

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, January 3, 2011
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 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

Belmont Media Center

Executive Director of the Belmont Media Center (BMC) Mr. Jeff Hansell highlighted the technological improvements made by the BMC to the broadcast of the Board's meetings. He stated that a lot of people tune in to watch the Board meetings. He explained that graphics have been inserted (with agenda items noted) to help residents to follow along with the meeting. He also noted that a monitors may be added to the room so that Board members will know who is on camera. He requested that Board members use the microphones and that they speak directly into them as much as possible. Audience members should use the microphone as well when they are speaking.

Selectman Paolillo reminded Board members that he will be co-hosting a new BMC show with School Committee Chair Ann Rittenburg to keep residents apprised of the budget process.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Federal Funding for Belmont Rail Consolidation Discussion

(Reallocation of federal funds to other possible use.)

Mr. Younger noted that federal funding has been approved for studying the possible consolidation of Belmont's two rail stations. However, since the property on Pleasant Street has been sold, the question arises whether that funding allocation could be utilized elsewhere for the town of Belmont. Chair Jones replied that the money was earmarked for a railroad station. He suggested that Mr. Younger contact Representative Markey's office to see what the options would be for utilizing this funding. Selectman Firenze liked the idea of eliminating the trolleys on Trapelo Road to get rid of overhead wires and replacing them with natural gas buses. Depending on how the funding is structured it may be possible to use the money to study this idea since it is also a public transit project. He

also said the Board should be clear on exactly how much money is available and what Belmont's financial contribution would be to any project.

School Department Consideration of MSBA – Statement of Interest

Mr. Tony DiCologero, the School Department Director of Finance, appeared before the Board. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), he explained, has notified all communities that "statements of interest" for upcoming projects awaiting funding need to be refreshed. In Belmont, that applies to the proposed renovations to the high school. He reviewed the information that the MSBA has required. He requested that the Board vote to give the school department permission to refresh the statement of interest.

There was discussion of the list of specific "deficiencies" mentioned and whether the Town is obligated to address all of them as a requirement of receiving MSBA funding. Mr. DiCologero said that the statement of interest does not obligate the Town to do anything, and noted that the next step (should the Board approve refreshing the statement of interest) would be to have a feasibility study which might help fine-tune the list of what it really makes sense to do.

Selectmen Paolillo reviewed that the statement of interest keeps BHS in the queue for future funding, that the next step is a feasibility study, and at that stage determinations can be made about what Belmont can afford to do. School Committee Chair Ann Rittenburg agreed and added that this process mimics what happened when the Wellington moved along the queue. Selectman Firenze said that he could support refreshing the statement of interest to hold BHS's place in the queue.

The Board moved: (Selectman Firenze read the motion aloud:)

"Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on January 3, 2011, the Board of Selectmen of Town of Belmont, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated December 20, 2010 for Belmont High School located at 221 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which Town of Belmont, Massachusetts may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future, Priority categories:

- 3. Prevention of the loss of accreditation;*
- 5. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility;*

7. Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Belmont, Massachusetts to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.”

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Committee Appointments

Chair Jones noted that he would like to meet with someone from Conservation Committee before making any appointments there.

The Board moved: To reappoint Ms. Janet MacDonald and Ms. Nancy Donald to the Disability Access Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Regarding the Human Rights Commission (HRC), Selectman Firenze said that Human Rights issues are important issues and should go before the Board of Selectman and that therefore this committee could be abolished. The HRC will be asked to appear before the Board.

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Don Mercier and Mr. Matt Sullivan to serve on the Traffic Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Charles Clark as an associate member to the Planning Board.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To reappoint Mr. Joe DeStefano as a full member of the ZBA.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To reappoint Mr. Chris Henry as an associate member of the ZBA.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Several people have expressed an interest in the Economic Development Committee. Selectman Firenze read off a list of names of interested candidates. Mr. Szklut would be a non-voting member of this committee. The Board will not appoint members at this time, but will revisit in two weeks.

Mr. Younger said that he would like to create a handbook that explains the process by which the Board makes committee appointments.

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Michael Bair to the Traffic Advisory Committee and to the ITAC.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Flett Construction has requested to extend by one month the time limit to remove jersey barriers from the incinerator site. Most of them have already been removed.

The Board moved: To extend for one month the time limit for removal of jersey barriers from the incinerator site as requested by Flett Construction.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- The Health Trust Fund balance is just over \$5M (however, there are about \$2M in potential claims).
- The MMA annual meeting is on Friday, January 21st and Saturday, January 22nd.
 - He thanked the DPW for the excellent snow clearing efforts during the recent storm.
 - Mr. Paul Roberts will meet again with the Board (on 1/24/11) regarding the smart meter implementation trial.
 - The 911 Regionalization report has been released and Mr. Younger will review it with Chief Frizzell on 1/18/11.
 - The Planning Board will revisit the issue of vacant building fees.
 - There will be a "health insurance issues" meeting with the School Department soon.
 - Regarding the alcohol license expansion, seven new full alcohol licenses are now available.

Assistant Town Administrator Position

Selectman Paolillo asked about the Assistant Town Administrator's position. 71 applications were received, replied Mr. Younger, and he is reviewing them with Ms. Crimmins. Selectman Paolillo said he would like to discuss the role of that position as it relates to overseeing the budget. Selectman Firenze agreed and added that he would like a more clear understanding of what this role will be going forward.

Mr. Younger said that he would like this position to have a more budgetary focus than the position previously had. Selectman Paolillo said that he would like to see the budget come from the Town Administrator's (TA) office. Selectman Firenze said he would like

to see a list of functions done by the TA's office. Understanding the functions would help make clear what support is needed, he said.

Chair Jones said that primary budget responsibility should be brought back to the TA's office. This, however, would impact Town Accountant Barbara Hagg's role. The accountant is not typically the budget director, but it has been so in Belmont. Accounting, said Chair Jones, provides numbers, but does not typically drive the budget process.

BOS Goals and Objectives

Mr. Younger reviewed the list of objectives, including increasing revenue via PILOT payments and/or instituting fees for various police and fire services. Mr. Younger will obtain data from police and fire regarding use of those services by non-profits. The Board agreed to pursue this topic aggressively. Mr. Younger reviewed investment issue goals. He reviewed areas of regionalization that he is pursuing, e.g., elderly transportation, recreation.

Selectman Paolillo reviewed the status of Minuteman's request for funding for the feasibility study. He noted that Minuteman needs to "right size" the building. He reviewed that the 16 member towns need complete agreement in order to make any changes to the existing member contract.

Mr. Younger then reviewed other objectives as well, including the incinerator site (could a rink be put there?), establishing the economic advisory group, Belmont Center street revitalization, the Pure Coat property, improving the Town's website (*Ask the Town Administrator* section will be implemented soon), and finally to better publicize the Office of the TA's accomplishments to local media outlets.

Legal Counsel Appointments Update

The Board discussed the process by which applicants will be interviewed. They also discussed whether or not to have the same firm serve as labor counsel for the Town and schools, which would mean the Town hiring the schools' firm. Mr. Younger will forward applicant information to Board members and the Board can decide how many interviews it will conduct.

Selectman Paolillo Other:

- Selectman Paolillo has met with Town Moderator Widmer regarding more Board of Selectmen representation on building committees. The Board agreed that this was a valuable idea and it should be pursued.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Various License Renewals

The following establishments are requesting to renew the Common Victualler's License: Aram's Coffee Café (also requested extended hours), Il Casale, C.E. Restaurant, Brigham's, Belmont Hill Club, Linda's Donuts, Michael's Pizza, Thyago's Pizza, Vicki Lee's, Full Spectrum Motor Sports (the business is being sold to Mr. William Cram), Belmont Studio Cinema (also requesting extended hours).

The Board moved: To approve the license renewal requests of the above named establishments, with the exception of Belmont Hill Club.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

It was noted that two of the Selectmen are members of the Belmont Hill Club and thus have a conflict of interest in approving their license. However, if they recuse themselves for the vote the Board will lack a quorum.

The Board moved: To approve a "vote of convenience" so that all Board members can vote with a quorum on the Belmont Hill Club's license renewal.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To approve the license renewal request of the Belmont Hill Club.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Approval of BOS Minutes Meetings for 10/22/20, 11/1/10, 11/8/10, 11/15/10

Selectman Paolillo had some changes for the executive session meeting on 11/1 and for both minutes for the 12/6 meeting.

The Board moved: To approve the minutes of 10/22/10, 11/1/10 (open session minutes only), 11/8/10, and 11/15/10.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (*continued*)

Executive Session (*negotiation with non-union personnel*)

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 9:23 p.m. to discuss negotiation with non-union personnel and the value of real property. The Board will not return to open session.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During executive session, no substantive motions were made. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 pm.)

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator