

**Town of Belmont  
Warrant Committee  
Property Tax Working Group**

2021-2022

**MEETING MINUTES**

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: November 18, 2021  
TIME: 10:09 AM

Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 7:00PM  
Remote meeting via Zoom

Present: Elizabeth Dionne, Dan Halston, Bob McLaughlin, Jack Weis

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of unanswered questions from the Board of Assessors (BOA) related to PILOT requests and payments in Belmont. Mr. Halston has attempted to obtain answers to these questions since November 2019.

Ms. Dionne will attend the October 14 meeting of the BOA to raise these questions for a final time and request a date by which to receive answers. If answers are not forthcoming, the Working Group will prepare a Freedom of Information Act request to submit to the BOA.

Committee members agreed that any PILOT requests should be closely related to the actual cost of public services used by tax exempt entities in Town. The Town should also have a method for calculating in-kind benefits provided by such entities. Mr. Weis suggested that a close relation between requested payments and benefits received would increase public pressure and the chances of voluntary compliance with PILOT requests. Mr. Halston agreed to send around the current formula used by the Town to calculate PILOT requests.

Mr. Halston referenced a long-term PILOT agreement by Dartmouth College and City of Lebanon, which had an annual increase and included credit for community benefits.

Ms. Dionne will communicate with Select Board Member Epstein regarding the status of senior property tax relief and whether the Select Board wishes the Working Group to conduct further analysis related to this goal.

For the time being, the Working Group will not focus on commercial development in west Belmont, as those discussions are still at a preliminary stage with Town Administrator Garvin.