

MINUTES  
Monday, April 7, 2008  
TOWN OF BELMONT BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM  
TOWN HALL  
7:00PM

#### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 by Chairman Firenze in the Town Hall Auditorium. All Board members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

#### QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were no questions.

#### ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

##### Executive Session - Grievance

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 7:00 to discuss a grievance and return to open session when done.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and passed unanimously.)

The Board returned to open session at 7:22 PM.

##### Capital Project Overview Committee (CPOC) - Final Report

Co-Chairs Bob McLaughlin, Chris McVay and other members of the Capital Project Overview Committee appeared before the Board to present its final report. Nine different projects were closely examined. Mr. McLaughlin summarized the major findings. CPOC endorses the Wellington School project. While all four phases of the High School renovation will probably not get funded, CPOC supports prioritizing the construction of the first phase. Regarding Town Yard, the Committee recommends exploring a roadway to connect Pleasant Street to the Yard. A professional market study is recommended to address, in concert, the vacant Municipal Light Building, the (potentially) vacant Police Station, and Royal Road. A new Library should go across the street from the current Library location (the Police Station Feasibility study recommends its new station to be built on the present Library site). The Underwood Pool, while on the brink of failure, has strong historic value and is heavily used in the summertime - it is likely that a "Friends of the Pool" committee will probably be formed. The White Field House is beyond its useful life and would cost more to renovate than rebuild. The Skating Rink is also widely used and winterizing it should be a consideration. Before the Incinerator site is capped, it should be looked at as a possible rink and/or pool site.

The CPOC did not prioritize its recommendations, other than to address the Wellington project first. It also did not address issues pertaining to costs. Mr. McLaughlin ended his summary by stating his fervent hope that this report would not fall into the black hole of previous similar reports.

The Board commended the CPOC for its diligence - especially its work in recommending certain projects be done in concert. The Board appreciated the efficiencies and synergy built into this

plan. The Board is supportive of a long-range capital plan and recognizes that the next step is the Board's to make.

Hal Shubin added that there is much to do, and it's all getting more expensive, and therefore the town needs to move forward in a timely manner. Otherwise, repair costs will add up as well.

Mr. Younger noted that the CPOC report will be placed on the Town's website in the next day or two.

#### Former Incinerator Site Use

Mr. Castanino appeared before the Board to discuss the incinerator site. Camp Dresser has provided the town with an initial cost estimate for capping the Incinerator site. Regarding alternatives for the site, the DEP must give approval.

Chairman Firenze asked what would be the best possible use for that site. Mr. Castanino replied that there are limited choices based on site's inherent restrictions (space, parking, etc.)

The Board requested that Mr. Castanino continue to be in touch with Camp Dresser on this issue.

#### Water and Sewer Rate Discussion

Ralph Jones and Mr. Castanino appeared before the Board to discuss water and sewer rates, which are reviewed annually with the Board.

Regarding sewer rates, Mr. Jones noted that the sewer draft report recommended a 5% increase for rate stability.

The Board moved: To approve the rate increase of 5% for sewer charges.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Regarding water rates, Mr. Castanino noted that a 5.2% increase in the customer charge, water and lifeline rate has been recommended.

The Board moved: To approve to raise the water rate by 5.2%.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### ACTION BY WRITING

##### One Day Liquor License Approvals - Belmont Hill School

The request was for two one-day liquor licenses for two events:

- o Annual Parent/Faculty Spring Event - May 2nd
- o Reunion Weekend - Events Scheduled May 9th and May 10th

The Board moved: To approve the two one-day liquor license requests for the Belmont Hill School.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

##### Three Police Patrolmen Appointments

Chief McLaughlin put forward three names - Paul Cowing, Melissa O'Connor, and Philip Kucha - to be recommended for approval to the position of Belmont Police Officer, pending completion of necessary testing and training.

The Board moved: To approve the appointment of these three individuals as Officers of the Belmont Police Department, pending completion of necessary training.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (continued)

##### Farmer's Market

Ms. Heli Tomford and representatives of the Belmont Farmer's Market Committee appeared before the Board to request that an account be created for donations to be given through the Treasurer's Office. The Treasurer's Office would set up an account to receive gifts from donors who wish to support a coupon/voucher program for the Farmer's Market. The Belmont Food Pantry can't presently offer fresh produce to families in need. Specific town employees would make recommendations to those in need, that Farmer's Market coupons are available.

Chairman Firenze stated that, while he approves of the Treasurer's Office establishing an account for donations, he is not comfortable having town employees make recommendations of people to the Farmer's Market for coupons or having them in the business of making the decision of who receives coupons.

Selectman Solomon noted that town employees are already identifying families in need via Meals on Wheels, Protective Services, The Belmont Food Pantry, etc.

Ms. Tomford added that the Farmer's Market would like the coupon holders to be able to shop with dignity and not have to request the coupons from the Farmer's Market directly.

Mr. Conti offered that the Food Pantry could distribute the coupons, thus taking town employees out of the distribution loop.

After continued discussion . . .

The Board moved: To approve the request that the Town Treasurer set up a ledger account for the Belmont Farmer's Market to accept donations for coupons, contingent upon the fact that the coupons not be distributed by any town employee.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

##### Selectman Solomon's Committee Appointments

Regarding the Vision 21 Implementation Committee, Selectman Solomon requested that the Board have a member appointed, or re-appoint him to the Committee for a year. Chairman Firenze suggested that the Board re-appoint Dr. Solomon to continue on the Vision 21 Implementation Committee and that the VIC could, for the future, solicit people who have an interest in this committee.

The Board moved: To appoint Dr. Solomon as full voting member of the Vision 21 Implementation Committee for one year, effective April 8, 2008.  
The motion passed (2-0). Dr. Solomon abstained.

Regarding the Human Rights Commission, Selectman Solomon noted that it is good (but not required) to have a Board member there. It is required that a Board member be appointed to the Health Advisory Committee, while a liaison to Sustainable Belmont is not required. Lastly, the ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) does require a Board member.

Mr. Younger will prepare a list of committees that the Board of Selectmen need to sit on in some capacity for Wednesday evening's meeting (4/9/08).

## Budget Discussions

Chair Firenze noted that the Planning Board will meet with the Warrant Committee on Wednesday evening (4/9/08) and that the issue of funding for the Comprehensive Plan Program will be addressed.

The Board moved (motion put forth by Selectman Solomon): To approve funding for the inclusion of the Comprehensive Plan in the FY09 budget assuming the availability of funds.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## Health Insurance Update

Mr. Younger stated how well the changes in the Town's health care insurance have been handled. There remain three open issues: the PPO rate change, the town HMO rate contribution for all unions, and office and prescription co-pays. Mr. Younger added that none of these three changes, if voted on tonight, would impact the teacher's aide union - but would impact all other unions.

The Board expressed its support in moving forward and the following three motions were made.

The Board moved: To recommend plan design changes for the town's share of premiums to be changed from 80% to 75% for PPO effective May 1, 2008.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To recommend plan design changes in HMO premium rates for the Town's share to go to 80% for all unions.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To change the co-pay from \$5.00 to \$15.00 for office visits, and to change prescription co-pays to \$5-\$25-\$40 - depending on the drug.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Younger will continue to be active in seeking health care savings.

## Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following item:

" The Town of Yarmouth is considering implementing a fee schedule charging the cost of responding to and investigating an accident to the party found to be at fault. Auto insurance companies do presently cover fees such as this.

Chair Firenze requested that Mr. Younger follow what happens in Yarmouth and look to see how much revenue is possible to generate by adopting this.

## ACTION BY CONSENT

The Board will vote (Wednesday evening 4/9/08) on the Town Meeting Articles after hearing from the Warrant Committee at its Wednesday (4/9/08) meeting.

## Approval of Board of Selectmen Minutes - March 17, 2008

The Board moved: To accept the March 17 minutes.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## OTHER

" Chairman Firenze received a complaint that the handicap button at the fire station voting place was covered up and did not work. Mr. Younger will check into this.

" Chair Firenze thanked outgoing Selectman Solomon for 6 years of hard work and excellent service to the Board of Selectmen.

The Board moved to adjourn at 9:55 PM.

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Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator