

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, June 20, 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. Selectman Paolillo was present; Selectman Firenze was absent. Town Administrator Tom Younger was present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Jones announced that the Friends of the Council on Aging raised a total of \$1M for the Beech Street Center and donated the final installment (\$50K) last week. This was a great effort on the part of the community, he said, and then he thanked the Friends of the COA.

Chair Jones then announced that the School Committee (SC) settled its contract with the teachers union (Unit A). This is the first time in many years that the BOS has endorsed the school department contract, he said. This speaks well of the collaborative efforts of the BEA and the SC. Chair Jones thanked the SC as well as the leadership of the BEA.

ACTION BY WRITING

Police Department, Mutual Aid Agreement with Tewksbury

Police Chief McLaughlin appeared before the Board to discuss a mutual aid agreement with Tewksbury. The Chief noted that the Police Department is being proactive in these types of agreements. He said there are members on the force who are interested in this kind of mutual aid agreement. He noted that Town Counsel has reviewed the document and found it appropriate. He requested that the Board endorse this agreement tonight.

The Board moved: To agree to the mutual aid agreement with the town of Tewksbury.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

The Board signed the appropriate papers.

Chair Jones acknowledged that the Boston Police Department (with assistance from other communities) did an excellent job controlling the crowds after the Boston Bruins' Stanley Cup win on Wednesday evening of last week.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Goals and Objectives Update

Mr. Younger updated the goals and objectives.

He said that the property on Woodfall Road may be put back up for sale as the market has improved. Chair Jones asked how we (the Board) can encourage the PILOT donation process given that Belmont Hill School is purchasing more property that will now go off the town's tax payroll. He wondered if communities (who have independent schools) could get organized to bargain with the PILOT entities. Mr. Younger said he would look into this.

The Smart Meter RFP process is moving forward and will be ready in the next two weeks.

He noted that he is exploring new and innovative ways to bring revenue in to the Recreation Department.

Regarding health insurance, Mr. Younger noted that he is in the process of pursuing the ability of communities to make plan design changes outside of union agreements. He said there is a potential of \$450K in savings for Belmont if this bill is passed.

Mr. Younger said that by the end of June, Belmont will hear from the state on the Library grant application. The Board discussed the buildings in town that may need major capital improvements, e.g. the High School science wing, the Butler, the DPW, the Police Station. Selectman Paolillo said it is necessary to understand the needs of the buildings absent from the constituent groups who advocate for the building. Chair Jones said that perhaps the new Director of the school and town facilities could look into this.

Regarding regionalization, Mr. Younger highlighted the fact that the Belder Bus could be rented by Lexington. He is looking to the Rec. Department for Belder Bus coordination as well.

Selectman Paolillo provided a brief Minuteman update pertaining to the enrollment study. The Board discussed Minuteman's expectations for increased enrollment. Selectman Paolillo said a presentation of the enrollment study, by Minuteman, is necessary at this point. Chair Jones said that the MSBA has been focused on making buildings smaller. He said that the state's downsizing efforts aren't consistent with what Minuteman would like.

Mr. Younger will be meeting with SC member Vose regarding the consolidation of the school and town facilities.

Regarding the rink, Mr. Younger noted that it is 40 years old, which increases its liabilities and reduces the privatization options. He said that to increase its revenue, it needs to be open in the early morning and late evening. This is difficult to do with the lack of parking in the area. The Board discussed the issues relating to the rink, specifically the profitability options. Mr. Younger is exploring short-term revenue options with the Recreation Dept. as well as privatization options.

Mr. Younger noted that the Economic Advisory Committee is continuing to meet. They will present to the Board at a later date.

Mr. Younger is researching funding possibilities for the Leonard Street landscape plan, so it can begin in FY12.

He ended his review of the updates by informing the Board that a \$4K state grant will help with communications via the town's website.

Chair Jones mentioned that the infrared pothole patching method is cost effective and it works well. He would like to see if Belmont could consider this approach to pothole repair.

Zipcar Proposal

Chair Jones thanked Mr. Ian Todreas from the Energy Committee for his work on this proposal. He said that zipcars are a way to save communities money by using zipcars and not using town-owned vehicles. He said that if people in Belmont want to use a zipcar, they are not able to do so within this community. He noted that each zipcar being used eliminates 15-30 vehicles on the road.

Chair Jones said that not only could our residents rent the zipcars, but that town staff could use the zipcars at commercial rates. Again, this would reduce the number of town-owned vehicles. People would save money by not owning a second car and that savings may be spent at local businesses.

The Energy Committee has recommended that the Board identify two visible places to park a zipcar for use by residents. A contract can be negotiated with zipcar for use by town employees.

Selectman Paolillo said he supports this idea.

The Board moved: To move forward with the Energy Committee's recommendation.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Committee Appointments

Cultural Council

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Jirair Hovespian, Ms. Linda Hicks, and Ms. Alessandra Loder to the Cultural Council.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Health Advisory Board

The Board moved: To re-appoint Ms. Lisa Gibalerio to the Health Advisory Board.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Information Technology Advisory Committee

Mr. Younger noted that there are no candidates for this committee at this time.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

The Board moved: To re-appoint Mr. Andrew Healy to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Permanent Audit Committee

The Board moved: To re-appoint Mr. Robert Keefe to the Permanent Audit Committee.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Property and Casualty Insurance Committee

The Board moved: To re-appoint Mr. Robert Watson and appoint Mr. Chris Monaco to the Property and Casualty Insurance Committee.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- Mr. Younger distributed the monthly report of the town's health trust. He noted that the trust was in an excellent place and that he is monitoring it carefully.
- The pole was removed from Lincoln Circle and the Light Department did a very good job.
- A grant will allow for 29 additional bike racks which will be placed across town at various sites.

- New park signs have been installed.
- The VFW has thanked the town for its service concerning the Memorial Day Parade.
- There is a new Assistant Town Administrator, Ms. Kelly Hebert, who will start at the end of June. She has budgeting and performance management experience.
- The Trapelo Road bids are coming in and they are very reasonable.
- Pavement is being completed at the Winn Brook for the sewer work.
- Underwood Pool revenues will be examined at the end of the month.
- Funds are left over from the press box project. However, more funds are needed to move forward on the project.
- Resolutions for the School Street flooding issues are being explored.
- Memorial sites are being explored across town.
- Belmont Center bridge cleaning possibilities (including sandblasting) are being explored and fund raised for.
- The VFW is wishing to lease its upper half as a child-care center. Various departments are investigating this prospect.

The Board discussed the impediments to 911 regionalization.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Minutes Approval of May 9 and 31, 2011 Board of Selectmen Meetings

The Board moved: To approve the minutes of the 5/9/11 and 5/31/11 Board of Selectmen meetings.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Approval of BOS Meetings from July-December 2011

The Board moved: To approve the following dates for summer BOS meetings: July 25th and August 15th.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm.

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator