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BELMONT, MA

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

Minutes of the
Town of Belmont
Warrant Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 21, 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	Remote	Robert McLaughlin	Yes
William Anderson	Yes	Lynn Peterson Read	Yes
Tom Caputo	Yes	Matthew Taylor	Absent
Christine Doyle	Yes	Marie Warner	Yes
Anne Helgen	Yes	Jack Weis	Yes
Staff		Mark Paolillo, Ex-officio Designee, Select Board	Yes
Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator	Remote	Meghan Moriarty, Ex-officio, School Committee	Yes
Jennifer Hewitt, Assistant Town Administrator & Finance Manager	Yes		
Anthony DiCologero, Schools, Director of Finance, Business & Operations	Remote		

Discuss and Vote School Reserve Fund Requests

Mr. Lubien reviewed the guidelines for Reserve Fund Requests.

Mr. DiCologero reviewed the overages in special education due to out-of-district placements and what actions were taken to address the deficit. They believe they need about \$250,000 to close out the year, and detailed how that money would be used.

There were several questions and discussion of the expenditures and the request as well as other funds that might be used.

Mr. Lubien asked if any funds that are not used would be turned back to the town, which Mr. DiCologero confirmed.

There was a discussion of the ARPA fund and remaining funds as well as FEMA reimbursements.

Ms. Moriarty pointed out the effort that the School Department made to reduce the deficit.

There were further questions and discussion of the request and other school expenses.

Motion: Mr. Weis moved approval to transfer \$250,000 out of the Reserve Fund to the School Department to fill the anticipated FY23 budget deficit. Ms. Doyle seconded, and the motion passed 10-3 by roll call vote with Mr. McEachern, Ms. Warner, and Ms. Helgen opposing.

Covid Related Reserve Fund Request

Ms. Hewitt explained that this request was made because HRSA Covid funding ended up in Belmont's ambulance account by mistake and booked as regular FY20 ambulance revenue. She then explained the problems that occurred because of this mistake. She asked that \$14,295.58 be transferred to the Treasurer's Banking and Legal Expenses account so that HRSA can be reimbursed.

There were questions and discussion of the request and how the error occurred.

Motion: Ms. Helgen moved approval to transfer \$14,295.58 out of the Reserve Fund to the Treasurer's Banking and Legal Expenses account. Ms. Doyle seconded, and the motion passed 12-1-0 by roll call vote with Ms. Doyle abstaining.

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

Public Safety Subcommittee April 12, 2023:

Motion: Ms. Helgen moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 Public Safety Subcommittee meeting as amended. Mr. McEachern seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by show of hands vote.

General Government Subcommittee April 14, 2023:

Motion: Mr. McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2023 General Government Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Rickter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by show of hands vote.

Liaison Reports:

- A. Select Board: Mr. Paolillo reported on the activities of the Select Board and thanked the Warrant Committee for their work over the past year.
- B. Town Administrator: Ms. Hewitt reported that the new Treasurer is starting June 26th and reviewed her qualifications and experience.
- C. School Committee: Ms. Moriarty reported she will remain as Chair of the School Committee so will also continue to be liaison to the Warrant Committee.

Other Business

Mr. Lubien thanked Ms. Slap and Ms. Doyle for their work on the Committee as they will be rotating off this year. He said the openings are being filled, although there is still one open spot.

Ms. Doyle spoke about her enjoyment working with the members of the Warrant Committee and thanked them for their collaboration.

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 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny
Recording Secretary