years of the bonds. The savings comes from the fact that interest rates are lower now than when this debt was bonded. Refinancing will lower the overall debt service and save the taxpayers money.

The Board moved: That in order to save interest costs, the Treasurer is authorized to provide for the sale and insurance of bonds under G.L. c. 44, Section 21A, to refund all or any portion of the remaining principal of and redemption premium and interest on the Town's General Obligation Bonds dated August 15, 2002 and June 15, 2004; and that for this purpose the Treasurer is authorized to provide for the preparation and distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement; provided, however, that no bonds shall be issued under this vote unless and until the final interest rates and other terms of the refunding bonds are approved by the Board.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Vote on Contract for Purchase of New Ambulance

Chief Frizzell appeared before the Board to discuss the contract for the purchase of a new ambulance. He noted that the town is presently leasing the ambulance and as well as some other equipment. There were six interested bidders, but only one bidder (from North Attleboro) has submitted an official bid spec. He reviewed the finances of the ambulance, including the trade-in value of an older ambulance. He said that it is important to have a bidder who can maintain the ambulance, in the event that it requires repair.

The Board reviewed the bid process as well as the contract. The Board expressed discomfort with the fact that there was only one bidder – and that particular bidder had helped develop the spec. Chief Frizzell said he is not sure why the other five bidders did not respond, but he presumes distance away from Belmont and the maintenance warranty played a role.

Selectman Paolillo asked how the town could confirm that this bid price is market value, given that there is no competitive bid to compare it to. Chief Frizzell explained that this process was not amenable to negotiation. If rejected, the bid process would need to begin all over again, under the restrictions of 30 B.

The Board discussed this. Selectman Paolillo said that he'd prefer to wait on this until more comparative data is available. He said he is just not comfortable approving this without anything to compare the bid to.

Chief Frizzell said he will gather the comparative data on ambulance prices from like communities and will meet again with the Board on March 19th.

Former Incinerator Landfill Site, 1130 Concord Avenue

Mr. Castanino, DPW Director, Mr. Clancy, Town Engineer, and Mr. Bruce Haskell, from CDM Smith, appeared before the Board to discuss the former incinerator site. Chair Jones said he would like to discuss the post-closure uses for the former incinerator. Mr. Haskell said he is looking at the requirements of the closure, which will inform the future uses. He said they are exploring capping the landfill site, noting that much of this land is considered wetlands. Capping, he continued, will allow for setting aside some land for the DPW. The concept of open space (passive recreation) is also being explored. He noted that solar panels and the development of a rectangular building is being explored, as well. Mr. Haskell said there is a wide range of costs depending on which direction the town would like to move in.

The Board discussed the topics raised by Mr. Haskell in the memo. Selectman Firenze said there are a lot of people who would like to see this land stay open space. He asked: how do we make appropriate decisions to determine what would be best for this area, especially given that the ownership issues of this site are not settled? Mr. Castanino recommended that the various options will need to be explored. Mr. Clancy said that the town is trying to reengage the state on the topic of ownership.

Chair Jones said the state would like Belmont to be responsible for the clean up of the area. Mr.

Clancy said that using some of the land for public works would be valuable for that department and beneficial to the town.

Chair Jones asked about the iron staining in the area. Mr. Haskell explained that this is a common problem with incinerators of this age and that the state is asking for Belmont to clean this area (and pay for it), but that this issue is under appeal. Mr. Clancy stressed that this process has been going on for a long time and it will be important to know the next steps, once the issues are resolved.

The Board agreed that forming a committee (to explore how to best use this site) would not be necessary and that they could make a recommendation based on the possibilities outlined in the memo. The Board agreed that they are in favor of keeping the site available to Belmont.

Mr. Haskell said the next steps include presenting the options to the DEP. Mr. Clancy said that TM will need to approve a request for money to pay for the cost of "corrective action design." Selectman Paolillo suggested that all of the options (laid out in the memo) be outlined for TM.

Approval of the Design Contract for Reconstruction of the Center

Town Engineer Clancy remained before the Board to request approval of the design contract for the reconstruction of Belmont Center. Mr. Clancy said that the community needs to be reacquainted with the proposed plan for the Center. He said this plan eliminates six spaces in front of the parking garage (to create more open space) but that the overall number of spaces will be increased at the Center. The plan is for Concord Avenue to be widened and re-graded. The focus, he said, is to make Belmont Center more pedestrian- and family-friendly.

The next step, offered Mr. Clancy, is to design the project. The cost for the design work is \$176.5K and \$18K for the survey. The project is estimated to cost about \$1.2M – which is roughly 10% of the design quote.

Regarding traffic flow, Mr. Clancy said that the current traffic flow is the one that makes the most sense. He noted that, outside peak hours, the Center is quaint and this design seeks to highlight that aspect of the Center.

The Board then discussed the curb extensions and the accentuated crosswalks.

Mr. Clancy said he will be applying for grant money from the state to support the design. At that time, he will plan for some public presentations.

The Board moved: To approve the contract for design services with the BSC Group to design Belmont Center.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board signed the papers.

Bike Path Planning Committee Charge

Selectman Paolillo informed Chair Jones that last week the Board decided that it needed to discuss and vote on the charge to the committee. Following this, the members will be appointed, on March 19th.

Ms. Hebert offered some recommendations to the Board on the charge. She noted that a bike path could tie in with the proposed improvements to Belmont Center. Ms. Hebert first suggested that the bike path should focus on a wider group of people: walkers and roller-bladders, for example. She said there is the possibility that this bike path will bring more people into the Center.

She suggested a name for the group, "Community Path Advisory Committee" and offered that the committee should be both advisory and temporary in nature.

The committee's scope could be focused on the following three areas:

1. To gather together the pertinent information that is already in existence and compiled
2. To identify the key issues and the key stakeholders
3. To offer recommendations for next steps in the form of a written report to the Board

Ms. Hebert recommended appointing between seven and nine members to be on this committee. She said the committee could represent several various perspectives, including: bikers, walkers, a business owner, an abutter, and an environmentalist.

The Board discussed Ms. Hebert's recommendation. Chair Jones said that a lot of the background information has been gathered and that the core issues concern the Channing Road residents, most of whom do not want a bike path or anyone passing by their homes. He said a forum to solve these issues is needed to bring these parties together. Selectman Firenze said that the bike path needs to extend to Waltham but that a solution will need to be identified that works for the abutters. He added, though, that this is not a "Channing Road only" issue.

The Board discussed the issues relating to establishing this committee.

The Board moved: To form the Bike Path Committee and to use the charge to the committee as outlined by Ms. Hebert (see the three points above) at this evening's meeting.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board will make appointment recommendations to the committee on March 19th.

The Board then discussed the general principles regarding service on committees.

One-Day Liquor Licenses

Chair Jones noted that the Board is no longer requiring that a representative be present at a

meeting in order to request a One-Day Liquor License.

Wine and Malt

Freed Family Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, March 24, 2012, 6:30-10:30pm

Beech Street Center, 266 Beech Street

The Board moved: To approve the one-day liquor license request for the Freed family event as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

All Alcohol

Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) Annual Spring Dinner, cash bar

Saturday, March 17, 2012, 6:00-11:00pm

Belmont Hill School, Jordan Athletic Center, 350 Prospect Street

The Board moved: To approve the one-day all alcohol license for the FBE event as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Wine and Malt

Waldorf School, Fundraiser

Saturday, March 24, 2012, 6-10:30pm

160 Lexington Street

The Board moved: To approve the one-day liquor license request for the Waldorf School event as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Hebert reported on the following items:

- She noted that a more detailed update is forthcoming next week based on her meetings with Department Heads.
- Chair Jones noted that the WC Chair has identified a \$200K gap on the school side that will require resolution. He said that he will review the budget with SC Chair Graham as well as with SC member Laurie Slap. He said the revenue number will be explored more fully, including an analysis of the health care fund. He added that the lack of snow may result in money from the snow removal fund that could be used to close the gap. The Board discussed the considerations for closing this gap as well as the supplemental budget requests made by the Department Heads. The Board may hold a separate meeting (a work session) to discuss the supplemental requests.
- Ms. Hebert noted that the Minuteman assessment will need to be discussed in the very near future. Selectman Paolillo gave an update on the proposed new facility and the 2013 assessment. The Board discussed the issues relating to Minuteman.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of Minutes: 2/6/12, 2/8/12, 2/11/12, 2/27/12

The Board moved: To approve the minutes of the Board meetings noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Brendan Grant 5K Run Planned for Sunday, June 17th

The Board moved: To approve the Brendan Grant 5K run planned for Sunday, June 17.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

OTHER

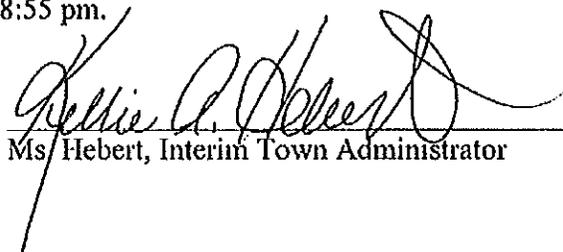
Chair Jones Other:

- He noted that the joint meeting with the School Committee set for March 15 will need to be rescheduled. Chair Jones will talk with SC Chair Graham.

Selectman Firenze Other:

- He would like to discuss the "paper street" issue when the Board meets on the 19th.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm.


Ms/Hebert, Interim Town Administrator