

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
HOMER BUILDING GALLERY
Monday, April 6, 2009
7:00 PM**

Belmont Municipal Light Department (BMLD) Board Meeting

A BMLD Board meeting was called to order at 6:55 by Acting Chair Leclerc in the Gallery of the Homer Building. Selectmen Jones was present, Chair Firenze was not present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

Mr. Tim Richardson, BMLD Manager, appeared before the Board to request permission to pursue damages against Maine Drilling and Blasting Co. for \$133K in underground damage to a pre-cast concrete manhole on January 23, 2008.

The Board moved: To accept the recommendation of the BMLD Manager to pursue damages in the amount of \$133K from Maine Drilling and Blasting Co. The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

The Light Board meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order in Regular Session at 6:59 PM by Acting Chair Leclerc in the Gallery of the Homer Building. Selectmen Jones was present, Chair Firenze was not present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

Police Chief McLaughlin appeared before the Board to request to move forward with the promotional civil-service exam cycle. The new cycle begins now and will be held every two years.

The Board moved: To go forward with the appropriate civil service exam cycle. The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

VFW Fundraising

The VFW appeared before the Board to request permission to sell flowers, with the proceeds going to benefit the VFW.

The Board moved: To accept the VFW request to be allowed to sell poppies in the community as a fundraiser. The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Senior Center Bond Document

Treasurer Carman appeared before the Board to request approval of the sale of the bond offering, and to request signatures on the new Senior Center bond agreement.

The Board moved: To approve the sale of the \$3,910,000 bond offering.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Selectmen Jones and Leclerc signed the bonds.

Service Level Agreement – Network Services

School IT Director Steve Mazzola and Town IT Director Dave Petto appeared before the Board to present an IT Service Level Agreement update. The Light Board had initially requested their own separate network, but during the discussions Manager Richardson met with Mr. Mazzola and Mr. Petto met and they decided that the network did not need to be split up, but that a new Service Level Agreement would address the needs of Town, schools, and Light Department. The Service Level Agreement defines the network structure, consolidates operations, defines roles and responsibilities, standardizes levels of service, and will reduce costs (e.g. inventory, training, etc.)

Selectman Leclerc asked about the process of prioritizing the work for the town and schools. The town priorities will go through Mr. Petto, while the school will go through Mr. Mazzola. The service agreement defines specific roles and responsibilities and these were not clearly defined before.

The Board moved: To accept the Service Level Agreement as presented by Mr. Petto and Mr. Mazzola.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

Mr. Bill Hofmann requested that the Board withdraw the Warrant Article pertaining to the annual town election being held on Saturday. Mr. Hofmann noted that the Board of Registrars has not had time to consider all the issues, as they weren't notified. Selectman Jones said that the Article could be dismissed at Town Meeting.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (continued)

One Day Liquor License – Belmont Hill School

Representatives from the Belmont Hill School appeared before the Board to request One Day Liquor licenses for the following four dates: May 15 and 16, November 5, and

December 10. Selectman Leclerc mentioned the issue of PILOT payments, but asked that in Chair Firenze's absence the PILOT discussion be tabled.

The Board moved: To accept the one-day liquor license requests for the following four dates: May 15 and 16, November 5, and December 10, 2009. The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Chair Firenze arrived at the Board meeting at 7:37.

Chair Firenze noted that yet another piece of property had been purchased by the Belmont Hill School thus taking additional money off the tax rolls. The Belmont Hill School representatives said that the plan is to use that property as a private residence for at least the next 5 years. Chair Firenze noted that eventually the town would lose tax revenue from that property. The Belmont Hill School receives many services from the town. Chair Firenze requested to schedule a meeting to further discuss PILOT payments. The Board has created a non-binding resolution which will be offered at Town Meeting regarding this issue. The Board would like to get TM's sense on this issue.

Belmont Lacrosse Track Light Donation

Mr. Geof Tillotson and Mr. Paul Vogan, from Belmont Youth Lacrosse, appeared before the Board regarding a donation to cover the costs track lighting. Chair Firenze noted that The Lions Club had previously donated \$2,000, and that Belmont Youth Lacrosse has now donated an additional \$2,000 to cover track lights. The Board thanked Belmont Youth Lacrosse for their generous donation.

The Board moved: To accept the donation of \$2,000 from the Belmont Youth Lacrosse. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

24 Kenmore Road Proposed Conservation Restriction (CR)

Ms. Judith Pickett, Esq., and Mr. Eric Woodward appeared before the Board to discuss the CR request for the property on 24 Kenmore Road. Ms. Pickett noted that there was a precedent for a CR. Mr. Woodward said he hopes to keep this property as open space in perpetuity. Chair Firenze said that the tax implications result in a loss to the town. The Board discussed the possibility of the estate gifting to the town some money to cover the tax loss, but were told that this was not possible. Chair Firenze noted that Kenmore Road is private and the benefit from this "open space" will only benefit the neighbors. Selectman Jones suggested that the land be kept open, but be abutted to neighbors' lots and taxed accordingly, since it's the neighbors, and not the town, who will benefit. Selectman Leclerc said he supports the quality of life in this neighborhood and that the open space will add value to the neighborhood and increase the value of neighboring properties.

The Board moved: To approve the CR request for 47-44 Kenmore Road.

The motion did not pass (1-2).

Wellington School Discussion

Chair Mark Haley and Pat Bruschi from the Wellington Building Committee (WBC) appeared before the Board to discuss the Wellington and Massachusetts School Building Authority update. WBC Chair Haley provided an overview: The MSBA has committed to approximately \$12.4M in funding for a new Wellington School (it could be less, depending on audits of costs later on in the process). The project will cost approximately \$37M (this does not include relocation costs of \$3M). Of the \$37M, \$3M will be required (with no MSBA reimbursement) for asbestos removal from the old building, then demolition, then clearing the site of debris (including “fill” from the 1967 fire that currently sits below the blacktop play area), and then preparing the site for construction (including grading to allow a flat foundation surface on a hillside that rises 12 feet). Another \$1M, also not being reimbursed by MSBA, is for building systems that are “green” (energy-efficient, etc.). The cumulative “pay-back” period, in which the extra costs of these “green” features are paid back through energy savings, is approximately 11.1 years. Chair Firenze would have preferred that the payback period be less than 10 years, but indicated that it would not be a problem for him to support the Wellington based on this issue.

Chair Firenze expressed a concern around construction costs: that the \$296.00 per square foot is \$20.00 higher than he hoped. Chair Firenze expressed another concern regarding the project oversight that has not been controlled to his liking in recent projects. The WBC is agreeing that a “liaison” will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen who will bring any concerns to the Building Committee and the Selectmen as they arise. This will begin during the design development phase of the project, in the next several months, rather than waiting until the actual construction period.

Chair Firenze also expressed concern with the estimated \$3M in student relocation costs. Both Chair Haley and Ms. Bruschi agreed that the estimate seemed very high. Also, it was generally agreed that the School Department could not readily pay for student relocation out of its (reduced) budget, and that including relocation costs into the debt exclusion could be considered.

Ms. Bruschi requested that the Board set a date for the Wellington debt exclusion.

The Board discussed the timing of the Wellington debt exclusion and how that would impact going out for bids.

The Board moved: To include a debt exclusion question for the Wellington School on the ballot for Monday, June 8th, 2009, and also that an operational override question, if it is decided to offer one, would be placed on the same ballot. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY WRITING

Selectman Jones apprised Chair Firenze of the Board of Registrars' concern in holding the annual town election on Saturdays in the future. Chair Firenze suggested that the Board of Selectmen meet with Board of Registrars before Town Meeting. If it is not a good idea, Town Meeting could still move to dismiss. This Saturday option only refers to the annual town election, not the national elections. Chair Firenze suggested to leave this article on the Warrant, meet with Board of Registrars, and then decide (or let Town Meeting decide).

Approval of Town Meeting Warrant

The Board moved: To approve the Warrant as presented.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board signed the Warrant.

Permission to hold the 19th Annual Belmont Town Day 5/16/09

The Board moved: To hold the Annual Belmont Town Day on 5-16-09.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

OTHER

Youth Art Month in the Commonwealth

The Board moved: To acknowledge the receipt of the Youth Art Month award for Ms. Suh, a BHS student, for her art work.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board will send a letter of congratulations to Ms. Suh.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- The town received an e-government award from Common Cause for its website.
- Cushing Village – Mr. Starr will not pursue reverse angle parking at this time.
- Pavement Management contracts will be awarded in April.
- Community Preservation Act – the state will lower the matching contribution again.
- 150th Celebration Group is working hard - fireworks on Clay Pit Pond pending Conservation commission approval.
- Conservation Committee – Rock Meadow farming is underway.
- A meeting has been scheduled with the CVS district manager regarding out-front trash.

- Insurance Update – Mr. Conti noted that the town’s insurance bids were up. The town will accept a renewal offer at a decreased rate of 2.5%, Conti said, as this was most cost-effective option. \$13K that would have been spent on an RFP for this year will be turned back to the general fund and put towards next year’s bid.

Other (Chair Firenze comments)

- A published list of contributions to the town is needed, as the Board needs to do a better job of giving public recognition to town volunteers and contributors.
- The Board needs to place back into the budget the \$44K in potential savings for eliminating the plowing on Private Ways, as safety issues exist. The Board agreed on the need to vet these ideas more fully before presenting them to the Warrant Committee.
- The Government Structure Committee has prepared its final report. The implementation of the recommendations will need to be discussed further.
- Chapter 90 funding will be about \$390K for FY10, a slight decrease.
- The McLean developer of Freedom Commons is not moving forward. This has huge implications for the town in lost tax revenue. The Board discussed the issues related to this.
- A senior survey is underway regarding dining options for the new Senior Center.
- Historic District Commission - Ms. Lydia Ogilby has requested to be placed on the Historic District Commission as an Emeritus member. Mr. Younger is concerned that Emeritus members can become more active members.

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Ogilby as an Emeritus member of the HDC.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Organization Meeting

Chair Firenze noted that the Board of Selectmen Chairmanship rotates every two years.

The Board moved: To nominate Vice Chair Leclerc to the position of Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To nominate Selectman Jones to the position of Vice Chairman.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To nominate Vice Chair Jones to the position of Capital Budget Committee representative.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Leclerc will participate in the budget Chairs meeting held on Wednesday mornings. Selectman Firenze will continue on the MMA policy committee.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 pm.

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator