

BELMONT WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FINAL
APRIL 10, 2013, 7:30 P.M.
CHENERY COMMUNITY ROOM

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Present: Chair Lynch; Members Baghdady, Bruschi (arrived at 8:11), Dash, Epstein, Gammill, Grob, Helgen, Libenson, Manjikian, McLaughlin, Millane, Sarno; BOS Chair Paolillo; School Committee Representative Slap

Members Absent: Allison

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Chair Lynch.

Chair Lynch began by reviewing the agenda. He noted that the WC previously decided which articles it would weigh in on.

Warrant Articles Review

Article 27: Oakley Development (Easement) – Chair Lynch informed the WC that the maintenance cost (DPW) will be \$500.00 per year.

*Member Grob moved: To support Article 27.
The motion passed unanimously.*

Article 28: Underwood Pool and Playground Building – Mr. Kale said that there is a CPA recommendation for design and development for the Underwood Park area, with funding for up to \$385K. BOS Chair Paolillo noted that the option 1 was supported by the Board and involved rebuilding the pool in its current location. He explained that Options 2 and 3 were not viable, as they reduced the size of the pool significantly. Chair Paolillo then outlined possible funding mechanisms for the new pool.

Article 29: Appropriation for Underwood Pool and Playground – This article serves as a placeholder and will only be considered if the CPA Article is not approved by TM.

Article 14: Restaurant Wine and Malt Licenses – Mr. Kale explained that this article would increase the beer and wine licenses by eight. This would generate additional revenue, as there is a fee associated with obtaining a license. The establishment seating requirements were discussed.

*Member Libenson moved: To support Article 14.
The motion passed unanimously.*

Article 15: Retail Liquor Licenses – Mr. Kale said that this would add three extra licenses and would also generate revenue and enhance economic development.

*Member Epstein moved: To support Article 15.
The motion passed unanimously.*

Article 18: Residential Snow Removal – Mr. Kale explained that this article proposes that sidewalks get cleared following a snow event. He provided the specifics of the article. The WC discussed this article, noting concerns with regard to enforcement, use of employee time, expense to the town, exemptions, and penalty fines. Mr. Clancy said that it will not result in overtime expense.

Member Grob moved: To support Article 18.

The WC discussion continued.

The motion did not pass with 7 in favor and 8 opposed.

Article 23: Stormwater Management – Mr. Clancy explained this by-law and the details of stormwater management, treatment, threshold amounts, and cost to developers.

Member Grob moved: To support Article 23.

The Article was tabled.

Article 24: Stormwater Management Enterprise Fund – Mr. Kale explained that this article provides the mechanism to handle the costs and the revenues for stormwater management.

Article 26: Community Preservation Act (CPA) Budget and Projects

CPA committee members Dr. Paul Solomon and Mr. Floyd Carman, joined the WC table to discuss the CPA's list of recommended projects.

Chair Lynch noted that, if a project would have an immediate or future impact on the operating budget, the WC will weigh in on the project. Chair Lynch indicated that the projects would only be discussed this evening and that WC votes would be taken at the next meeting.

Regarding the selection process used by the CPA, Mr. Carman noted that the projects were evaluated on a "stand alone" basis. He then explained the funding that is accruing in the CPA "bucket." The 9 projects in this article total \$959K. The WC asked questions of Mr. Carman and Dr. Solomon, e.g., the CPA's ability to support (or not support) larger bonding, the impact of a debt exclusion passing or failing, debt service, who controls the oversight of the CPA funding, and the reversion of CPA approved funds not spent.

The individual proposed projects were then discussed.

CPA #2 – Underwood Park and Pool [up to \$385K]

CPA #4 – Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey of Belmont [\$115K] – Member Dash asked how this project was related to the Demolition Delay article. This was briefly discussed.

Dr. Solomon said that he does not see a great deal of increased operating costs from this list of nine projects. Mr. Carman agreed, saying that the impact to the operating budget should be less, at least initially.

CPA #1 – (Town Hall) Concord Avenue Door Remediation [\$72K] – Mr. Carman said this price is high as a result of the HDC input on door design. He said the doors should help with the heating bills.

CPA #8 – Joey’s Park Rehabilitation [up to \$100K] – Chair Lynch said that the funding sources, when considered together, are in excess of the total cost of the project. Member Bruschi noted that the care of the wood is a potential added cost. Mr. Carman explained that the funding would be allocated after the bid process is complete.

CPA #6 – Landscape Plan for Intergenerational Walking Path at Clay Pit Pond [\$20K] – Member Helgen asked about the cost of the final project.

CPA #5 – Electric Service Upgrade - Underground Wiring (Affordable Housing) [\$147K] – Member Manjikian asked why the Light Department would not fund this project. Mr. Carman explained that money to support this has dried up. He added that there are fire-hazard considerations as well.

CPA #9 – Preserving and Digitizing Belmont’s Vital Records [up to \$100K] – Member Helgen asked if this was going to be an ongoing set of projects. Dr. Solomon said that the present projects are evaluated somewhat in isolation from potential future requests.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of 3/13/13 and 3/27/13 were distributed and will be voted on when the WC meets again on April 24, 2013. Chair Lynch asked that any revisions be sent to him before the next meeting.

Minuteman Update

Member McLaughlin noted that, while Belmont supports technical education, the present model is broken. Carlisle, he said, shares Belmont’s concerns regarding the proposed new building size. He said that Belmont has been requested to withdraw its objection as it could impact Minuteman’s bonding ability. He said he sits on a committee that is looking to attract new member towns to join the district, and to maintain the present member towns. He explained the details of what is being proposed, e.g., an associate membership.

He added that, unfortunately, he expects nothing positive to come out of these meetings. He said he is looking for a new district agreement that is fair to the member towns. He added that Belmont may not want to continue with its membership.

Chair Lynch said these are policy issues that will not be decided at the WC table. BOS Chair Paolillo spoke to the complexity of the Minuteman issue.

Subcommittee Reports

This agenda item was tabled.

Updates: Board of Selectman, School Committee, Planning Board

Board of Selectmen: Chair Paolillo said that the second Precinct meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11th. He said the response was favorable to the meeting held on Monday evening, with 60-70 people attending.

School Committee: SC Rep Slap informed the WC that SC Chair Graham was elected to remain as SC Chair for another year. She stated that the Board of Selectmen approved the School Department's submission of its Statement of Interest (SOI) on Belmont High School to the MSBA.

Planning Board: Member Baghdady noted that the PB has closed its public hearings on two of its articles: Medical Marijuana Moratorium and Religious and Historical Building Preservation. The PB approved both of these zoning articles.

Public Contributions

There were none.

Adjournment

Member McLaughlin moved to adjourn at 9:44 pm.

Submitted by Lisa Gibalerio
WC Recording Secretary