

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 12, 2004
REGULAR SESSION

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Call to Order

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Action by Appointment

Town Counsel re: Review of Transition

New Town Counsel, John Giorgio, met with the Board to formally introduce himself and to update the Board on his efforts to effect the transition of the Town's legal services.

The Board considered an agreement with MassHighway to begin the Pleasant Street project. Mr. Giorgio indicated he reviewed the agreement and has approved it as to form.

The Board moved: to approve the agreement between MassHighway and the Town.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Town Treasurer Vacancy

The Board reviewed and discussed the Town Administrator's memorandum relative to his recommendation to initiate a change in the elective nature of the position of Town Treasurer to be an appointed position. To do so, he indicated it requires both a Town Meeting vote followed by a ballot question. He stated the Town would require a Special Town Meeting this fall or winter in order to have a question on the April election ballot.

Mr. Brownsberger expressed his willingness to consider seeking a change to this position to be an appointed position, however wanted to understand how this would be structured and the concept presented.

Dr. Solomon also expressed his willingness to discuss this possibility.

Mrs. Mahoney indicated her desire to seek someone to fill the position temporarily while the Board discusses this issue.

The Board agreed to discuss its appointment of Acting Treasurer at its next meeting on August 4. The members also expressed an interested in receiving any letters of interest for their consideration prior to that date.

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Discussion of FY 2006 Budget Planning

The Board discussed budget planning for the fiscal year 2006. Mrs. Mahoney summarized a recent meeting of the Warrant Committee, in which the Committee and members of the Board discussed the potential for an override in November. The group agrees that it was not timely for an override question on the November election ballot.

The Board requested the Town's departments to begin to identify its needs for FY06. The Board requested this material be pulled together in preparation for presentation to the Board and Warrant Committee in the fall.

Committee Appointments

The Board moved: to appoint the following individuals to the Human Rights Commission:

- Stephen Shestakofsky
- Garrett Barry
- Maria Tourreilles
- William Rudman
- Cynthia Bannon
- Doug Reynolds

The motion passed (3-0), unanimously.

The Board moved: to appoint the following individuals to the Purecoat Planning Committee:

- Brian Iler
- Audrey DiGiovanni
- R. Joseph Fiacco

The motion passed (3-0), unanimously.

The Board moved: to appoint Robert Taylor as a citizen representative to the Local Emergency Planning Committee

The motion passed (3-0), unanimously.

Action by Consent

Approval of Minutes (06/14/04, 06/15/04, 06/21/04)

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The Board moved: to approve the minutes of June 14, June 15, and June 21, 2004, further to amend the June 21 minutes to delete the vote relative to the continued operations of the Belmont Uplands Advisory Committee; and further to add between Dr. Solomon and Mr. Brownsberger's comments on that same agenda, that Mrs. Mahoney was not supportive of substituting Mr. Paulsen's comments in lieu of Mr. Higgins draft.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Chief of Police re: Request to Fill Vacant Dispatcher Position

The Board moved: to approve the Chief of Police's request to fill a vacant Dispatcher position.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Fire Chief re: Request to Acquire Surplus Vehicle

The Board moved: to approve the Fire Chief's request to transfer the old recreation one-ton truck to the Fire department.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Public Works Director re: Request to Fill Vacant HMEO Positions

The Board moved: to approve the Public Works Director's request to fill two vacant HMEO positions.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memoranda from Public Works Director re: Award of Water Main Construction Contract and Award of Fuel Bid

The Board moved: to approve the Public Works Director's recommendation to award various bids to the following bidders; Cedrone Trucking (Falmouth Street area water main replacement project); Dennis K. Burke of Chelsea (cooperative fuel No. 2 fuel bid), and Global Montello Group of Waltham (cooperative fuel No. 4 fuel bid).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Public Works Director re: Amendment of Recycling Rules and Regulations

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The Board moved: to approve the Public Works Director's request to amend the recycling rules and regulations.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Writing

Letter from Chair, Media Center Task Force re: Appointment of Board of Conveners for Cable Public Access Process

Todd Bloniarz, Chair of the Media Center Task Force, appeared before the Board to discuss the creation of a Board of Conveners and to recommend appointments to this Board.

The Board moved: to appoint the following individuals to the Media Center Task Force:

- Jonathan Green, member of Information Technology Advisory Committee
- Lee McCanne, Director of Technology
- Timothy McCarthy, Manager, Belmont Light Department
- Rich Preston, Media Director, Belmont High School
- Pam Curtis, member, Cable Access Committee
- Joe Tovares, member, Cable Access Committee
- Steve Rosales, resident and current BCTV volunteer producer
- Rebecca Richards, co-chair, Belmont Cultural Council
- Naomi Dukas, member, Belmont Women in Film and Arts Committee
- John Verrilli, chair, Cable Access Committee and Media Center Task Force member
- Greg Poulos, member, Cable Television Advisory Committee and Media Center Task Force
- Todd Bloniarz, chair, Media Center Task Force

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Bloniarz sought the Board's help in locating physical space for the future Community Media Center and suggested that the Municipal Light Department might be a good option once the Town was no longer using it for municipal offices.

Memorandum from Chief of Police re: Regulation of Door to Door Solicitation

The Board reviewed and discussed a memorandum from Police Chief relative to his recommendation to work with Town Counsel on the drafting of a new by-law governing soliciting in Town.

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The Board moved: to refer this matter to the Town Counsel to draft a by-law to address this problem in Belmont.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Letter from Resident re: Demolition Moratorium

The Board reviewed and discussed a request from a resident to ensure a comprehensive evaluation process in studying the issue of "teardowns" (single-family homes being replaced with two-family homes) in multi-family zoning areas, in response to the Town Meeting's approval of a demolition moratorium.

Mr. Brownsberger inquired whether the Planning Board is considering the issue of "mansionization" throughout the Town.

Mr. Higgins responded that this issue is also being considered by the Planning Board.

Memorandum from Chair, Belmont Housing Trust re: Award of Development of Brighton Street Parcel

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and discussed a recommendation from the Belmont Housing Trust to award the Brighton Street property disposal proposal to Habitat for Humanity.

The Board moved: to approve the award of development of the Brighton Street parcel to Habitat.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Other

Mr. Brownsberger inquired about the status of the Pleasant Street development.

Action by Appointment (Continued)

Discussion of Litigation (Executive Session)

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation; and further that the Board shall not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0), by roll call vote.

The Board adjourned their regular session at 9:00 p.m.

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Melvin A. Klecker, Town Administrator
Clerk, Board of Selectmen