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Minutes

Town of Belmont

Board of Selectmen

Belmont High School, Main Office Conference Room

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

6:00pm

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: 12/10/2018

CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen in advance of Special Town Meeting was called to order at 6:09pm by Chair Adam Dash. Vice Chair Mark Paolillo and Selectmen Tom Caputo were present. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin was present.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A screening of *The Devil Dogs: A Documentary* will be held on November 15th, 7-8:30pm at Town Hall Auditorium. The event is sponsored by the Veteran's Service Office and the Belmont Health Department, and will feature an introduction by Carolyn Cole Kingston.
- *Joining the Circle: A Panel Discussion on Restorative Justice* will be held on November 15th, 7-9pm at the First Church in Belmont.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS:

[There were none]

ACTION BY CONSENT:

Proclamation for the Centennial of World War One

The proclamation would be presented to Bob Upton during this evening's Special Town Meeting session.

Motion: To approve the proclamation for the Centennial of World War One. (Vote passed 3-0)

Discussion and Vote on Letter to the FCC Regarding an Indirect Rule Change in the Communications Act of 1984 / 1992

A. Dash recalled from yesterday's meeting that the Board had only recently been informed of this request, and the deadline for submitting the letter was tomorrow. Therefore, the Chair had determined that this item was unforeseeable and qualified as an exception to the Open Meeting Law.

Jeff Hansell (Executive Director, Belmont Media Center) explained that the FCC was attempting to weaken specific provisions of the Act that would result in reduction of franchise fees to towns. The implication of this change would be to wipe out hundreds of local stations across the country. He requested the Board sign the letter opposing these proposed changes. He also encouraged Belmont residents to speak to their cable providers and provide individual letters to share with the Belmont Media Center in opposition to these changes.

A small typo was noted in the letter.

Motion: To approve signing of the letter to the FCC stating opposition to proposed changes to the Communications Act, as amended. (Vote passed 3-0)

Special Town Meeting Warrant – Discussion and Positions Taken

Article 3, Joan Drevins' changes: Jeffrey Wheeler (Senior Town Planner) explained the amendment was a change to the language (not the substance) of the Article, in order to bring it up-to-date with respect to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Joan had approached the Town Moderator during the recess of Special Town meeting yesterday, and the Moderator had accepted consideration of the proposed changes to be voted on 'by consent', i.e. not as an official amendment. The Planning Board supported the changes to the language.

Motion: To recommend favorable action on the changes to Article 3 proposed by Joan Drevins. (Vote passed 3-0)

Article 8, marijuana citizens' petition: The Board revisited the discussion from yesterday's meeting on whether to take a position on Article 8 prior to knowing the outcome of Article 4, which would be voted on later in the evening. The concern was that if Article 4 were to fail, then a failure of Article 8 would open up the Town to having retail marijuana outlets in any commercial area. J. Wheeler stated that the Planning Board would caucus on the floor if Article 4 were to fail, and it was his assessment that the Planning Board would vote in favor of Article 8 in that case.

The Board agreed to caucus on the floor to vote on Article 8 if necessary; P. Garvin would inform the Town Moderator to leave a break to allow for the Board to vote its position.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

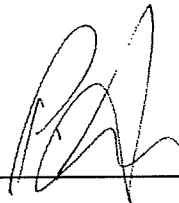
[None]

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

The Board reviewed the agenda for the upcoming meeting on November 19.

Motion: To move to Town Meeting. (Vote passed 3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator