

MINUTES
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 21, 2005
SPECIAL SESSION

Call to Order

The Board convened in special session at 6:00 p.m. in the McPherson Meeting Room at the Belmont Hill School. All members were present.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

The Board moved: to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and potential acquisition of real property; and further that the Board of Selectmen will return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

The Board returned to open session at 6:45 p.m.

Chairman Solomon brought to the Board the Warrant Committee's request to consider putting a \$2 Million capital stabilization fund override on the ballot for FY06. By a vote of 9 to 5, the Warrant Committee supports such an override. The Board of Selectmen reaffirmed its lack of support for an override.

The Board moved: to not put an override question on the ballot for FY06.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

Selectman Brownsberger conveyed to the Board the Moderator's request that the June Special Town Meeting be put off for a week. Mr. Hall is returning from a two-week vacation on June 2 or 3 and would like more lead time to prepare for the June meeting.

The Board moved: to reschedule the June Special Town Meeting on Monday, June 13 (and Wednesday, June 15, if a second night is necessary).

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

The Board discussed scheduling another series of Selectmen's office hours. The Selectmen agreed to pare the time back to an hour from two hours based on their collective experience that one hour was sufficient for the number of citizens who

typically take advantage of this opportunity. At Selectmen Firenze's suggestion, the Board scheduled office hours until the beginning of summer. The Board will revisit the question of whether to continue offering office hours at that time.

Office hours now will be held **from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** The following schedule was agreed to:

May 9	Selectman Firenze
May 16	Selectman Brownsberger
May 23	Selectman Solomon
June 6	Selectman Firenze
June 20	Selectman Brownsberger

The Board moved: to approve all the minutes from its meetings on February 14, February 28 and March 7, 2005.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

The Selectmen discussed a request from Police Chief O'Malley to post a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign twenty feet (20') east of Belmont Street and Park Road. A resident of Belmont Street whose house is located at the corner of Park Road had brought to the Selectmen's attention a problem with sight lines for cars and trucks turning onto Belmont Street at Park Road.

The Board moved: to authorize Police Chief O'Malley to post a "No Parking Here to Corner" traffic sign, as requested in his memorandum of April 7, 2005 to the Selectmen.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

The Board discussed honoring at the 2005 Annual Town three long-time, Town-wide elected officials, Mary Harrington, Jack Donahue and Ray Shea. The Board also discussed a request from Superintendent of Schools Peter Holland to honor two students at Belmont High School for their athletic accomplishments and two music performance groups at Annual Town Meeting.

The Board agreed that requests to use Town buildings and property will be handed over to Town Administrator Thomas Younger.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the issue of the Telecommunications Tower.

The Board moved: to direct Town Administrator Tom Younger to write a letter to the state on the issue of the Telecommunications Tower.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

The Selectmen discussed some concerns expressed by Town Moderator Henry Hall over the Board's decision to print a limited number of Town Reports, post them on the Town's website and make CD's of the Town report available to whomever requests one. Hard copies are also available for review in the Town Library and the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Hall is uncomfortable with not providing hard copies for each Town Meeting Member as has been done in the past. The Board concluded that it would provide a hard copy to anyone who requests it, but that it would follow recently adopted policy unless and until Mr. Younger determined in consultation with Mr. Hall and Town Counsel that there is a legal requirement to do otherwise.

The Board moved: to instruct Town Administrator Younger to take up with both the Town Moderator and Town Counsel the legal requirements relating to reproduction and distribution of the Town's Annual Report and report back to the Board.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

Selectmen Firenze reported that Belmont had received a "Tree City USA" award for the 20th consecutive year.

The Selectmen next discussed Articles 9, 13, 18, 19, 23 and 24 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Article 9 is the Classification and Compensation Plan which, if amended since last approved by Town Meeting, must be approved again, although the vote may be taken at either an Annual or a Special Town Meeting. Article 13 authorizes and funds revolving accounts. The Board discussed the Belmont Gallery of Art's request to create a \$50,000 revolving account for its gallery operations. The Board of Selectmen agreed to hand over the negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Cultural Council to Mr. Younger and Acting Assistant Town Administrator Rebecca Vose.

The Board moved: to authorize the Town Administrator and Acting Assistant Town Administrator to negotiate and finalize the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Belmont Gallery of Art with the appropriate parties.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

Chairman Solomon explained that he favored dismissing both Articles 18 and 19 and taking them up at the June Special Town Meeting. Article 19 is the Citizens Petition which cannot be legally acted upon at Town Meeting because the Planning Board did not have adequate time to hold the required public hearing. Article 18 which is related in substance to Article 19 was written and supported by the Planning Board. Mr. Firenze disagreed with Dr. Solomon's proposal to treat the two articles together and dismiss both. Rather he proposed that Article 18 go forward at the Annual Town Meeting and that the Board refer Article 19 to the

Planning Board and Town Counsel and be included on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Firenze felt that the two articles were not mutually exclusive, nor interdependent. Each should stand on its own and be considered separately by Town Meeting.

The Board moved: to approve Article 18 as written and to dismiss Article 19, and refer the latter to Town Counsel for advice as to proper wording and form and to the Planning Board for its consideration at the required public hearing.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

The Board discussed Article 23 which proposes to reduce the amount of tax liability from \$500 to \$750 for voluntary services for residents participating in the Town's Voluntary Services program. Robert Reardon, until recently the Assessing Administrator for Belmont, had asked that this article be on the Warrant. The state law says that the money for this program must come from the Overlay Account, and cannot be an expenditure from any other town funding source.

Article 24, the proposed Solicitation By-law, was discussed by Mr. Brownsberger. He briefed the rest of the Board on his conversations with Police Lt. Peter Hoerr about his proposed amendments to the by-law. Lt. Hoerr has agreed to many but not all of Mr. Brownsberger's suggested changes. The Town Moderator would like to take up the amendments *in seriatim* rather than together. The Board agreed to support the by-law with Mr. Brownsberger's amendments.

The Board moved: to support Article 24, the Solicitation By-law, with the changes proposed by Mr. Brownsberger and agreed to by Police Lt. Hoerr, in consultation with Town Counsel.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

The Board then took up assigning readers to the motions under each warrant article.

The Board moved: to delegate the task of assigning readers of Warrant motions from the list of first-time elected Town Meeting members to Chairman Solomon.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

The Board moved: to adjourn its session at 7:30 p.m. in order to attend the League of Women Voters Warrant Discussion in the Wadsworth Room of the Belmont Hill School.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

The Board adjourned its open session at 7:30 pm.

Thomas G. Younger
Town Administrator