

MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM  
Monday, June 9, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

#### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:06 by Chairman Firenze in the Town Hall Auditorium. All selectmen 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

Donation to Senior Center from Friends of the Council on Aging

Chairman Firenze announced that the Friends of the Council on Aging have contributed a check for \$750,000 from private donations for the new Senior Center. On behalf of the Town and the Board, Chair Firenze thanked the "Friends" for their fundraising efforts.

New Common Victualler's License - Ooh La La Fudge

Phyllis Madanian appeared before the Board to request a license for her fudge, ice cream, and candy shop. The license will cover 8 seats: 4 stools by the window and 4 chairs at a small table.

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

#### ACTION BY WRITING

Acceptance of Deed Transfer from McLean Hospital for Property off Pleasant Street

Mr. Younger explained that this deed transfer allows for an access road to be available during the construction of the senior complex and the research and development site. It was approved at Town Meeting last fall.

The Board moved: To sign the acceptance of the deed transfer from McLean Hospital.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Transfer of Deed for Frontage Road Parcels

This deed transfer is the final step in the sale of Town-owned parcels on Frontage Road, which was approved by Town Meeting. There was a delay in finalizing the sale because of confusion surrounding the Town's assumption of title from the state.

The Board moved: To transfer the deed for Frontage Road parcels.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

FY2009 Water Main Replacement Contract awarded May 19, 2008

The Board moved: To approve signing of the water main replacement contract awarded on May 19, 2008.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### License Renewals - Taxi, Livery and Laundromat

Three license renewals were requested: a taxi license for Yellow Cab of Belmont, doing business as Keegan Taxi, Belmont Cab, and Morse Taxi; a livery license for Boston Executive Coach; and a laundromat license for Belmont Street Laundromat, Inc.

The Board moved: To approve the renewal of the three specified licenses.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (continued)

##### Shade Tree Regulations

Mr. Clancy, Mr. Castanino, and Mr. Walsh (Belmont's tree warden) appeared before the Board to discuss shade tree regulations. Mr. Clancy explained that at some construction areas, shade trees could be in harm's way. There is a need to establish some regulations to determine if certain shade trees are being threatened during construction. The proposed guidelines require that a developer read the policy for protecting trees and to fill out an application (\$75) when shade trees are potentially vulnerable. This is a way to enforce the protection of the trees.

The Board moved: To approve the shade tree regulation guidelines.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Firenze then asked about the issue of tree vandalism in Belmont. Mr. Castanino replied that in these cases the damage to public property (trees) is billed to the insurance company of the person who caused the damage. He added that the money, when collected, goes back into the general fund and not to the tree fund. The Board agreed that the insurance money reimbursements should go back to the appropriate accounts impacted. Chair Firenze requested that Mr. Younger speak with Town Accountant Hagg about this issue.

Mr. Clancy requested that the Board members sign the McLean property plan. The plan was then signed by the Board of Selectmen.

##### Traffic and Parking Signage Policy

Mr. Conti informed the Board that the purpose of the proposed traffic and parking signage policy is to make sure that signage decisions are being made in a uniform way. The policy hopes to convey to the residents that the town is following a "thought-through" plan that consists of coordinated efforts on the part of many departments (DPW, Police, Community Development, etc.). The policy contains an explanation for the procedures regarding signs. This will be a public document, posted on the town's web site and available to all.

Chair Firenze expressed concern about "over-signage". He said he'd like to see signage used more cautiously - i.e., minimize the number of signs to maximize their impact and overall effectiveness.

The Board moved: To approve the parking signage policy, which will be incorporated into the Board of Selectmen's policy manual.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

##### Common Victualler's License Fee Discussion

Mr. Younger said that in an effort to review the policies of general government, he has been examining the fee schedules that pertain to acquiring licenses in Belmont. There are 36 Victualler (eat food on premises) licenses in Belmont. The license fee is \$35 annually, with a \$5 application fee (\$40 total). Nearby communities are charging upwards of \$75 and will soon increase to \$100. Mr. Younger is recommending that Belmont increase its license rate to a \$100 fee. Chair Firenze recused himself as this will impact a family member.

Selectman Leclerc voiced the concern that this could be seen as anti-business. Selectman Jones acknowledged that concern and added that it would be worthwhile for Belmont to cover the costs of the town to process license applications.

The Board moved: To accept Town Administrator Younger's recommendation of increasing the fee to \$100 for a Victualler's license.

The motion passed (2-0). Chairman Firenze abstained.

#### Representative Brownsberger Legislative Update

Representative Brownsberger appeared before the Board to give a legislative update.

First, he addressed the issue of Alewife flooding. He said that FEMA maps identifying areas at high risk for flooding were being updated. He added that, with regard to channel clearing, the town is participating in conversations with the DCR and that the branches need to be cleared out regularly. Regarding transportation, Trapelo Road is being addressed (a 25% design hearing has been scheduled, with earmarks requested in the transportation bond bill) and the issues relating to Pleasant Street are being resolved. Brownsberger highlighted an Alewife area traffic problem which could potentially impact Belmont.

There is no news on local aid, he continued, and the Wellington school is progressing, with a debt exclusion expected to be included on a November ballot. Also, the Library bond bill is still pending and approval is expected. Brownsberger noted that he obtained \$100,000 in state funding for an Arlington Youth Health and Safety (substance abuse) program - it is possible that such funding would be available for Belmont (Mr. Younger will follow up with Health Director Donna Moultrup). Brownsberger noted that the Council on Aging van which was donated by the state department of Elder Affairs has some design flaws that the state should pay to fix.

Regarding the VFW Club License, Brownsberger said the issue is moving forward. It has been approved by the legislative committee, and the House will take action on it soon. He then acknowledged the Board for its work on the Cushing Square overlay (smart growth) plan. A brief discussion ensued on the Trapelo Road corridor issues, housing policy, and downsizing needs, as well as development possibilities on lower Pleasant Street.

Representative Brownsberger noted that there was a hearing pertaining to Regionalization on June 24th in Lexington at 10:00 am.

#### OTHER

Update: Roads Override Results

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Staton, Registrar of Voters, alerted the Board members that the road's override results were in and that the override had been defeated.

The Board took a five minute recess.

Upon resuming the meeting, the Board expressed its disappointment with the override results and acknowledged the hard work and effort put forth by a lot of people from many political perspectives in town.

#### ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (continued)

##### Operating Policies of the Board of Selectmen

Mr. Younger is working to put together a policy book (with set standards) that addresses each department with regard to personnel, meetings, fees, etc. He will continue to work on the operating policies book during the summer. The board expressed its support for this initiative and looks forward to the final document.

##### Committee Vacancies and Appointments

Mr. Younger is reviewing committees to determine which are optional and which are mandated. Chair Firenze added that a ZBA member is resigning and there is an opening on the ITAC committee (the Chair is stepping down). Mr. Younger stated that he will continue gathering data and then will begin to review the committees. Appointments for certain vacant positions will be addressed at next week's Board meeting, while the majority of appointments will not be made until the fall.

##### Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- " PILOT program - Chair Firenze and Mr. Younger have met with the Belmont Hill School to request a donation for the town as they are a tax-exempted entity. They will meet with their Board of Directors and explore what is possible. Chair Firenze added that there is a lot of reluctance to make a cash payment, and that the school is more inclined to offer services in the way of programs, facilities, etc.
- " Fraud safeguards - Mr. Younger is meeting with all department heads regarding the auditor's suggestion that safeguards be in place regarding fraud.
- " Pleasant Street - Some of the poles are getting removed.
- " Pavement Management - The bids are in from previous funding for a set of roads.
- " Senior Center - The project is ongoing and Mr. Younger meets weekly with the project supervisor.

Selectman Jones requested that the Board discuss the implications of the future lack of funding for the roads (in light of the defeated roads override). He suggested that either Mr. Clancy or Mr. Castanino be present at next week's meeting. The Board will need to discuss the plan for short term reconstruction of roads as well as the options for road services. The Board will need to discuss what it will cost to just follow the water lines.

#### ACTION BY CONSENT

There was none.

#### OTHER

Water for Town Field

Chair Firenze stated that a way will be found to fund the water needed to maintain Town Field. A well remains a possibility that could be tied in with Senior Center construction.

#### Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 9:32 to discuss lease of real property. The Board will not be returning to Open Session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During executive session, no substantive votes were taken. The Board adjourned at 10:33 PM.)

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Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator