

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Friday, September 10, 2010
10:00 AM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 10:00 am by Chair Jones in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Firenze and Paolillo were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were none.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

One Day Liquor Licenses – Belmont Hill School (2)

A representative from the Belmont Hill School appeared before the Board to request two one-day liquor licenses for the Belmont Hill School.

The Board moved: To approve the request for a beer and wine license on October 28, 2010.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To approve the full liquor license request for December 9, 2010.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Lodging House License, 386 Common Street

Mr. Younger noted that this request should not be approved until the resident has paid water, electricity, and real estate taxes on the property.

The Board moved: To not renew the license, pending clarification of the request.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Group Insurance Commission (GIC) Update

Mr. Younger reported that, while there may have been about an \$800K savings to Belmont had it been a GIC member, this number does not include the costs incurred of negotiating with various unions to enter the GIC. In fact, Belmont cannot enter the GIC

without first negotiating with the unions. He also noted that Belmont (as a self-insured municipality) has \$4M in its health insurance fund for paying claims, which is a respectable amount.

No action was taken on this matter.

Marsh Street Drainage Discussion

Mr. Glenn Clancy, Town Engineer, appeared before the Board to discuss Marsh Street drainage issues. Chair Jones reviewed the background of the Marsh Street drainage issues. The property owned by former Governor Romney was severely impacted by drainage. Years ago a solution was proposed but Town Meeting rejected the appropriation.

Mr. Clancy further explained that the town attempted to address the issue prior to rebuilding Marsh Street in 2009, but found there was too much ledge in the road to support a leaching drainage system. At least one owner on Marsh Street has tried to solve the problem privately on his property; however, his improvements appear to be adversely impacting a home on Evergreen Way.

The solutions to this drainage challenge are costly and serious. FST (Fay, Spofford, and Thorndike) has researched six possible ways to capture water on Marsh street and re-route it. The cheapest alternative would be to have the water come out on Evergreen Way, but this would require the town to secure easements, which is a slow process. Another alternative put forth by FST (estimated at \$1.2M) does not require an easement but rather a hydraulic solution whereby some storm water is stored underground at the Belmont Hill. If no remedy is pursued, a private owner could sue Belmont, Clancy noted, and delaying action will only make any possible resolution more expensive as bid prices are good right now.

The Board discussed the possible ways to address this storm water problem, as well as where the money would come from and the Town Meeting/Capital Budget Committee approval process.

The Board moved: To authorize the Town Administrator and the Town Engineer to proceed with developing this proposal, including a possible resurfacing of the roads.

The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Sponsorship of Envision Belmont Meeting on October 22

Dr. Paul Solomon, a member of the Vision 21 Implementation Committee, appeared before the Board to request the Board of Selectmen's co-sponsorship of the Envision Belmont meeting to be held Sunday, October 24. Dr. Solomon explained that the Envision Belmont meeting is being patterned after the School Department's "community dialogue" process. Vision 21 would like to not only help people communicate what they

value but also help with the budget process by identifying priorities. It is important, Solomon explained, for the public to know that the Board is listening.

The Board discussed how this fits together with the survey Professor Christensen was planning to revise, which reveals what services residents are willing to pay for. Selectman Firenze said that he feels the Board already knows the answers to these questions and this effort will only be verifying what is known.

The Board moved: To co-sponsor the Envision Belmont event.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

It was decided that Selectman Paolillo will be the Board's liaison regarding this event.

Appointment to Planning Board

Town Planner Mr. Szklut appeared before the Board. Chair Jones noted that the Planning Board (PB) is currently one member short. Mr. Szklut began by highlighting the following characteristics and background requirements that would be helpful for the Planning Board to possess:

- some understanding of traffic issues
 - understanding of urban design and land use (critical)
 - understanding of project development financing (helpful)
 - legal knowledge (important)
 - architecture design knowledge (helpful)
 - understanding of historic preservation (useful)

The make-up of the Planning Board, Szklut continued, should consist of one member who is:

a resident who knows, understands, and can represent the community
a business owner
a landlord

The PB should reflect the social and economic diversity of the community, and should include someone who is actively involved, objective, and willing to accept policy and regulatory development rules as the PB needs to advance policy.

Mr. Conti asked if the Planning Board should have more than five members? Mr. Szklut replied that five is a good number, as adding more members can be difficult in terms of scheduling meetings, getting consensus, etc. Selectman Firenze raised the possibility of the PB adding an "alternate" member.

The Board discussed the possibility of an "alternate" member and then discussed committee appointments in general.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- Responses to the Town Counsel/Labor Counsel RFP are arriving, and there are presently at least 10 proposals.
- Concord Ave. road work is beginning – it will be done in phases.
- The Underwood Pool generated \$167K this year (\$34K higher than last year.) This figure will be updated to factor in net costs.
- A Benton Library re-use proposal will be discussed at the Oct. 4 Board of Selectmen's meeting.
- Sidewalk and curbing requests have risen, with concerns on safety and walkability. Selectman Firenze noted that the funding is not available, but that a sidewalk-specific debt exclusion could be put to a vote. The Board discussed this possibility and will ask Mr. Castanino to put together a sidewalk treatment plan.
- The Board noted that at its last meeting it took the position that serving committee members need to be town residents.

OTHER

Selectman Paolillo reported on the state's proposed Financial Management Report. He explained that the communities who proceed with this either have an identified a problem or desire a score card to identify any issues or best practices to consider. Selectman Paolillo said he would recommend moving forward on this.

The Board moved: To accept the offer of a Financial Management Report for Belmont from the state.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Jones noted that the Town's MUNIS data system, acquired a few yeaes ago, did not include the HR component. IT issues throughout town will need to be addressed and a secure data system is necessary as it is required by federal guidelines.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of BOS Minutes 4/7/10 and 4/12/10

The Board moved: To approve the minutes noted above: 4/7/10 and 4/12/10.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY WRITING

United Nations Day – October 24, 2010

The Board moved: To approve the recognition of United Nations Day.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

OTHER (*continued*)

Selectman Firenze requested that Mr. Younger contact the Police Chief about the status of the Community Policing program, which he feels is very worthwhile and does not want to see fall by the wayside.

Muscular Dystrophy Walk

Mr. Younger thanked Belmont residents for the M.D. walk, which raised \$14K.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (*continued*)

Executive Session --Negotiations Regarding Union and Non-Union Personnel

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 12:20 p.m. to discuss negotiations regarding union and non-union personnel. The Board will not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During executive session, one motion was made and passed unanimously. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 pm.)

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator