

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2007
PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM
BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL
6:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 6:30 PM in the Principal's Conference Room at Belmont High School. 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

6:30 p.m. Annual and Special Town Meeting Articles

Special Town Meeting: Article 2 Cemetery Transfer, Article 3 Fire Stations Transfer

The Board moved: To support both articles.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Annual Town Meeting: Article 3 Balance Transfers

The Board moved: To support the article.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Article 11 Water and Sewer Budget

The Board moved: To support the article.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

VI. OTHER

Reserve Fund Transfers

Buildings & Facilities Director Kevin Looney has requested \$25,000 for remedial drainage work at the Town Hall Complex. There is a serious ponding problem in the driveway in front of Town Hall which in the winter can create a major ice problem.

The Board moved: To recommend approval of the transfer request to the Warrant Committee.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

School finance director Gerry Missal is requesting \$165,000 to address a structural problem at the entrance to Belmont High School. It is still unclear how much the remediation will cost until Wednesday, when the engineers examine the pre-cast concrete façade to see if the I-beam holding up the foyer roof is still in the right place.

Treasurer Floyd Carman said that Town Meeting members should have the opportunity to be made aware of a significant expenditure. He felt the appropriation should be done at a Special Town Meeting in the fall when the final cost is known.

Selectman Leclerc said this is a safety issue and needs to be addressed quickly. Warrant Committee member Phil Curtis clarified that the schools could cover the cost out of their FY08 budget and then be reimbursed afterward from the reserve fund. Dr. Missal said this would mean a delay of two weeks before the fiscal year begins, which exposes the Town to liability if there should be an accident in the meantime.

Warrant Committee member Pat Bruschi explained this is not a blank check for the schools - the Town Accountant has to review and approve all expenditures.

Warrant Committee member Robie White suggested making a smaller amount available to cover costs for the next two weeks until the new fiscal year begins.

The Board moved: To recommend the Warrant Committee approve a \$165,000 transfer for the requested purpose.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

There was discussion of the draft audit report on the Chenery Middle School project. The report indicates the Town has received excess reimbursements of \$500,000 annually, which means that future reimbursements will be significantly diminished. It is unclear if the Town's financial planning estimates already take this into account.

There was discussion of a Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Change filing by O'Neill on the Uplands. There is some question whether the proposed housing project will require additional environmental review because of sewerage concerns. The Board supports environmental review of the project to the fullest possible extent.

The Board moved: To have the Town Administrator check with Representative Brownsberger's office to see what type of letter of support is requested from the Board and authorize the Chairman to sign it on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board discussed an upcoming Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting and a letter from Rep. Brownsberger regarding the Trapelo Road project.

The Board moved: To send a letter of support for Rep. Brownsberger's position for the project to be included on the TIP, to be hand carried to the MPO and signed by the Chairman.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Next week the Board will make final decisions toward moving ahead with self-insurance effective July 1. One issue will concern whether to choose a reinsurance provider that engages in a process called "lasering" and what the appropriate level of reinsurance will be.

The Board discussed scheduling an additional meeting to continue its work on committee appointments - tentatively Tuesday July 3 at 8 AM.

The Board remained in session for Town Meeting and adjourned at 10:19 PM at the conclusion of Town Meeting.

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator