

Call to Order

The Board of Selectmen convened in regular session on Monday, January 27, 2003 at 7:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Belmont Town Hall. All members were in attendance.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Action by Appointment

School Committee re: FY 2004 Budget and Collective Bargaining Issues

The Board met with members of the School Committee regarding the FY 2004 budget process and collective bargaining issues.

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining; further that the Board will return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0), by roll call vote.

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:35 p.m.

The Board discussed the Town Administrator's initial allocation of projected revenues between the Town and school department to establish a baseline for the development of each budget.

The Town Administrator provided an overview of his process in developing an allocation this year, which was in error. He explained that the net effect of this error was an additional allocation to the schools of approximately \$400,000.

Mrs. Mahoney expressed concern for the equity of this error. She stated her discomfort with the reduction in the capital budget that is offsetting this allocation.

Mr. Brownsberger agreed with the importance of engaging in a public discussion of the revenue allocation earlier in the process. He also shared his concern with the current level of funding for the capital budget. He proposed the Board of Selectmen review the Town budget and identify any areas of significant dissatisfaction that the Board will attempt to address.

Discussion of Process for Disposition of Traffic Safety Requests

Members of the Traffic Advisory Committee, the Director of Community Development, and the Acting Chief of Police met with the Board of Selectmen to discuss a proposed process for the consideration of traffic related issues by Town staff and the Traffic Advisory Committee.

Ms. Frisoli, Chair of the Traffic Advisory Committee, advised the Board of the importance of having Sgt. Hamilton of the Police Department attend the committee's meetings for a consistent presence. She strongly stated that she does not believe this process can work without the routine attendance of Sgt. Hamilton.

The Board moved: to adopt the proposed policy and procedures.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Appeal of Tree Warden Decision re: Tree Removal on Townsend Road

The Board met Ms. Donna Collotti of 6-8 Townsend Road regarding her appeal of the Tree Warden's denial of her request to removal the public tree in the vicinity of her house. The Tree Warden and the Highway Superintendent were both in attendance.

Mr. Walsh, the Tree Warden reported that there were a number of residents in opposition to the removal of the tree at the hearing in addition to himself. He provided an overview of the maintenance and repair efforts the Town has made over the past few decades in response to the growth of this particular tree.

Ms. Collotti questioned the Board about the Town's policy with respect to denying requests to remove public trees. She alleged that the tree has caused property damage, including degradation of a foundation wall and roof damage to her home.

Mrs. Mahoney stated her belief that the tree is substantially removed from the house. She expressed her reluctance to remove a healthy public tree because of the impact its removal would have on the streetscape in the community.

Mr. Brownsberger stated he believes trees are a benefit to the entire neighborhood. He commented that the tree has been pruned away from the house significantly in the recent past.

Dr. Solomon commented on the significant number of trees throughout Town that have lifted sidewalks and disrupted roads, but he expressed a strong value to retaining healthy trees. He asked Ms. Collotti to explain what she thinks might be done to improve the situation if the Town denied her request to remove the tree.

She requested that the Town repair the sidewalk and the road such that she is able to park along the sidewalk on the road.

The Board moved: to affirm the tree warden's decision to deny the request to remove the public tree.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board committed to continue the Town's responsiveness to mitigate negative impacts from the growth of the tree on the private property.

Director of Community Development re: Pleasant Street/Pavement Management Projects

The Board met with the Director of Community Development regarding reconstruction of Pleasant Street and other pavement management projects.

Mr. Gatzunis stated that a couple of residents of Pleasant Street have requested that two parking spaces be eliminated from the Pleasant Street reconstruction plan to make it easier to exit a driveway at this location.

Mr. Gatzunis indicated he prefers the original design, but had no real opposition to the elimination of the parking spaces.

Mr. Brownsberger expressed his reluctance to eliminate the parking spaces, because of the public value obtained from these potential spaces.

The Board moved: to affirm the original design of the Pleasant Street.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Brownsberger inquired of the overall status of the Pleasant Street reconstruction project.

Mr. Gatzunis reviewed a current drainage issue the Town is resolving with MassHighway. He expressed frustration that the Town must wait four weeks to meet with the state.

Mr. Brownsberger stated his desire to involve the Town's legislative representatives to accelerate the timeline for the resolution of this issue with MassHighway to make sure that the funding for this project is not jeopardized.

Mr. Gatzunis also requested the Board approve the award of the pavement management contract to D&R General Contracting.

The Board moved: to approve the award of the pavement management contract to D&R General Contracting.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Gatzunis inquired whether the Board had any questions relative to the White Street reconstruction plan.

The Board concurred with the recommendations in the reconstruction plan and thanked the Traffic Advisory Committee for an excellent job.

Action by Consent

Application for Licenses and Permits - Renewals

Common Victualler's License

Belmont Country Club, 181 Winter Street

Cushing Donuts, Inc. dba Dunkin Donuts Togo's, 52 Church Street

Trapelo Donuts, Inc. dba Dunkin Donuts, 384 Trapelo Road

The Board moved: to approve the above Common Victualler's Licenses.

The motions passed unanimously (3-0).

Used Car Dealer's License - Class I

Colonial Chrysler Jeep, Inc., Daimler Chrysler Motor Corp, 778-790 Pleasant Street

The Board moved: to approve the above Used Car Dealer's License—Class I.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Used Car Dealer's License - Class II

Bassam Saliba dba TNT Service, 55 Brighton Street

Robert J. Webb dba Belmont Seat Cover, Co., 347 Pleasant Street

The Board moved: to approve the above Used Car Dealer's Licenses—Class II.

The motions passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Writing

Memorandum from Senior Planner re: Town-Owned Vacant Parcels

The Board reviewed a memorandum from the Senior Planner regarding town-owned vacant parcels.

Mr. Brownsberger commented that he believed the memorandum highlighted at least three major parcels that have significant potential for a higher and better use.

The Board agreed to pursue further discussion relative to the Brighton Street, B Street, and Woodfall Road parcels.

The Board agreed to hold a public hearing to discuss these vacant parcels in March.

Memorandum from Senior Planner re: Town Hall Complex Replacement Parking

The Board reviewed a memorandum from the Senior Planner regarding the Town Hall Complex replacement parking.

The Board requested that the Senior Planner confer with the Town Hall Complex Building Committee and others and develop a more definitive recommendation for consideration.

Memorandum from Town Administrator re: Recommendation to Appoint Human Resources Director

The Board reviewed a memorandum from the Town Administrator regarding a recommendation to appoint a Human Resources Director.

The Board moved: to approve the appointment of Diane Jenkins to the position of Human Resources Director.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Town Administrator re: Process for Performance Evaluation

The Board reviewed a memorandum from the Town Administrator regarding his thoughts regarding a process for his performance evaluation.

Dr. Solomon stated he liked the proposal that the Town Administrator review his own performance and that the Board would conduct its own individual evaluation of the Town Administrator which the members then discuss as a board as a whole.

The Board agreed that the Town Administrator will propose a standard evaluation form for use by the Board, and the Board shall adopt a formal process and timetable for implementation.

Selectmen's Issues List

The Board discussed the Selectmen issues list of January 1, 2003.

Dr. Solomon reiterated his request that the issues list be updated to reflect a discussion of a dog park. He also related his interest in promoting energy savings for Town buildings and further he requested that this issue be added to the list. He indicated he had a meeting with Alliant Energy, Tim McCarthy, Kevin Looney, and Gerry Missal to explore the possibility of undertaking this issue. He informed the Board he would keep them updated on his progress.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed draft minutes of the Board's meetings of December 9, 16, 2002, January 6 and 13, 2003.

Mrs. Mahoney made two slight clarifications to the minutes.

The Board moved: to approve the minutes as drafted and as changed by Mrs. Mahoney.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Other

There were no other items.

Action by Appointment (Continued)

Discussion of Litigation (Executive Session)

Discussion of Location of Fire Station Headquarters (Executive Session)

Discussion of Collective Bargaining (Executive Session)

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation, the potential acquisition of property to locate a fire station headquarters on Trapelo Road; strategy related to collective bargaining; and further that the Board shall not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0), by roll call vote.

The regular session adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Melvin A. Kleckner, Town Administrator
Clerk, Board of Selectmen