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Minutes

Town of Belmont

Board of Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Monday, February 25, 2019

7:00pm

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: 4/1/2019

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:25pm by Chair Adam Dash. Vice Chair Mark Paolillo and Selectmen Tom Caputo were present. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin was present.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Belmont Selectmen Candidate Forum will be held on Monday March 4, 2:45pm at the Beech Street Center. Meet candidates Jessie Bennett, Roy Epstein, and Tim Flood.
- The MBTA is holding a public hearing on a proposed fare increase, February 27, 2019 from 6:30-8:30pm at the State Transportation Building - MBTA Boardroom, 2nd floor, 10 Park Plaza, Boston. Written comments can be submitted through February 28, 2019 to the MBTA.
- Appointments are available for free tax preparation assistance by the AARP at the Beech Street Center, Mondays and Fridays from February 4 through April 12.
- The Belmont Education Scholarship deadline is March 11. For questions on the application please contact Town Treasurer Floyd Carman.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS:

[There were none.]

ACTION BY CONSENT:

Belmont Woman's Club "Dancing with the Belmont Stars" Fundraiser, April 5, 2019 – Acceptance of Gift to Serve a Legitimate Public Purpose

Wendy Murphy (Belmont Woman's Club) gave a summary of the Belmont Woman's Club and explained that money from the fundraiser would go towards restoration of the Homer Building. For Town employees participating in the event, it was necessary for the Board to approve the acceptance of free dance lessons to comply with ethics rules.

Motion: To accept the gift of free dance lessons for the Belmont Woman's Club "Dancing with the Belmont Stars" fundraiser as a legitimate purpose. (Vote passed 2-0; Mark Paolillo recused himself, as he was an Officer of the Belmont Woman's Club)

Discussion of Temporary Police Department Relocation and Possible Votes on the Following: a) To allow the temporary relocation of the Police Station to the Water Department site; and b) To authorize the Police Station and DPW Building Committee to manage and direct the temporary relocation of the Police Station to the Water Department site

Anne Marie Mahoney (Chair, DPW/BPD Building Committee), Judith Sarno (DPW/BPD Building Committee), Rich McLaughlin (Police Chief) and Jamie MacIsaac (Assistant Police Chief) joined the meeting. The Water Department site had been identified as the best location to set up the temporary Police Station during renovations: water/sewer hookups were available, there were several ingress/egress routes, ample space to set up trailers and for parking. It was anticipated that the temporary station would be up and running as of July 1 and be in place 10-12 months during the renovation.

A. Mahoney said that efforts had been made, and were ongoing, to reach out to the neighbors of the Water Department site to identify concerns. She advised that specific details of ingress/egress to the site still needed to be resolved.

Finally, A. Mahoney was requesting use of Town Hall Auditorium for so-called "live storage"; P. Garvin would work with the Building Committee to figure out the details to accommodate the storage.

[Public comment.]

- *Ariane Goodman-Belkadi (Town Meeting Member P3):* Stated that there was an agreement between the Town and residents of Woodland Road that precluded use of the road for anything except water trucks. She wanted to make the Board aware of this agreement. A. Goodman-Belkadi stated that residents of Woodland Rd. were prepared to take legal action if the temporary Police Station were to use the road for egress without their permission.
 - o A. Dash requested a copy of the agreement; A. Goodman-Belkadi said it should be in public records. Jay Marcotte (Director, DPW) stated he had looked for the document in DPW records but had not located it; similarly, P. Garvin had reviewed previous Board of Selectmen minutes and not found anything concerning the agreement.
 - o A. Dash noted that the DPW/BPD Building Committee would be in charge of resolving the issues around egress, and the current vote by the Board did not impact this aspect of the relocation.

[Close public comment.]

Motion: To allow the temporary relocation of the Police Station to the Water Department site; and, to authorize the Police Station and DPW Building Committee to manage and direct the temporary relocation of the Police Station to the Water Department site; and, to allow the use of Town Hall Auditorium for live storage during the temporary relocation of the Police Station. (Vote passed 3-0)

Community Path Update and Possible Vote on Route

Amy Archer (PARE Corporation) joined the meeting. A. Dash reviewed recent discussions on the Path, involving whether the Board should change its recommendation of the south side Path route from Brighton Street to the Alexander Avenue Underpass, in light of new information. The Board had asked A. Archer to revisit the original PARE report given the new information, and determine whether the recommendation of the south side route still stands.

A. Archer had concluded from her review that PARE stood by its recommendation of the south side route, even considering the new information. She noted that many of the issues involving pinch points for both the north and south routes been factored into the original analysis and report. A. Archer stressed that the intersection at Brighton Street would need to be addressed from a safety perspective regardless of the chosen route; and she noted that design elements could be implemented to force people to encounter a gate and make a perpendicular crossing at the tracks. The only caveat to the recommendation was that the south side pinch point (encroaching Pure Coat North building) needed to be resolved. Finally, she advised that it was necessary to choose a route in order to be able to move forward with the design phase, including undertaking negotiations with abutters, Pure Coat, etc.

[Public comment.]

- *Carice Reddien (46 Center Ave.):* What portion of the 600ft pinch point on the north side is taken up by the actual French-Mahoney building? Are there different timeframes associated with north versus south route?
 - o A. Archer explained that the building occupied roughly 50 feet, but that the rest of the 600ft was along the same property line. Therefore, the pinch point was truly the entire 600ft, unless an arrangement could be negotiated with the property owner to widen the limits. With respect to the timeframes, at this stage there was no difference. Investigative work was required on either side as part of design.
- *Jay Murphy:* What is the current position - of the Board, PARE - on the feasibility study?
 - o A. Archer reiterated that PARE had previously recommended the south side, and that the Board had voted their approval as well. The current discussion involved assessment of new facts that had come to light; after additional review of the new facts, PARE was still recommending the south side route.
- *Jeff Levin-Scherz:* Appreciated the efforts and thoughtfulness of the Board with respect to the decision process. Advocated for a north side route so as to not introduce a railroad crossing.
- *Martin Plass (Town Meeting Member P3):* Would the reconstruction of the intersection to address safety concerns be included in the cost of the Path?
 - o A. Archer thought that a full signalization was warranted and would therefore be included in the design and likely be eligible for construction funds. An overpass had previously been investigated to address the crossing, but it was determined not to be a good solution.
- *Cosmo Caterino:* With respect to potential environmental contamination at the Pure Coat building, suggested that State brownfield provisions could help to limit the Town's liability.
- *Jessie Bennett (Town Meeting Member P1):* 1) The Path should not go down Hittinger Street due to the traffic issues already existing in the neighborhood. 2) Safety at the Brighton Street crossing should be prioritized and addressed ASAP, regardless of the status of the Path. 3) Urged the Board to make a decision tonight and move to the design phase.
- *Travis Franck:* 1) How high would a barrier have to be along the north side pinch point, e.g. could it be a curb that would allow for emergency vehicles to open their doors? 2) How much space is required to design the intersection in a way that forces a perpendicular crossing of the rail tracks?
 - o A. Archer responded: 1) Likely a full sized fence would be required to protect from the trains, but would need to work out the details in design. 2) Does not require a lot of room, there would be enough.

- *Laura Vanderhart (Town Meeting Member P4):* 1) Are there small emergency vehicles that could function better to service the Path at the pinch points? 2) What was the difference in score between north versus south? 3) Thought that the cost to Belmont would be higher on the south side. 4) As a parent, expressed concern over the south side route because of the crossing of the tracks.
 - o A. Archer clarified with respect to 2) that the original scores were 70 (south side) to 63 (north side).

[Close public comment.]

Each member of the Board summarized their position:

- M. Paolillo identified the at-grade crossing as a concern, but felt that a solution could be implemented and cited examples from elsewhere in the state. Given that PARE had maintained its recommendation, and that there were safety concerns and challenges on both sides, he advocated moving forward to design phase with the south side route. If negotiations to obtain the encroaching piece of property on the south side were unsuccessful, he was supportive of reverting to the north route.
- T. Caputo also identified the key issue as being safety, and advocated that the intersection should be improved regardless of the chosen route. He put weight on the expert opinion of PARE to move forward with the south route. In addition to successful negotiations with Pure Coat, his support was also contingent on consultation with the Belmont High School Building Committee, and ultimate approval of the path on the south side by the School Committee.
- In addition to safety, A. Dash placed emphasis on the need to get the project funded. Given the concerns expressed by the MBTA, he felt that the north side route made the most sense. One of the factors that had influenced his previous vote was the need to fund the Alexander Avenue Underpass; now that the Underpass was being funded separately, the straight line route on the north side made more sense to him. Finally, he was concerned over the time it would take to conduct negotiations to resolve the south side pinch point and that this would slow down the project.

Motion: That the Board of Selectmen maintain its recommendation of the south side route for the Community Path, contingent on favorable responses to negotiations with Pure Coat concerning the encroaching piece of property, and contingent on obtaining support from the School Committee and Belmont High School Building Committee, both within a sixty (60) day timeframe. (Vote passed 2-1; Mark Paolillo and Tom Caputo voted yes; Adam Dash voted no)

[A recess was taken.]

Discussion of Installation of Clock Gifted by Belmont Savings Bank

Hal Tovin (Executive VP, Belmont Savings Bank Foundation) and Kayla Murphy (Senior Marketing Manager, Belmont Savings Bank Foundation) joined the meeting. The Board had previously accepted the gift of the clock, with the location to be determined. P. Garvin had reached out to Andy Rojas who had provided a landscape design plan, with the location of the clock specified based on input from Director of Community Development Glenn Clancy.

*Motion: To install the clock gifted from Belmont Savings Bank in the location as indicated on the map.
(Vote passed 3-0)*

Updated on Belmont Savings Bank Merger

H. Tovin explained that the Bank was being acquired by People's United, a New England based bank; a shareholders vote was to be held the coming Wednesday, and the official changeover would take place April 1. There were no planned branch closures or personnel affected. The Belmont Savings Bank Foundation was independently funded and would continue to support the Town in various ways, including the 'Turn on the Town' event.

Department of Transportation – LED Enhanced Signs, Brighton Street Crossing

William Baron (USDOT Volpe Center) and Marco de Silva (USDOT Volpe Center) joined the meeting. This would be the second phase of the study – the first phase had been to assess the impact of pavement markings which indicated where to stop in advance of the railroad tracks. In the current phase, the DOT would install 'Do not stop on the tracks' signs, with LED lights on the border, on the exit side of the tracks. There would be no cost to the Town. The signs would be in place for one month to collect data, after which they could be left up or taken down at the Town's discretion.

Motion: To approve the installation of signs for the Department of Transportation's Phase Two study at the Brighton Street Crossing. (Vote passed 3-0)

Award Construction Contract FY19 Water Main Project to Cedrone for \$651,184.54

Jay Marcotte (Director, DPW) joined the meeting. There had been nine bids received in total; Cedrone was the low bidder. The company had previously done work in Town and was considered to be responsive and fast-moving.

Motion: To award the construction contract for fiscal year 2019 water main project to Cedrone in the amount of \$651,184.54. (Vote passed 3-0)

Trash Update from DPW Director

J. Marcotte presented data from the first six months of the new automated trash and recycling program. There had been a reduction of 510 tonnes of garbage compared with the same months in the previous year, a 15% decrease. By contrast, recycling had increased 323 tonnes, a 28% increase. The DPW was now tracking the number of bulky item pickups, which it had not done previously.

Participation at cardboard drop-off events had declined since the holidays; Assistant DPW Director Mike Santoro was recommending holding one event per month going forward. J. Marcotte was still working out the details for obtaining a cardboard compactor, which would allow DPW to hold regular drop-off hours for cardboard throughout the week.

J. Marcotte was in the process of developing a policy for what residents should do with trash/recycling bins on snow events.

Incinerator Site Update

A. Dash provided an update on new information obtained since the last discussion on the incinerator site: The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) had responded to the Town's request for clarification on whether the five remaining uses were considered to be "municipal". DCAMM had stated that a public-private partnership would not qualify as municipal use – this, in effect, eliminated the rink and anaerobic digester options. Since Belmont Light is a municipally owned utility, solar/storage uses could be considered as municipal use, conditional that a third party developer would not be used for the projects.

[Public comment.]

- *Travis Franck (Energy Committee / LBAC):* Had the recently commissioned study with Landon Environmental been cancelled, since it was no longer necessary? A. Dash confirmed that it had been cancelled.
- *Alex Corbett (Town Meeting Member P8):* Wanted to confirm that a public-private partnership for the rink at the incinerator site was a no-go.
- *Martin Plass (Town Meeting Member P3):* What were the next steps and timeline for moving forward? A. Dash said the Board still planned to vote on the final post-closure use at the March 18 meeting.
- *Roy Epstein (Chair, Warrant Committee):* Since none of the options remaining on the table provided funds towards the cap, is the Town still under the same timeline to decide the final use?
 - o G. Clancy stated that going into the design process and working with DEP, it was necessary to have the final use specified, therefore it did not change the timeline.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Temporary Animal Control Officer

Wes Chin (Director, Health Department) stated that appointment of an animal control officer was required annually. The current officer, John Maguranis, was retiring; W. Chin requested that he himself be appointed temporarily to bridge the gap until someone permanent could be found.

Motion: To appoint Wes Chin as the temporary Animal Control Officer. (Vote passed 3-0)

Discussion of Possible Filming on Ivy Road by Paramount Television

Ryan Cook (Location Manager for Paramount) was requesting permission from the Board to reach out to the neighborhood and hold a meeting to discuss the planned filming. He and his staff would act as a liaison for the Town, build consensus in the neighborhood for the filming, and address any concerns from residents. R. Cook would be back the following Monday to request formal approval for the filming.

Open Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Motion: To open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant from February 26, 2019 at 8:00am, to close on March 12, 2019, at end of business. (Vote passed 3-0)

Vote to Approve New Business License for Pho & Thai

Motion: To approve the new business license for Pho and Thai. (Vote passed 3-0)

Approve One Day Liquor License Application from the Foundation of Belmont Education for March 16, 2019 Fundraising Event

Motion: To approve the one day liquor license as stated above. (Vote passed 3-0)

Approve One Day Liquor License Application from the Beth El Temple Center for March 2, 2019 Annual Gala

Motion: To approve the one day liquor license as stated above. (Vote passed 2-0; Adam Dash recused himself as he was a member of the Temple)

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

P. Garvin reviewed the Town Administrator's Report:

- The League of Women Voters is presenting a forum entitle "Is it crucial to expand support for seniors". The forum will be held March 7, 7pm at the Beech Street Center.
- P. Garvin was recently recertified for public procurement.
- Complete Streets public input session will be held Wednesday March 6, 7pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.
- Recently completed bond calls with both Moody's and S&P in anticipation of borrowing for the High School and Police Station/DPW projects. Results from the call will be available by next meeting.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

- Warrant Committee would take up review of CPA applications at its March 6 meeting.
- High School Traffic Working Group would be meeting on March 8 to get feedback on access to the High School site during construction; a further public meeting would be held March 20.
- At the next School Committee, Bill Lovallo would be in attendance for a discussion of the Community Path; T. Caputo was planning to attend.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- *December 17, 2018 regular session:*

Motion: To approve the December 17, 2018 regular session minutes. (Vote passed 3-0)

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn. (Vote passed 3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,


Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator