

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, December 6, 2010
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:02 pm by Chair Jones in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Firenze and Paolillo were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Assessors – Recap and Excess Levy Capacity

Assessing Administrator Richard Simmons and Mr. Charles Lafferty from the Board of Assessors, appeared before the Board to discuss the recap and excess levy capacity. Chair Jones noted that the numbers were estimates put forth in order to get the tax rate approved. There was a \$150K increase in the levy from the Wellington School debt exclusion. To offset that increase, the Assessors increased the estimated levy on excise, investment, and license renewal accounts in order to keep the tax rate at \$13.24 per thousand.

The Board moved: To approve the recommendation to keep the tax rate at \$13.24 by making the adjustments noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board signed the appropriate papers.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Common Victualler's Licenses

The following restaurants are requesting renewal of Common Victualler's licenses: Starbucks Coffee, Teddy's Kitchen, Shangri-La, Patou, Stonehearth Pizza, Brother's Pizza, Pete's Livery Services, Brothers Auto Exchange, Waverley Auto Exchange, A.D.J.M. Pleasant St. Service, Cityside Subaru, Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins, Dunkin Donuts, and Belmont Country Club.

The Board moved: To approve the renewal of Common Victualler's licenses for the above-named establishments.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Yearly Renewals of Alcohol Licenses in the Town of Belmont in Accordance with State Timeframes

Mr. Younger noted that certain alcohol licenses are renewed annually in December. He said the license fees could be increased next year, but that they seemed appropriate for this year. Seven additional alcohol licenses are pending approval at the state level. If the additional licenses are approved, Patou and Kashish could be eligible for "all alcohol" licenses, as they have the necessary 60 seats.

The following establishments are requesting yearly renewal of their alcohol licenses: Asai, Belmont Country Club, Brother's Pizza, Il Casale, Kashish, Patou, Pho & Thai, Savinos, Shangri-La, Stonehearth Pizza, Artichoq (Vintages), Craft Beer Cellars, Spirited Gourmet, and the VFW.

The Board moved: To renew the alcohol licenses of the above-named establishments.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Reaffirm Term of Lodging House License, 386 Common Street

Mr. Younger noted that this particular license now needs to be renewed yearly in December.

The Board moved: To reaffirm the term of the Lodging House license.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Appointment of New Member(s) to Solid Waste and Recycling Committee

Selectman Firenze noted that, in addition to Mr. Robert Ryan, Mr. Don Mercier is interested in serving on this committee as well.

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Robert Ryan and Mr. Don Mercier to the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Selectman Paolillo raised the issue of formulating an *Economic Development Committee* (EDC) in Belmont. He researched an EDC in Acton. He read the charge of Acton's EDC, which basically states that the EDC reports to the Board of Selectmen to advise policy and zoning issues that foster commercial industries. He wondered if Belmont has in interest in constructing such a committee.

Selectman Firenze said that having a member of the Board of Selectmen on a committee such as this would be useful. He agreed that this is a critical issue in town. The Board discussed potential members of a group such as this, as well as a potential charge for the group that is appropriate to Belmont.

ACTION BY WRITING

COA – Approval for a BelderBus Replacement Grant Application

Ms. Nava Niv-Vogel, COA Director, appeared before the Board regarding a DOT grant application (due next week) which could offer funding to replace the BelderBus in Belmont. This bus is a 16-passenger vehicle and is 8 years old with 73 thousand miles on it. The state moves slowly, so the new bus could be a year or two away. The state would pay 80% and 20% would come from Belmont. A comparable vehicle to the one Belmont presently uses would cost \$62K, which amounts to a \$12K co-pay from the town of Belmont. She said she is concerned about the repairs that the current vehicle may need down the road. She noted that the number of rides per month has increased by 40% with the opening of the new senior center.

Mr. Younger noted that this would need to go through the Capital Budget Committee, which begins meeting in January.

Ms. Niv-Vogel said she began with the Board to get their support, although Board member signatures are not required.

Mr. Younger noted that the BelderBus falls under one of the regionalization goals for the town. He said that he would like to look at the next steps with Watertown, Arlington, and Lexington. He would like to improve the services and save money. In this case, money could be saved by lowering the number of vehicles on the road and/or gas expenses.

The Board agreed to move forward with the application, but with the following conditions: that a regionalization option needs to be fully vetted, and that the CBC would need to vet this. Selectman Firenze said he would like to know the kinds of in-town “appointments” that the bus and minivan provide transformation for. The Board wondered if it was cheaper to pay cab fare as opposed to offering these bus services.

The Board moved: To approve going forward with the BelderBus Replacement Grant Application. The Board’s support will be subject to a labor/cost analysis, a discussion with the CBC, and an analysis of BelderBus regionalization among the three towns noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Consideration of a Wine and Malt Alcohol License for a New Establishment, “43 LLC” DBA “Comella’s” at 43 Leonard Street

Mr. John Paul Comella and Mr. Joseph Tellier appeared before the Board to request consideration of a wine and malt alcohol license for “Comella’s,” a new restaurant opening soon in Belmont Center. Mr. Younger asked for the “return receipt” paperwork, which was handed over. Selectman Firenze noted that this license was for beer and wine, and that the “all alcohol” license could be requested further down the road. Mr. Younger said that they would need to reapply for the “all alcohol” license at some point after additional licenses are approved at the state level.

Mr. Younger briefly raised the issue of the “notification of abutters” statute. The Town’s requirements significantly exceed the state’s in this area and the Board may wish to consider reducing them.

Selectman Firenze asked about the necessity to order food with alcohol. Mr. Younger noted that this was a town policy.

The Board moved: To approve the request for a beer and wine license for “Comella’s”.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

BOS – Meetings Schedule for January 2011

Mr. Younger noted that MLK Day is the third Monday in January (the 17th). (The Board discussed budget department head meetings that they will hold in early January.) The 3, 10, 24 and 31 of January were set aside for Board of Selectmen meetings. The department head meetings will be held during the morning on the week of January 3.

The Board discussed the nature of the Department head budget meetings. They would like department heads to highlight both the cost of services and the cost of programs. The Board discussed what sort of direction should be given to the department heads.

Town Administrator’s Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- There is a new Assistant Director of Health: Ms. Angela Braun started work today.
 - A change to the Open Meeting Law now allows the Town website to serve as the available notice of meetings after hours. This means that the Town Clerk will no longer have to post notice of meetings at the Police Station (which is open 24 hours.)
 - The Town has been asked to consider leasing property at the DPW yard for a cell tower, which would give the town some revenue and improve cell phone services in the Waverley Square area. Selectman Firenze said to proceed with caution regarding the size of the tower. Mr. Younger said he would like the Board’s guidance in pursuing an RFP for this. The money could be put back into the community – e.g., for sidewalks.

- The Human Resource Consolidation meetings are moving forward.
- Trapelo Road – the DOT may exclude the section near Mill Street from the project.
- Commuter Parking issues – There will be a meeting on December 20.
- Belmont’s home rule petitions for Recall and Police Chief legislation were recently signed by the governor.
- Town Counsel – There is one more firm to be interviewed before Mr. Younger makes his recommendations to the Board for finalist interviews.
- Mr. Conti noted that the Town cannot rent out parking lot space to a food vendor for commercial activity because of the zoning bylaw. The Farmer’s Market is considered an agricultural use and is therefore permissible.

OTHER

- The Board will revisit its goals and objectives discussion on December 20.
- Selectman Paolillo inquired about having a Board member liaison at various major committees in town.
- Precinct 3 Senior Center issues: Chair Jones said that the cameras are meant to protect the building and in doing so may invade the residents’ privacy to some extent and that these two factors need to be balanced out. Selectman Firenze said that the neighbors need assurance that their privacy is not being invaded. Chair Jones said this issue could be discussed in more detail in executive session. The Board discussed how the lighting and screening is being addressed. The Building Committee has said they will handle these issues. Selectman Paolillo suggested that the Chair of the Building Committee work together with the Board to address these residents’ concerns.
- Selectman Paolillo is meeting with the Belmont Media Center (BMC) regarding a program in January to discuss the budget. The School Committee and Warrant Committee may be present as well.
- Selectman Firenze asked about the next steps for fiber and cable routing once the substation is no longer at the old Light Department building.

Warrant Committee Update – Chairman Jones

Chair Jones noted that the WC last week discussed the town’s health insurance participation and the associated costs. The WC noted that the price of health plans vary. Selectman Firenze suggested that a health insurance committee be formulated to look at these matters. Selectman Paolillo will contact the WC about creating such a committee.

Chair Jones also noted that WC Chair Allison will explore the private sector rate and benefit packages and see what it would like for municipalities if the benefits they were offering were more in line with the private sector. Chair Jones requested her to include OPEB and pension funding in her analysis.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (*continued*)

The Board to Adjourn and Reconvene

The Board moved: To adjourn at 8:49 p.m. with the intention of reconvening at 9:00 p.m. for a Light Board meeting, and at 9:30 p.m. for an executive session of the Selectmen. The Board will not return to open session after the 9:30 p.m. executive session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:48 PM.

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 9:49 p.m. to discuss negotiation with non-union personnel and to discuss the value of real property. The Board will not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During executive session, two substantive motions were made and passed unanimously. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 pm.)

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Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator