

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, MAY 21, 2007
REGULAR SESSION
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL
7:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

II. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were no questions.

III. ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Verizon Petition for Proposed Conduit on Elizabeth Road

Dan Fitzgibbon appeared before the Board for Verizon. The petition is to place 200 feet of conduit along Elizabeth Road to serve the residents there.

The Board moved: To approve the petition subject to the conditions recommended by the Community Development Director in his letter.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

IV. ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of Block Parties

- Audrey and Woods Road, Bradford and Arthur Road, Leicester Road, Lincoln Street

The Board moved: To approve the requests.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

V. ACTION BY WRITING

Revised Belmont High School Statement of Interest

The Board moved: To authorize and direct the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) the Statement of Interest dated as of May 15, 2007 for Belmont High School, located at 221 Concord Avenue, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the MSBA at some time in the future: Priority 3, prevention of the loss of accreditation; Priority 5, replacement of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs; Priority 7, replacement, renovation, or addition to an obsolete building in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and to specifically acknowledge that submitting this Statement of Interest to the MSBA in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the MSBA, or commits the Belmont School District to filing an application for funding with the MSBA.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Renewal of WestMetro HOME Consortium Membership

The Board noted that Roger Colton has resigned as Chair of the Housing Trust for personal reasons but will remain a member of the Trust.

The Board moved: To continue Belmont's membership in the HOME consortium.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

DPW Sand, Gravel and Loam Contracts

The Board moved: To accept the contracts as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Bituminous Concrete Material Contract

DPW is asking to award this contract to two separate vendors to ensure for continuous supply in the event that one vendor runs out of material.

The Board moved: To accept the contract as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Hearing on Channing Road Parking

The Board discussed a proposal to place a 2-hour parking restriction on Channing Road between Cross Street and Alexander Avenue. Mr. Conti stated that this arose after the parking group looked into the issue of equitability in parking restrictions in the Belmont Center area at the request of Channing Road residents. The group had recommended removing the 2-hour restriction on Alexander Avenue, but the Board decided against this after hearing from Alexander Avenue residents. The proposal to add the restriction on Channing Road is intended to address the equitability issue.

Several residents spoke both in favor of and against the change. The majority of those present seemed to favor the restriction.

The Board moved: To institute the 2-hour parking restriction on Channing Road between Cross Street and Alexander Avenue.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Hearing on All Alcoholic Beverages License

Altruista LLC, located at 54 Leonard Street, is petitioning for a full liquor license. The Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee appeared before the Board to discuss the petition.

Committee Chairman Andy Levin stated that the Committee voted unanimously to recommend granting the license under current regulations. However, the applicant has requested a change in the regulations to allow the serving of food and alcohol at a counter. Members of the committee were concerned that this would effectively mean a bar, though the applicant stated they would not serve alcohol without food. The Committee was split on this issue.

The applicant has also requested a change to the regulation that only allows drinks to be served to patrons waiting for tables if they are seated. The Committee voted 1-3 with one abstention on this request.

Maryann Scali said that some members are concerned about having a bar, and one that would be the first thing a visitor sees upon entering. Chairman Levin said he supports the changes and believes the petitioners are asking for them based on their experience of what will make a successful restaurant. He noted that the proposed changes would only apply to restaurants with full alcohol licenses.

The Board moved: To grant an all alcohol restaurant liquor license to the petitioner and modify the regulations applying to same as requested by the petitioner.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Senior Center Update

Senior Center Building Committee Chair Karen Pressey appeared before the Board to give an update on the project. The architect is preparing a final plan to be approved by the Planning Board, but this should be a formality as the outstanding issues have been resolved. The Committee is finalizing the plans for IT and security infrastructure in the building. The plans and specifications will be reviewed by department heads. Ms. Pressey is hopeful that the project will be ready to go out to bid in August and be able to start construction after Labor Day.

The Land Court has yet to act on the request to combine the Senior Center lot with the Town field lots. There is no expectation that the request would be denied, but the delay is holding up approval by the Zoning Board.

Discussion of Placing a Four-Way Stop Sign at School Street and Fairview Avenue

Mr. Younger explained that there is currently a stop sign and a flashing red light on Fairview, and a flashing yellow light on School Street at this intersection. Residents have requested 4-way stop signs and changing the flashing yellow to a flashing red. The Town's traffic consultant has studied the traffic and safety issues at this location and determined that the intersection does meet the criteria for four-way stop signs and flashing red lights in all directions.

The Board moved: To implement the changes as recommended.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Budget Issues

The Board discussed the latest budget numbers. The budget as currently proposed includes the new positions of assistant network administrator and school resource police officer, to be shared by the Town and the schools. It does not include full-day kindergarten, but does include two major school maintenance items (Butler school carpets and flooring, Burbank school painting) totaling \$165,000.

The Board moved: to support the operating budget proposal as outlined with the use of \$1.747 million from free cash in addition to the \$800,000 originally planned.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

It is hoped that the Board, School Committee, and Warrant Committee will all be able to agree on the budget that is sent to Town Meeting. The Board will also have to discuss how to allocate the

remainder of the free cash. It has been suggested to spend some \$2-2.5 million toward pavement management. There is also intent to fund the post-employment health care liability under the GASB regulations.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

" The Town is expecting the Land Court decision on the Woodfall Road land swap this week. Mr. Younger is already drafting the RFP for disposal of the property.

" Curbing work on the Trapelo Road end of Pleasant Street has begun.

" The RFP for the Rock Meadow management program has been drafted and is being reviewed by counsel.

VI. OTHER

There was discussion about how to proceed with the issue of the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Mr. Younger recommended that the issue be looked at internally rather than by a special committee. There was disagreement over whether the Board had formally committed to appoint a committee. Mr. Younger will supply the members with this information for further discussion and will make a recommendation on the CPA issue.

There was a brief discussion of the status of the bike path. The Town is trying to negotiate with an abutting property owner to allow the path to cross over private property.

The Board will meet on June 4 at 8:30 PM instead of 7:00 PM.

The Board adjourned at 9:31 PM.

Thomas G. Younger
Town Administrator

Delores Keefe
Town Clerk