

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, September 14, 2009
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Leclerc in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Firenze was present. Selectmen Jones was absent. Town Administrator Tom Younger was not present; Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti was present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

Ms. Judith Sarno, Town Meeting member from Precinct 3, expressed her appreciation to the Board of Selectmen for their support regarding the new Senior Center generator (which has been removed). Chair Leclerc acknowledged the neighbors for their civility and hard work. Selectman Firenze noted that this was simply "the right thing to do".

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Light Department – 365 Marsh Street

Mr. Tim Richardson, Director of the Belmont Light Department, appeared before the Board to request a utility pole relocation for 365 Marsh Street. Mr. Richardson explained that the owner has requested the relocation for construction purposes and will pay for the relocation, as well. This request, he said, is fine with the Light Board.

The Board moved: To approve the utility pole location change.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Selectman Firenze – Other

Selectman Firenze discussed the following topics:

- *Disability Access Committee* – Selectman Firenze noted that this committee needs appointments and that there is a need to better enforce the restrictions on handicap parking spaces. He noted that Chief McLaughlin is aware of this.

- *Uplands Update* – Selectman Firenze asked Mr. Conti if the lawsuits are all settled with the Conservation Commission. Mr. Conti said he believed so, but

would double check. In the interest of moving negotiations forward, Chair Leclerc requested that this (the Uplands) be put on the agenda for the October 5th Board of Selectmen meeting.

- *Channing Road* – Mr. Conti will contact Mr. Castanino regarding Verizon work that was done on Channing Road. Some residents' property has not been restored.
- *Wellington Traffic Issue* – Selectman Firenze noted that a major concern of the Wellington neighbors is how traffic is rerouted during construction. This issue needs to be looked at from several perspectives: Wellington Building Committee, Police, Fire, School Department, and neighborhood. Selectman Firenze recommended forming a group task force with members from all of the stakeholders to address the traffic issues. For example, a satellite drop-off could be explored and adopted for the other schools as well. Mr. Conti suggested that the Traffic Advisory Committee would be the appropriate place to begin. Chair Leclerc noted that the Board supports this idea and that Selectman Firenze will represent the Board on such a task force.

PILOT payments – Board of Assessors

Board of Assessors members Mr. Lavery and Mr. Noonan, and Assessing Administrator Dick Simmons appeared before the Board to make a presentation on PILOT payments ("payments in lieu of taxes"). Mr. Lavery explained that property of nonprofit organizations has increased at a very rapid rate. The Board of Assessors has put together a plan to request voluntary payments from tax-exempt entities under a PILOT program. While they are under no legal obligation to the Town, and the Town cannot compel any of them to contribute, there is an argument that they have a moral obligation to share in the expense of the essential services they receive. On October 1st, the Board of Assessors will send out a letter requesting payments.

Mr. Lavery then reviewed the tax-exempt properties as well as the anticipated loss in revenue (\$157,190) and noted that, in addition to revenue, Belmont has lost 11 acres of land. He noted that Belmont's tax-exempt base is larger than its commercial base. Tax revenue devoted to essential services is almost \$19M. The PILOT formula is seeking a payment of 4 cents per square foot of land. If the request is heeded by all parties, \$525,000 could come in as tax revenue. The request is basically asking for something in exchange for fire and police services; it is a uniform request for all of the tax-exempt entities.

Mr. Noonan added that the Board of Assessors all recognize the value these entities bring to Belmont, but feels it is appropriate to ask them to contribute to the services they receive. Chair Leclerc said that he appreciates the comprehensive analysis done by the Board of Assessors and added that while the community does benefit from these places, they too benefit from Belmont as well (e.g., solid community, good services). Selectman Firenze, agreed adding that, while he appreciates these entities, they are getting larger and

having an impact on the rest of the community. He noted that the basis for determining how much they should pay is rational, but if they want to make an equivalent contribution by funding a capital purchase, that would be acceptable, as well.

Belmont Serves

Mr. John Robotham, Treasurer of the Belmont Religious Council, appeared before the Board to request its support in “Belmont Serves” to be held Monday, October 12th, 2009. Belmont Serves will select various community projects to service the town of Belmont. Four hours of service activities are planned on the 12th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Board voiced its support for the “Belmont Serves” day.

The Board moved: To endorse the Belmont Serves community service project as sponsored by the Belmont Religious Council.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Approval of Town Meeting, Monday November 16, 2009

Mr. Conti noted that the Fall Special Town Meeting date is set for Monday, November 16th, 2009, 7:30 p.m. at the Chenery Middle School Auditorium.

The Board moved: To approve Town Meeting for Monday, November 16, 2009, 7:30 p.m., CMS Auditorium.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Mr. Conti noted that the Opening Warrant date is Thursday, October 8th at 8:00 a.m., and that the Warrant would close on Thursday, October 15th at 4:00 p.m.

The Board moved: To open and close the Warrant on the dates specified above by Mr. Conti.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Town Administrator’s Report

Mr. Conti reported on the following items:

- *Pavement Management* – Marsh, Park, Sycamore, the HS driveway and the Library sidewalks are substantially complete. Work remains on Grove, School and Goden.
- *Senior Center* – The generator will not be a part of the new Senior Center. Ongoing work will probably postpone the Grand Opening until sometime in October.
- *VFW* – We are awaiting their response regarding the liquor license application.

- *Police and Fire Grants* – The Town has applied for grants to fill two police and two fire positions; we will hear in the near future if funding is awarded.
- *Security* – The next phase will be on the Water building, DPW yard, and Town Hall. Bidding will be later this month.
- *Special Election* – An unanticipated special election to fill the senate seat vacated by the late Senator Kennedy has been scheduled – Primary: December 8th, 2009; General Election: January 19th, 2010. This expense was not budgeted for, but the state may pick up the tab for this unbudgeted cost.
- *Scheduling notes* –
 - BOS meets 9/21, 10/5, and 10/19.
 - The first Warrant Committee meeting is scheduled for September 23rd, 2009. Chair Leclerc will represent the Board to the WC.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of Board of Selectmen Minutes – March 31, 2008

The Board moved: To accept the Minutes specified above.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Marina's – 4A Trapelo Rd – New License for Selling Antiques, & Design Jewelry by GVS, 6 Trapelo Rd – Renewal License

The Board moved: To support both of the above license renewals.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ACTION BY WRITING

OTHER

Executive Session

The Board moved to enter into executive session at 8:14 to discuss litigation. The Board will not return to open session.

*(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and passed unanimously.
The Board adjourned at 9:42 PM.)*

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator