

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Wednesday, May 28, 2014  
7:00 PM**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:07 p.m. by Chair Rojas in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Baghdady and Paolillo were present. Town Administrator David Kale and Assistant Town Administrator Marshall were also present.

Chair Rojas reviewed the agenda.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

[There were none.]

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

**Update: Annual Permanent Audit Committee Report**

Mr. Ernie Fay, Chair of the Permanent Audit Committee, and Mr. Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer, appeared before the Board to provide the Board with an overview of the Permanent Audit Committee Report. Mr. Fay thanked all the members of the Permanent Audit Committee. He noted that the annual audit was conducted by Powers and Sullivan.

Regarding the audit, Mr. Fay said that it went smoothly and the Town of Belmont financial departments were to be commended for thorough and comprehensive work. Belmont continues to receive its AAA bond rating by Moody's. The annual audit of the Light Department's also went smoothly and the bond rating for the Belmont Municipal Light Department received an AA/1 Stable Rating.

The Board thanked the financial team as well as the Permanent Audit Committee and the Light Department.

**Approval of an Agricultural Wine License to allow Coastal Vineyards from South Dartmouth to sell wine at the Belmont Farmer's Market for Thursdays from June 12 to October 30.**

*The Board moved:* To approve the agricultural wine license for sale at the Belmont Farmer's Market from June 12, 2014 to October 30, 2014.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **Approval of One-Day Wine and Beer Licenses**

*Belmont After-School Enrichment Art Show, Saint Joseph's Parish Hall*  
June 6, 2014 - Wines & Malt Only

*The Board moved:* To approve the liquor license application for *Belmont After-School Enrichment Art Show* on June 6, 2014.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Belmont Collaborative Nursery School Art Gala, Beech Street Center*  
June 7, 2014 - Wines & Malt Only

*The Board moved:* To approve the liquor license application for *Belmont Collaborative Nursery School Art Gala* on June 7, 2014.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*First Church in Belmont, 404 Concord Avenue*  
June 14, 2014 – Wines & Malt Only

*The Board moved:* To approve the liquor license application for *First Church in Belmont* on June 7, 2014.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

April 7, 2014 Board of Selectmen Meeting

*The Board moved:* To approve meeting minutes of April 7, 2014.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

April 22, 2014 Board of Selectmen Meeting

*The Board moved:* To approve meeting minutes of April 22, 2014.  
The motion passed (2-0-1). (Selectman Paolillo abstained.)

May 1, 2014 Board of Selectmen Meeting

*The Board moved:* To approve meeting minutes of May 1, 2014.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## May 1, 2014 Board of Selectmen - Executive Session I

*The Board moved:* To approve meeting minutes of May 1, 2014, Executive Session I.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## May 1, 2014 Board of Selectmen - Executive Session II

*The Board moved:* To approve meeting minutes of May 1, 2014, Executive Session II.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) expects to issue a formal letter soon outlining the steps required by the Town in order to complete the acquisition process for the incinerator site. The Board discussed the appraisal and other fees and the timing of these actions. The Board will discuss the appraisal issue again, once the letter is received. Selectman Paolillo raised the topic of determining the post-closure possibilities for the site.
- The Cable TV Advisory Committee has met and the license renewal process with Comcast is moving forward.
- The Town in collaboration with Cambridge and Watertown has been asked to send a letter to the Governor in support of design and permitting study that will improve safety by conducting a traffic study at the intersection of Fresh Pond Parkway and Mt. Auburn Street. This dangerous intersection impacts Cambridge, Watertown and Belmont. Chair Rojas noted that more apartments have been built, which have increased the traffic volume. There is no master plan for the increased traffic.

*The Board moved:* To approve sending the Governor a letter in support of a request for funding a proposed traffic study at the intersection of Fresh Pond Parkway and Mt. Auburn Street.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

- The Committee Appointment process is moving forward. Mr. Kale explained the details of the application process, including the advertising through several media outlets of positions that are open and seeking interested volunteers. Selectman Paolillo requested that the chairs of major committees meet with the Board of Selectmen on a quarterly basis.
- The accomplishments of the part-time Recycling Coordinator activities will be compiled, as requested by Town Meeting members.
- A Proclamation recognizing outstanding service to the Town of Belmont by Dr. Kingston on Monday, June 2, 2014 at Town Meeting.



### **Warrant Committee Working Session to Discuss Article 3: Minuteman**

[There was not a quorum of Warrant Committee present.]

Warrant Committee members present were Chair Michael Libenson, Pat Bruschi, Robert Sarno, and Robert McLaughlin. Mr. Jack Weis also appeared before the Board to discuss the Minuteman article.

Mr. McLaughlin provided a brief overview of the situation as it currently stands, including the Needham resolution which would not oppose any town leaving from the district, other town decisions, the unintended consequences of voting a particular way, the unresolved issues such as School sizing and potential intergovernmental agreements in place of the Minuteman Regional Agreement. He said that a "pass over" vote may be the most appropriate course of action.

Mr. Weis raised the issue of Belmont's attempt to resolve the school sizing challenge. He said there are no obvious downsides to voting to pass over. He then discussed the Needham resolution and recommended that Belmont need not support this resolution since the new agreement gives towns a way "out" from the district. Mr. McLaughlin asked what would happen if the vote to pass over is defeated at Town Meeting and whether Belmont would lose any leverage. He suggested that Belmont may want to consider a no vote, in the event the motion to pass over is defeated. If the Town were to vote yes, we will have little impact on the size of the proposed school.

Mr. Weis said that it is difficult to ascertain which towns desire to leave the district and which towns are merely frustrated around the proposed size of the new facility. If the pass over vote does not pass, he agreed that a no vote may be appropriate.

Mr. Libenson asked how member towns would be able to withdraw from the Regional School District. Mr. Weis said that it could take three years under the structure of the Agreement to allow a Town to withdraw. A town that chooses to withdraw membership from the Regional Vocational School will still need to offer an option for vocational education to their students. If the Minuteman School construction were proposed to be sized for serving member Town students, then there would be no reason to withdraw.

The Board discussed what the district would look like if several towns do withdraw and overall debt service liability. Mr. Weis said that at the last Minuteman School Committee meeting the Administration presented a 600 student school instead of an 800-student school. Selectman Paolillo stressed the point that non-member towns will not join the district unless they are told they must pay appropriate fees to support the budget. The Board also noted that there are outstanding issues regarding the proposed intergovernmental agreement, facility fee for non-member districts and the resulting size of a new facility and therefore it is in the best interest of the Town to pass over on the warrant article until more information is known.

*The Board moved:* To support a motion to "Pass Over" the Article on the Amendment to the Minuteman Regional Vocational School District Agreement, however, if the "Pass

Over” is not voted favorably by Town Meeting, then the Board of Selectmen recommend unfavorable action on Article 3.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board thanked Jack Weis, Bob McLaughlin, Warrant Committee and David Kale for their tremendous work on this article.

#### **Article 14: Citizens Petition**

Planning Board Chair Battista, and Planning Board members Allison, DeStefano, and Clark, and Jeffrey Wheeler, from the Office of Community Development, attended the meeting to discuss the proposed Amendments to Article 14.

Chair Battista reviewed the four Amendments to Article 14 proposed by the Planning Board and unanimously supported by the Planning Board. Amendment 4 allows an option for a second unit to propose adding a side door to the front entrance of a rear unit in order to preserve a historic home.

The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend unfavorable action on Amendment 5 to Article 14. Chair Battista explained the rationale from the Planning Board.

Chair Rojas informed the Planning Board that Mr. Savas has requested to make a presentation against Article 14. PB Chair Battista added that the Citizens group has also requested to make a brief presentation.

The Board then voted on the Amendments to Article 14.

*The Board moved:* To recommend favorable action on Amendment 1.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* To recommend favorable action on Amendment 2.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* To recommend favorable action on Amendment 3.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* To recommend favorable action on Amendment 4.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* To recommend unfavorable action on Amendment 5.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* To recommend favorable action on Article 14.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### **ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

## **Executive Session**

*The Board moved:* To enter into executive session at 8:33 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to the value and purchase of real property if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the Chair so declares.

A roll call vote was taken: Chair Rojas said aye, Selectmen Baghdady and Paolillo also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **Open Session**

*The Board moved:* To exit Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken: Chair Rojas said aye, Selectmen Baghdady and Paolillo also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

Monday, June 2, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. – Chenery Middle School

Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. – Chenery Middle School

Monday, June 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.



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Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator