

**MINUTES**  
**Page 1 of 5**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**APRIL 11, 2005**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

**Call to Order**

The Board convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room of Town Hall. All members were present.

**Questions from Town Residents**

There were none.

**Action by Appointment**

The Board moved: to sign both the Annual Town Meeting warrant and the Special Town Meeting warrant.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Discussion of Sewer Enterprise Fund*

Sewer / Stormwater Committee Chair Ralph Jones and member Bill Pisano met before the Board of Selectmen to request its support for Article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting warrant, which consists of appropriating a sum of money to authorize a bond under Chapter 44, Section 7 for the construction or reconstruction of surface drains and sewers, and/or the acquisition of a GIS supported mapping and model application.

The Board moved: to approve Article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Selectman Brownsberger also summarized the latest efforts of the Arlington Belmont Cambridge Tri-Community Group.

*Recommendation for Liquor License Application – Stone Hearth Pizza*

Stone Hearth Pizza Manager Christopher Robbins appeared before the Board to request approval of his new wine and beer license application for his new business located at 57 Leonard Street. Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee Chair Eric Smith and member Maryann Scali also appeared before the Board.

Maryann Scali expressed her concern over the handicap accessibility of the new restaurant.

The Board moved: to approve the new wine and beer license for Stone Hearth Pizza, located at 57 Leonard Street.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Discussion of Trapelo Rd/Belmont St Corridor Project*

Planning Board member Andy McClurg and Senior Planner Tim Higgins appeared before the Board along with various Traffic Advisory Committee members to discuss the Planning Standards set of guidelines for the Belmont Street / Trapelo Road Corridor project.

Tim Higgins announced that the Request for Qualifications document for the Trapelo Road / Belmont Street reconstruction project has closed and that seven proposals were submitted, some of them coming from very large firms. Mr. Higgins also told the Board that bids on the Waverley Square Fire Station Request for Proposals would close on May 3, 2005.

The Board thanked Andy McClurg for his hard work and insightful document.

The Board expressed its concern with the number of 3- to 4-lane recommendation for the reconstruction of the roadways.

TAC member Mary Jo Frisoli stressed that these Planning Standards would be used by the Traffic Advisory Committee as recommendations, and not as a guideline. She also stated that recommendations on the number of lanes in this area would not be made until full traffic study analysis has been performed and analyzed by the TAC.

Gus Bailey, a Town Councilor in Watertown, appeared before the Board to express his strong support to implement bicycle paths throughout the corridor, which he said would not only benefit bicyclists but also would increase safety for pedestrians and parking vehicles.

State Representative Anne Paulsen appeared before the Board of Selectmen to support reducing the number of lanes in the area, which she said will benefit local businesses instead of hurting them.

The Board moved: to endorse the Planning Standards document as a framework for the Corridor development project without endorsing the specific lane recommendations included in the document; and to refer this document to the Traffic Advisory Committee with the statement that it is not

binding to TAC; and that TAC continue to focus on pedestrian safety and on narrowing the roadway.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

In a separate discussion, the Board of Selectmen announced its annual reorganization, with Dr. Solomon remaining as Chair and Selectman Firenze becoming Vice-Chair, at the suggestion of Selectman Brownsberger.

*Board of Library Trustees re: Warrant Article*

Board of Library Trustees Chair Jil Westcott appeared before the Board to request the Selectmen's approval for the concept of the preliminary design of a new main library, and to authorize the Board of Library Trustees to apply for and accept any federal and/or state grants that may be available for the Belmont Public Library building project.

The Board moved: to endorse Article 20 of the Annual Town Meeting warrant with the understanding that the Selectmen's endorsement does not change the position of the library in the queue of capital projects, and that the library project is likely to begin no sooner than ten years from now.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Discussion of New Town Administrator Transition*

The Board of Selectmen scheduled a Goals and Objectives session with new Town Administrator Tom Younger on May 13 from 8:00 until 11:00am.

Mr. Younger stated that as new Town Administrator, his primary goal will be to focus on communication with department heads, communication with the Board of Selectmen, and the upcoming Town Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen invited the general public and all Town employees to a reception on Wednesday morning, April 13, 2005 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of Town Hall between 9:00AM and 10:30AM to welcome Mr. Younger in his new role.

*Town Accountant re: Post Employment Group Insurance Liability Fund Bylaw*

Town Accountant Barbara Hagg appeared before the Board to request the Selectmen's support for Article 21 of the Annual Town Meeting warrant to develop a group insurance liability fund.

Ms. Hagg had prepared the Warrant article (seeking Town Meeting's approval of a home rule petition) in response to legislation which requires that by FY08 municipalities quantify their liability for post-employment insurance benefits and create a fund to meet that liability.~ This involves the allocation of a significant amount of money.~ Municipalities across the Commonwealth will, like Belmont, be challenged to fund this liability.~ The Selectmen believe that it is premature to bring this article to Town Meeting because they expect there to be action at the state level which will affect this requirement.

The Board moved: to dismiss Article 21 from the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Ms. Hagg also discussed with the Board of Selectmen the Town's need for a new financial software package to replace the existing S&S software used across all Town departments.

The Board of Selectmen expressed its overall support for a new software system.

The Board of Selectmen discussed creating a new advisory group which would work in conjunction with a consultant to draft a Request for Proposals document to purchase this new system.

The Board of Selectmen agreed that the Town Administrator will take the lead to put such group together.

#### *Discussion of FY06 Budget*

The Board quickly discussed the outcome of its joined session with the Warrant Committee meeting of Wednesday, April 6.

#### **Action by Writing**

#### *Memorandum from Community Development Director re: Colby Street / Blanchard Road Intersection Improvements*

The Board moved: to approve the Community Development Director's recommendation to approve the Traffic Advisory Committee's proposed design for new pedestrian crosswalks and ramps at the Colby St/Blanchard Road intersection, as outlined in its memorandum dated February 6, 2005.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### **Other**

The Board moved: to approve the Belmont Gay and Straight Alliance Committee's request to use the green area on Concord Avenue next to the First Church of Belmont to hold an Ice Cream Social event on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a request from Cable Television Advisory Committee Chair Greg Poulos relative to a new appointment to the Community Media Center's Board of Directors.

The Board moved: to appoint Jonathon Green to the Community Media Center Board of Directors.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and land acquisition; and further that the Board will not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen adjourned its open session at 10:30pm.

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Thomas G. Younger  
Town Administrator