

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Tuesday, September 2, 2008  
7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 PM by Chairman Firenze. All selectmen were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

Mr. Tony Oberdorfer, of Fletcher Road, commented that he was amazed that no one showed up to question the town's decision to "turn off the lights." He voiced his concern about the decision to turn off streetlights on non-major roads and stated that the projected savings of \$20.00 per family per year is not very much considering the potential impact on safety.

Chairman Firenze replied that all areas of impact will be looked at, reviewed and measured in conjunction with Public Safety, the Police Department, and the Light Department. This will not be done without measuring the impact to the community – especially where safety is concerned. Public safety will not be jeopardized, said Chair Firenze. Selectman Jones added that it is a difficult budget year with the oil price increases. Selectman Leclerc stated that while this is not a happy choice, he is willing to have fewer lights on in order to keep other services level.

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

**CORI Policy Discussion**

Town Accountant Barbara Hagg appeared before the Board to discuss the CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) policy that she, Mr. Younger, and Assistant Town Accountant Frank Martin worked on this summer. Ms. Hagg stated that the new CORI policy was generated from a risk assessment sweep through all town departments. In assessing where we may be weak, an area was identified in the hiring process. CORI background checks are not presently done in Public Works, IT, Payroll, etc. There is mandatory training/certification for any personnel doing a CORI check.

Mr. Younger added that in formulating policies such as this, the town is putting together guidelines to create a structure in town government for a town-wide policy guideline book, which was suggested by the audit committee.

*The Board moved:* To approve the proposed CORI policy as revised on July 11, 2008.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **Town Administrator Report**

Mr. Younger spoke on the following:

- In July, an inter-municipal agreement policy was streamlined, allowing the Board of Selectmen to intervene in certain areas (and thus obviating the need to go through Town Meeting).
- An essay contest for 6th graders will be passed on to Superintendent Aubin for her consideration.
- The VFW lease resolution has 3 outstanding items. Mr. Younger advised their attorney (Mr. Monahan) to consult with Town Counsel on these items.
- Pavement Management – The Mill Street project is underway. Chair Firenze noted that the Cross Street intersection redesign was part of a fuller Cross Street reconstruction, which is not budgeted for since the override didn't pass. He suggested that Mr. Clancy see whether a Stop sign or some such intervention would be beneficial at that intersection.
- Woodfall Road Property – The auction is scheduled for October 5. The proceeds can be used to pay down debt or on a capital project.
- The Senior Center is 30 days behind schedule, which puts its completion date off to April and operating budget estimates are due next week.
- Belmont Second Soccer paid for the new grass on Town Field, which is coming along beautifully. Chair Firenze noted that a list of such donations should be made public.
- Cushing Village project – The parking lot RFP is out, with a due date of September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Double poles – Of the 15 poles, 10 have been taken care of and 5 still need to be removed by Verizon. Mr. Younger will contact Comcast as well.
- Proposed Teen Center – The project is on hold. Mr. Younger thanked Dr. Alper for his work on the proposed Center.
- Auditorium light project – A meeting has been set up.

Chair Firenze asked about the “take home vehicles” list. Mr. Conti stated that the Warrant Committee is speaking with individual departments. Belmont has less than a dozen “take home vehicles” all with very low mileage to the town.

Selectman Jones asked about the former Belmont Center Fire Station property. Mr. Younger stated that the offices will be ready for September. The restaurant has to go through the ZBA regarding its venting system, and may be ready in time for the holidays.

## **OTHER**

### **Waverly/McLean Easement**

A Verizon representative appeared before the Board regarding the Waverly/McLean easement. Selectman Leclerc expressed his appreciation for the progress made on pole removal. The Board asked that Verizon work with Comcast to remove any remaining poles.

*The Board moved:* To grant the easement to Verizon in order to bring service into the Waverly Woods.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **MWRA Loan Discussion**

Town Treasurer Floyd Carman appeared before the Board to discuss the MWRA loan. The loan is for an approved project which concerns engineering modeling work, not construction. \$682,000 (almost half ) is a grant and the remaining \$375,000 is an interest-free loan. Mr. Carman presented the actual Bond. Board members signed the Bond as well as the MWRA loan agreement.

### **ACTION BY WRITING**

#### **Approve Primary Warrant**

*The Board moved:* To sign/approve the Primary election Warrant.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0). Board members signed the Primary election Warrant.

Town Meeting will be scheduled for either November 10 or 17.

The Board discussed the potential Wellington debt exclusion and MSBA updates. The Board also discussed issues relating to potential funding and sites for a new library. Chair Firenze stated that he is in favor of moving the library across the street and using the existing building for a new police station or selling it to an independent developer. The Library Board's proposal should focus on moving the building across the street.

### **OTHER (continued)**

#### **Stonybrook/Woodbine Contract**

Mr. Conti presented the contract for the Board to execute concerning the engineering of the Stonybrook/Woodbine pumps.

*The Board moved:* To execute the contract.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### **School Committee Member Selection**

The Board discussed the process by which to vote in the next School Committee member. Five candidates have submitted applications and the voting will take place at a joint Board of Selectmen and School Committee meeting to be held, Thursday, September 4.

### **Committee Appointments and Discussion**

*Alcohol Beverage and Licensing Committee.* The Board addressed this committee first.

*The Board moved:* To follow the recommendation of the Chairman of the Alcohol and Beverage committee and Mr. Younger to discontinue the committee. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

At this time, the Board discussed the following issues as they relate to committee appointments: the difficulty in bringing new people in for some committees, the question of committee size (do they need to be as large as they are?), the role of alternate (associate) members, and the policy of “retiring” individuals after 9 years of service. On this final point, the Board agreed that nine years – or three consecutive terms – was to be the membership limit.

*The Board moved:* To appoint the following people to the following committees:  
Appoint Roger Colton for one year to the Belmont Housing Trust.  
Appoint Gloria Lipson for a three year term Belmont Housing Trust.  
Re-appoint Jonathan Greene to the Cable Advisory committee.  
The above motions passed unanimously (3-0).

Hammond Road resident Matt Sullivan appeared to let the Board know that he wants to be reconsidered for an appointment to a committee. Chair Firenze suggested that he submit a community volunteer involvement form.

*Conservation Commission.* The Board decided that the number of permanent members will be kept at 6 and that Carolyn Bishop will finish out her term (she is 3 months shy of the 9 year mark), at which time she will be replaced by James Roth. Monica King, Darrell King, and David Cowell were not reappointed as associate members. Margaret Velie was reappointed as a full member.

*Council on Aging.* Mr. Younger will research to get a more accurate sense of how long various members have served. Mr. Sullivan expressed interest in this committee.

*Cultural Council.*

*The Board moved:* To reappoint Julia Jenkins.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Disabilities Access Commission.* By law, exiting members must be replaced with like (as refers to the disability) new members. Mr. Younger will get more information before the Board decides.

*Education Scholarship Committee.* The Board opted to not decide on this, as the appointment dates were unknown.

*Historic Commission.* Seven members are needed, presently have 9. Chair Firenze would like to get back to 7.

*McLean Land Management Committee.* Mr. Younger will request additional information from the committee.

*Municipal Light Advisory Board.*

*The Board moved:* To reappoint Ashley Brown and Robert Forrester as full members.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Permanent Audit Committee.*

*The Board moved:* To reappoint Robert Keefe as a full member.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Planning Board.*

*The Board moved:* To reappoint Jenny Fallon as a full member.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Recreation Commission.*

*The Board moved:* To reappoint Stephanie King as a full member.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Board of Registrars.* No action was taken at this time.

*Water Advisory Board.*

*The Board moved:* To reappoint Frank French as a full member.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Youth Commission.*

*The Board moved:* To reappoint Dr. Alper to a one year term.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Zoning Board of Appeals.* The Board opted to postpone appointing to the ZBA until the next meeting to allow time for Board members to discuss an appointment to replace Eric Smith with present ZBA members.

**Executive Session**

*The Board moved:* To enter into executive session at 9:54 PM to discuss contract negotiations. The Board will not be returning to Open Session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*(During executive session, no substantive motions were made. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 pm.)*

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Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator