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DATE: September 21, 2023
TIME: 8:59 AM

Minutes of the
Town of Belmont
Warrant Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
7:30pm



To view the recording of the meeting, please click [HERE](#).

Call to Order: Mr. Lubien called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Member	Present	Member	Present
Geoffrey Lubien, Chair	Yes	Conor McEachern	Yes
Paul Rickter, Vice-Chair	Yes	Robert McLaughlin	Yes
William Anderson	Yes	Lynn Peterson Read	Remote
Tom Caputo	Yes	Laurie Slap	Absent
Christine Doyle	Remote	Matthew Taylor	Yes
Anne Helgen	Yes	Marie Warner	Yes
Staff		Jack Weis	Yes
Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator	Remote	Mark Paolillo, Ex-officio Designee, Select Board	Yes
Jennifer Hewitt, Assistant Town Administrator & Finance Manager	Remote	Meghan Moriarty, Ex-officio, School Committee	Remote

Review and Vote on Warrant Committee Report

Mr. Lubien asked for updates on sections that are still outstanding. He then recommended how to proceed with voting on the document. There was a discussion of how to proceed.

Mr. Taylor asked if on Page 74 the Recreation Revolving Fund summary goal of "becoming entirely self-funded" is still accurate. Ms. Hewitt and Ms. Garvin said this is an open policy question. This question was discussed as well as the intent of the wording. Ms. Warner recommended changing the wording to less specific language.

Mr. Taylor said he thinks another stress on the Town Clerk (Page 79, Town Clerk) is holding hybrid Town Meetings in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. He pointed out that there is language from the State giving flexibility on this if the Clerk's Office is short-staffed. Ms. Garvin spoke about the additional work required for a hybrid Town Meeting.

Mr. Taylor said that across the municipal departments increased Freedom of Information requests, especially those that need to be redacted, are driving up costs. He asked if this should be acknowledged and referenced. How to reflect this was discussed and Mr. Lubien said this could be added to the beginning of the report because affects so many departments.

Mr. Taylor said he could create links to the Structural Change Impact Group ideas for easier access.

There was a discussion of how to handle the Water & Sewer Rate increase in the document.

Ms. Hewitt said the final recommended budget has been released and is on the Town website. However, the OPEB numbers for Water & Sewer have been adjusted very slightly.

Mr. Rickter expressed concern that the length will be off-putting even though there is a lot of good information. There was a discussion of this and past efforts to determine whether this is actually a problem.

There was a discussion on presenting the budget at League Night and Town Meeting.

Motion: Mr. McLaughlin moved to approve the Warrant Committee Report contingent on the Chair making non-substantive corrections as he sees fit, particularly in the Facilities Section, unless he hears objections from other Committee Members. Ms. Helgen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Vote on FY24 Proposed Capital Projects

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

Approve minutes (if any), including all outstanding subcommittee or working group minutes.

May 8, 2023:

Motion: *Mr. McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023 Warrant Committee meeting. Ms. Warner seconded, and the motion passed by roll call vote with Ms. Helgen, Ms. Moriarty, and Mr. Paolillo abstaining.*

Liaison Reports:

Select Board: Mr. Paolillo reported on the upcoming meetings in preparation for Town Meeting. He also outlined some the Zoning Bylaws that will be looked at to encourage economic development.

Public Comment – there was no public comment.

Adjournment

Motion: *Mr. McLaughlin moved to adjourn the meeting of the Warrant Committee. Ms. Helgen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.*

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny
Recording Secretary