

MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007  
REGULAR SESSION  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 8:33 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 WRITING

? Open and Close Warrant for Special Town Meeting on June 18, 2007

The Board moved: To open the Warrant for a June 18 Special Town Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To close the Warrant for the June 18 Special Town Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

? Approve Warrant for Special Town Meeting on June 18, 2007

The Board moved: To approve the Warrant for the June 18 Special Town Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

V. ACTION BY WRITING

? Proclamation for Eagle Scout Sean Mahoney

Selectman Solomon read a proclamation honoring Sean Mahoney for his achievements in earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Board moved: To adopt the proclamation.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board congratulated Mr. Mahoney and his family.

III. ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Human Rights Commission Update Report

Chairman Firenze read a letter of recognition for Cynthia Bannon for her work on the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

The Board moved: To sign the letter.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Chair Fran Yuan and members of the HRC appeared before the Board. Ms. Yuan noted that the HRC has a broad charge encompassing a number of issues and has taken on some of the responsibilities of the former Fair Housing Commission. This year, the HRC sponsored a fair housing seminar that was well attended.

There was discussion of the goal of having a balance of viewpoints on the HRC. Chairman Firenze said that human rights are extremely important and it is ultimately the Board's responsibility to address any abuses. He expressed concern that the HRC has become involved in certain political issues and created the impression that the Town is sanctioning particular political positions. Selectman Solomon pointed out that the Commission does not have the staff or funding to investigate human rights abuses, but it does a great deal to promote awareness of human rights issues.

There was discussion of a social event sponsored by the HRC relative to same-sex marriage and whether this constituted endorsing a political position.

Selectman Leclerc read a statement supporting the HRC's role in education and awareness of emerging human rights issues.

There was discussion about the differing roles of the HRC and the private group Belmont Against Racism and what avenues might exist for following up on a complaint that involves a Town official.

Chairman Firenze suggested that the Commission examine its charge and consider making changes to address some of the concerns and allow the Commission to focus its efforts. There was agreement.

#### Budget Issues

Chairman Firenze noted that the Warrant Committee (WC) has voted to reduce the budget by \$500,000. On the Town side, this would mean reducing the salary and benefits reserve item by \$206,000. On the school side, the reduction is \$309,000 which will take the form of a lower estimate of health care cost increases. Chairman Firenze said he can support the reduction as long as it does not impact the ability to deliver services, and provided that the WC is prepared to access reserve funds if the expected savings don't materialize. There was general agreement that it would be desirable if the Board, WC, and School Committee can present a consensus on the budget. The Board requested a simple summary of the proposed use of free cash by the WC for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Conti noted that the WC's free cash numbers are incorporated in the budget motions being sent out to Town Meeting Members; if the Board chooses to support different figures, it will require a floor amendment to the budget.

#### Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- " Fox25 News will be broadcasting their morning show from the Belmont Common this Friday from 6-9 AM. Chairman Firenze will be present for a five minute segment.
- " Today the Habitat housing project agreement was closed and the deed recorded.
- " The Historic District Commission has given their final recommendation regarding the Town Hall door replacement.
- " The Light Department and DPW have been asked to install the sign and light changes at the Fairview & School intersection.
- " A volunteer architect is reviewing the old Light building for possible use as a youth center.
- " An issue with Macy's nighttime trailer parking has been resolved.

The Board discussed whether to take a position on the Governor's Municipal Partnership Act. There was some feeling that the Board could support the Act's provisions, but that it does not go far enough in some areas where the Board would like to see changes. Mr. Younger will draft a letter for the Board to review.

The Board noted that it had previously voted to appoint a Community Preservation Act (CPA) study committee and solicited residents interested in serving on such a committee. Selectman Solomon said even if Belmont is not prepared to adopt the CPA this year, it is still worth having a balanced committee study whether it is a good direction to move in. Chairman Firenze and Selectman Leclerc expressed concern about asking a committee to do a significant amount of work on something that simply may not be feasible for budgetary reasons. Selectman Solomon suggested that he could speak with the Housing Trust and explain where the Board is headed on this issue before the Board takes any action such as rescinding its earlier vote.

#### IV. ACTION BY CONSENT

? Block Party Approval - Richardson Road, Becket Road

The Board moved: To delegate to the Town Administrator the authority to handle block party approvals in conjunction with the police department.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

? Approval of May 7, 2007 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
- Special Joint Session with Blueprint Group; May 21, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The Board moved: To approve the minutes.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

#### VI. ACTION BY WRITING

? Belmont High School HVAC Equipment Amortization Period

The Board moved: That the useful life of the HVAC units is expected to be at least 10 years.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

? License Approvals - Livery Service (Nany Limo Service)  
Second Hand Articles (All That Matters)

The Board moved: To approve the licenses.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

#### VI. OTHER

? Reserve Fund Transfer - Fire Dept. Defibrillators - \$12,600.

The Board moved: To officially support the recommendation of the Fire Chief and action of the WC approving the transfer.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

? Final Pavement Management Report Discussion

Chairman Firenze proposed to approve the report subject to the clarification that when the Town is going to reconstruct a road and curbing is not planned, at the time of reconstruction homeowners who wish to pay for it can have curbing installed in front of their property. The Committee is comfortable with this.

The Board moved: To accept the final report subject to the stated clarification.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

? 103 Elm Street, Belmont

Chairman Firenze said the issue has been resolved and does not need to be discussed by the Board.

? Committee Appointments Information Process

The Board will devote its June 25 meeting solely to committee appointments. Each committee will have a separate package containing all the relevant information and these will be made available to the Board by June 11th. Chairman Firenze noted that if the Board is not able to get to certain committee appointments by July 1, the committees can still continue with the current membership on an interim basis.

There was discussion of an e-mail from a Farnham Road resident concerned about spillover from the parking change on Channing Road. Mr. Conti will draft a response based on the Board's intention to stand by its decision.

## VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved: To enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation and not to return to open session.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board entered executive session at 11:08 PM.

(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 11:44 PM.)