

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 2, 2003
REGULAR SESSION**

Call to Order

The Board of Selectmen convened in a regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of the Town Hall. All members were present.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Action by Appointment

Cable Access and Cable Television Advisory Committees re: Establishment of Public Access Corporation

The Board met with members of the Cable Access and Cable Television Advisory Committees regarding the establishment of an independent, not-for-profit public access corporation.

Dick Norris, Chairman of the Cable Television Advisory Committee, provided a brief history of the issue of public access television in light of the Town's consideration of the application for the renewal of Comcast's cable television license. He recommended the Town contract for professional services to investigate the viability of the creation of an independent public access corporation for Belmont. He suggested the Town negotiate with Comcast the requirement that they provide public access services to the Town, until such time as the Town of Belmont might decide to reopen negotiations with Comcast concerning this matter. He also requested the Board of Selectmen appoint an ad hoc committee composed of a diversity of residents with an interest in public access television to explore this issue along with the consultant.

The Board moved: to support the recommendation of these two committees; further to authorize the Cable Access and Cable Television Advisory Committees to develop a Request for Proposals for professional services to study the feasibility of developing a public access corporation and to develop recommendations for its formation; and further to appoint a new committee to work with the consultant to examine this issue and work toward the creation of an independent public access corporation.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of FY 2004 Budget Issues

--Information Technology

The Town Administrator provided an overview of the efforts of the Information Technology Advisory Committee to evaluate Town and School technology needs. He stated that the committee strongly recommended the enhancement of the Town's technology leadership and management. He indicated that, as a result of this recommendation, the Director of Technology for the School Department, the General Manager of the Light Department and the Assistant Town Administrator met to develop a proposal to enhance technology capacity for the Town while taking greatest advantage of existing resources.

Lee McCanne, Director of Technology made a presentation of the technology management proposal for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Brownsberger expressed his desire to support the recommendation of a new technology position, but noted his concern for the Town's revenue picture in FY05.

The Light Department Manager indicated his ability to provide an increase of \$100,000 in the Light Department's Payment in Lieu of Taxes to the Town.

--Capital Budget

The Selectmen reviewed the Capital Budget Committee's draft report to the Town Meeting of its Capital Budget recommendations.

--Final Recommendation

Bob Reardon, Assessing Administrator, appeared before the Board to provide revised new growth and motor vehicle excise tax estimates. He stated that it is possible that the new growth revenue for FY04 could be as much as \$650,000, which is \$100,000 more than the Town's current new growth estimate. He also noted that the motor vehicle excise revenues have been higher than expected in this fiscal year. He estimated that the motor vehicle excise revenue estimates for FY04 may be increased by as much as \$120,000, if the Town's experience in FY04 is similar to this year.

Susan Kendall Freiner, Treasurer, noted that the current revenue estimate of \$250,000 for FY04 is appropriate, given current interest rates.

Mr. Brownsberger expressed his opinion that funding a new position is likely to require the Town or the Schools to cut something else in their budget in FY05.

Mr. Widmer, Chairman of the Warrant Committee, questioned this logic, indicating his belief that next year's budget process will require a significant number of decisions that may result in reductions, but that the addition of a technology position should not be considered in isolation.

Dr. Solomon strongly urged the establishment of a new technology position as soon as possible.

Mrs. Mahoney expressed her support generally for the technology position.

Mr. Widmer indicated his personal support for the funding of a full-year technology position.

Mr. Brownsberger acknowledged the future of public administration involves the full utilization of technology and thus could support this proposal, even though he believes it will make for more difficult decision budget decisions in FY05.

The Board deliberated on the new revenue information and final budget proposals.

Mr. Widmer confirmed the Town's Administrator's revenue estimate for state aid, reflecting an additional \$130,000 for FY04.

The Board moved: to adjust the new growth revenue projection by an additional \$100,000 and the motor vehicle excise tax revenue projection by \$100,000; further to approve the Town Administrator's recommendations to finalize the budget for FY04; further to fully fund the technology proposal at the full-year cost of \$100,000; further to restore \$28,000 to the Town's professional services; further to restore \$15,000 to the Town's building maintenance account; further to allocate an additional \$112,471 to the Town's pavement management program.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

--Municipal Vehicle Use

The Town Administrator summarized his proposal for revisions to the Town's municipal vehicle use. He recommended the Board provide an opportunity for employees currently utilizing municipal vehicles to share their thoughts with the Board prior to the Board making a decision relative to this recommendation.

The Board agreed to discuss this issue further at their meeting next Monday to provide Town employees the opportunity to provide input.

Vision Implementation Committee re: Reuse of Waverley Fire Station

The Board met with representatives of the Economic Development Planning Group of the Belmont Vision 21 Implementation Committee regarding the disposition and potential reuse of the Town's Waverley Fire Station.

Mrs. Page noted recent contacts with the MA Department of Housing and Community Development that have resulted in representatives of the state expressing a willingness to provide some technical expertise to evaluate the potential commercial development opportunities of the site.

Ms. Oaklander spoke further about the BED-PG's desire to help facilitate the public process for the development of a request for proposals for the re-use of the Waverley Fire Station site.

Mr. Colton suggested a process for the evaluation of the site and the development of a vision for the re-use of the site to be translated into a request for proposals for the disposition of the site. He distributed a proposed timeline for this process, for a final presentation of a final rezoning proposal to the Annual Town Meeting in 2004, if needed.

Mrs. Mahoney expressed concern that this proposal would require the delay of the disposition of this building by a year, when the Town incurs costs to maintain the building until it can be sold. She indicated her desire to see the site be developed as residential housing, because she feels that use is best suited for this area of the Town.

Dr. Solomon expressed his preference for the Town to determine, through a public process, what the community in this area most desires in the redevelopment of this site.

Mr. Brownsberger stated his belief that the Town has significant questions about the potential reuse of the site and that this proposed process would help the Town obtain answers to those questions. He suggested that the BED-PG is the appropriate committee to spearhead this issue and to develop a proposal for state funding to evaluate the site.

Mrs. Mahoney reiterated her belief that the property should be disposed of as soon as possible to maximize the Town's value from the property.

Mr. Brownsberger stated his belief that the information gained from the proposed public process will maximize the value of the property.

The Board moved: to authorize the members of the BED-PG to seek Ready Resource funding from the state on behalf of the Town to evaluate the potential commercial reuse of the Waverley Fire Station site.

The motion passed (2-1), Mrs. Mahoney opposed.

Action By Consent

Application for Licenses and Permit - Renewals

Common Victualler's License

Aram's Coffee Café, 85 Trapelo Road
Belmont Hill Club, 825 Concord Avenue
Café Fiorella, Inc., 263 Belmont Street
Eddie's Deli, Inc., 469 Common Street
John Paloukos d/b/a Linda's Donuts, 247 Belmont Street
Paleo, Inc. dba Michael's Pizza, 191 Belmont Street

The Board reviewed the above Common Victualler's licenses for renewal.

The Board moved: to approve the renewals of the above Common Victualler's Licenses; and further that extended hour permits be issued to Arams Coffee Café and Linda's Donuts.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Junk Dealer's License

Robert R. Cross d/b/a Cross & Griffin, 468 Trapelo Road
Vladmimir Arustamyan d/b/a Design Jewelry by GVS, 501 Common Street
Deborah Viapiana-Ricci d/b/a The Ruby Slipper, 497 Trapelo Road

The Board reviewed the above Junk Dealer's Licenses for renewal.

The Board moved: to approve the renewals of the above Junk Dealer's Licenses.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Laundromat License

Adam J. Tocci d/b/a Easy Does It Laundromat, Inc., 507 Common Street

The Board reviewed the above Laundromat's license for renewal.

The Board moved: to approve the renewals of the above Laundromat's License.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action (By Writing)

Letter from Resident re: Baby Safe Haven Home Rule Petition

The Board reviewed a letter from Michael Morrissey, regarding his proposal for the Board of Selectmen to approve the placement of the Baby Safe Haven Home Rule petition for Town Meeting consideration.

Mr. Morrissey was present and made a presentation to the Board and responded to their questions.

The Board moved: to place an article on the Warrant of the next Special Town Meeting seeking Town Meeting approval for a home rule petition related to reducing the incidence of baby abandonment in the state.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Letter from Resident re: Sewer Abatement Request

The Board reviewed a letter from a Prospect Street resident requesting a sewer abatement.

The Board moved: to approve the sewer abatement request.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Correspondence re: Appointment of Sealer of Weights and Measures

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Health Director recommending the appointment of Patrick McCormack, Town Sanitarian, as Sealer of Weights and Measures.

The Board moved: to appoint Patrick McCormack as Sealer of Weights and Measures

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Town Administrator re: Selectmen's Summer Meeting Schedule

The Board reviewed a memorandum from the Town Administrator regarding the Selectmen's Summer Meeting Schedule.

The Board moved: to meet in regular session on the evenings of Monday, July 14, 2003 and Monday, August 4, 2003.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Correspondence re: Tree on Townsend Road

The Board reviewed correspondence regarding a tree on Townsend Road.

The Board moved: to support the recommendation of the Highway Superintendent.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen requested the Town Administrator communicate this decision to the resident.

Correspondence re: Re-appointment of MAPC Representative

The Board reviewed correspondence regarding re-appointment of the Town's MAPC Representative.

The Board deferred this matter.

Selectmen's Issues List

The Board deferred this issue.

Minutes (May 19, 2003)

The Board reviewed the draft minutes for May 19, 2003.

The Board moved: to approve the minutes, with two small amendments to correct typographical errors.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Other

The Board requested that a discussion of the process for the appointment of committee members be placed on the Selectmen's agenda for June 9.

Action By Appointment (Continued)

Discussion of Acquisition of Property (Executive Session)

Discussion of Litigation (Executive Session)

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy related to the acquisition of property to locate a fire station headquarters; further to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; further to discuss litigation; further to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining; and further that the Board will not return to open session.

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

The regular session adjourned at approximately 10:45 p.m.

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