

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Monday, September 12, 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 Kelli Hebert were also present.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

[There were none.]

**ACTION BY WRITING**

**Minuteman School District – Endorsement Letter**

Mr. Jack Weiss, Belmont representative to the Minuteman School Committee, appeared before the Board to present his letter. Chair Jones noted that the letter was excellent. Jones added that the issue of Minuteman's debt needs to be addressed by Belmont and the other member communities. Selectman Paolillo said enrollment remains an important issue with regard to funding the proposed new facility. Selectman Firenze said it does not make sense for the member communities to bear the financial burden of this new facility given the enrollment issues. Mr. Weiss said that it needs to be stressed that the district member towns should have a say in the size of the building. Selectman Firenze raised the question of establishing a building committee as the new facility moves forward.

*The Board moved:* To support, endorse, and sign the letter for the Minuteman School District.

Mr. Weiss then explained the process going forward with regard to the letter and his communication with various other member communities. The Board discussed.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**ACTION BY CONSENT**

**New Used Car Dealer's License – Class II  
PR Automotive Imports, Inc., 1000 Pleasant Street**

Mr. Patrick Roussel, of PR Automotive Imports, Inc., appeared before the Board and briefly explained his business. He said this will be more of a high-end vehicle storage facility.

*The Board moved:* To approve the license request as noted above.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

### **456 School Street – Flooding Issue at This Property**

Ms. Linda Boornazian, of 456 School Street, appeared before the Board to discuss the flooding issue at her residence. Mr. Glenn Clancy, Town Engineer, appeared before the Board as well. Selectman Firenze explained the background information. He noted that Mr. Clancy has concerns that the resolution (which was a compromise) of this issue is aesthetic in nature. The compromise is centered around the curbing.

Mr. Clancy noted that flooding issues are difficult to solve. He then explained what was proposed to try to alleviate the problem, e.g. an additional catch basin and improved grading of School Street. He said the property has been monitored for 18 months and only received flooding at one unusually intense rain event in July 2010. There have been no other instances of flooding reported by the resident. He added that granite curbing will not make a difference and said he has concerns about the town funding the granite at this residence, when private residents on School Street have needed to fund their own granite.

Ms. Boornazian said that she recently spent \$400 to protect her property with sand bags. She said her flooding issues are a direct result of the re-grading of School Street. She noted that she waited six months to hear from Mr. Clancy. She said her property should not be a “catch basin” for School Street water. She added that she is expending enormous amounts of time and energy preparing for difficult-to-predict rain events.

Selectman Firenze noted that the granite curbing will help reduce the width of the driveway and therefore the flooding in this driveway.

Mr. Clancy noted that, before the School Street re-grading began, the property owner approached him with flooding concerns. Also, other School Street residents dealt with flooding before the street was re-graded.

Chair Jones asked what the best solution is to alleviate the flooding issues at this property.

Mr. Clancy said the curbing won’t really make a difference. He said what is needed is a storm drain system with a larger capacity, which the town does not have the resources to install. He said that other residents of School Street have paid for their own granite curbing and it does not seem fair to have the town cover the cost for this resident. He

said he will do what is necessary to keep the water out of the driveway, but there is not an ideal solution.

Ms. Boornazian suggested that the town needs to elevate her driveway and add granite curbing. These two changes will solve the problem.

Selectman Paolillo suggested that Mr. Clancy continue to monitor the situation at this residence.

*The Board moved:* To authorize Mr. Clancy to continue to monitor the flooding at this property and bring his recommendations before the Board.

The motion passed (2-1).

Selectman Paolillo said that it is not acceptable for residents to verbally attack town officials. Chair Jones agreed and said he will do a better job managing such situations in the future.

### **Dr. Leigh Mansberger's Informational Presentation – Health Department**

Dr. Leigh Mansberger, Regional Coordinator for Emergency Preparedness, and Mr. Stephan Russakow, Belmont's Health Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the Emergency Preparedness plan and how it relates to Belmont. She reviewed the basics of the plan for Region 4b, of which Belmont is a part. The mission of the plan is to work collaboratively to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. She then reviewed the details of the Medical Reserve Corp, the 4b website, and the 4b partnerships. She noted some of the current projects that are being explored, e.g., animal sheltering, IRAA plan enhancement, social media campaign, and regional exercise opportunities.

Mr. Russakow explained what the 54 volunteer members do in Belmont.

### **One Day Liquor License**

***September 24 – Bar Mitzvah Party, Beer and Wine  
The Ornstein Family, Beech St. Center, 266 Beech St.***

Selectman Paolillo requested that special care be taken on the Beech Street Center clean-up and that the end time of the event is respected. It seems some neighboring residents have expressed concern over these two issues.

*The Board moved:* To approve the one day liquor license as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

***September 17 – Bar Mitzvah Party, Beer and Wine  
The Ellison Family, Beech St. Center, 266 Beech St.***

*The Board moved:* To approve the one day liquor license as noted above.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **Clark House Moving Location Issue**

Mr. Eric Rodine, Belmont resident and architect, appeared before the Board to update the Board on the plans to move the Clark House. Mr. Younger noted that this issue will require both Town Meeting approval and state legislative approval. This is due to the fact that the land was purchased as open space. Mr. Rodine reviewed the current plans. He noted that he has been in touch with Mr. Clancy's office as well as with ConCom. He informed the Board that at the site selected (the Lion's Club), additional parking spaces will be added.

Regarding next steps, Mr. Rodine said that he would propose leaving the existing house in place, and demolishing the other two properties near it. Mr. Younger noted that he has concerns regarding the fiscal responsibility of the project. Selectman Firenze stated that the Town is not in a position to cover any of the costs associated with this proposal. Mr. Younger then asked about remuneration of placing private property on town owned land. Mr. Younger said that the new traffic flow would need to be vetted by the Traffic Advisory Committee.

The Board discussed next steps including what needs to happen and in what time-frame, with regard to moving forward with this project.

Mr. Rodine will meet soon with ConCom. He noted that he needs input from many constituencies as he moves forward.

### **Discussion of Barn at McLean Property**

Mr. Rick Pichette, from the Historic District Commission (HDC), and Ms. Ellen O'Brien Cushman, representing the Land Management Committee (LMC), appeared before the Board to discuss the barn located on the McLean Property. Ms. Cushman said that the use of the barn should be consistent with the ConCom restrictions. Mr. Pichette said that the plan for the barn needs to be revenue neutral. The Board agreed with both points.

Mr. Pichette said that the HDC is requesting the Board to appoint an ad hoc committee for the purpose of examining the feasibility of finding a revenue neutral, appropriate use for the Mill Street barn. The Board discussed.

*The Board moved:* To appoint an ad hoc committee to conduct a feasibility study of the future uses of the McLean Barn and surrounding acreage that is revenue neutral, with the preference that any such use be a "permitted use" under the existing ConCom restrictions and that any such study be provided to the LMC and the HDC for review and comment prior to submission to the Board of Selectmen.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Younger will create a charge for the ad hoc committee that the Board will review.

### **Town Accountant Interview and Vote**

Selectman Paolillo reviewed that the Town Accountant search committee met for several weeks. He said that the town received 19 resumes and then narrowed it down to four. The search committee then unanimously selected one candidate (Ms. Subramanian) to move forward with and that candidate is here this evening. Mr. Younger said that the references checked out. Selectman Paolillo noted that Ms. Subramanian has extensive experience in public accounting.

The Board then asked various questions to Ms. Subramanian pertaining to her accounting experience and her reasons for leaving Weston.

The Board then discussed moving to the “contract” model of employment for the Town Accountant position.

*The Board moved:* To appoint Ms. Chitra Subramanian to the appointment of Town Accountant for a period of three years pending a successful salary negotiation (which includes the one year probation contract).  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board congratulated Ms. Subramanian, Belmont’s newest Town Accountant.

Selectman Paolillo suggested that the Board dissolve the search committee at some point in the near future.

### **Committee Appointments and Vote**

#### ***Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)***

*The Board moved:* To appoint Mr. Craig White as an associate member the ZBA.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### ***Recreation Commission***

*The Board moved:* To appoint Mr. John Owens as the CPA committee representative from the Recreation Commission.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### ***Retirement Board Member***

*The Board moved:* To appoint Mr. Floyd Carmen as the Town representative to the Retirement Board.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### ***Conservation Commission (ConCom)***

Chair Jones explained the Board's recent appointments to the ConCom. Chair Jones was asked to suspend the Board's appointments and to consider the Chair of ConCom's recommendations for appointments. Selectman Firenze suggested that the Board review all interested candidates and make the appointments at a later date. The Board discussed the appointment of "associate members," which the Board had not been in favor of appointing.

The Board will revisit the ConCom appointments when it meets again in two weeks.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- Town Meeting will likely be held in January, on the 18 and 19.
- The Planning Board may put forth two by-law change articles.
- He reviewed the Overlay and new growth numbers.
- He reviewed other revenue numbers noting that he will highlight those areas with a variation of 25 percent above or below the last fiscal year.
- The Wellington School received its Certificate of Temporary Occupancy.
- The Wellington Open House will be on Sunday, September 25.  
(Selectman Paolillo requested financial numbers from the WBC.)
- Mr. Clancy will meet soon with the Uplands developers.
- The final TIP vote is September 22.
- He will look into the marketing of the Woodfall Road property (with Selectman Firenze).
- The first quarter health insurance fund report is due at the end of September.
- Chair Jones raised the issue of the Cushing Square development.  
Selectman Firenze noted that Mr. Starr wants to move forward, but that his plan is still too large.
- Underwood Pool revenues and expenses are being reviewed and appear appropriate.
- ALS service: Watertown is not responding to calls/emails regarding regionalization. The Board has the final say in this area. The Board discussed.
- HS athletic funds: Mr. Davis is meeting with the boosters regarding the raising of \$88K for accessibility issues and additional funding for improvements to the Press Box.
- Mill Street properties: TM will need to approve and the Assessors will provide valuations.
- Verizon has submitted a list of the 31 double poles in Belmont.
- Work has begun on the PQ tennis courts. The Grove Street courts may be budgeted for in next year's budget.

- Zip car financials meeting will be held Thursday. (The Board discussed zip cars in relation to town vehicles.)
- A Beech Street Center storage bin is being looked into.

Selectman Firenze noted that Mark McVay needs to be appointed to the BML advisory board.

*The Board moved:* To appoint Mr. Mark McVay to the BML advisory board as a permanent member.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **ACTION BY CONSENT**

### **New Common Victualler's License Sodexo Operations, LLC at McLean Hospital, 115 Mill Street**

*The Board moved:* To approve the license request as noted above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **OTHER**

### **Selectman Firenze Other:**

- The Economic Advisory committee is meeting next week.
  - The Board may need to appoint someone to the Watertown/Belmont Chamber of Commerce.

### **Selectman Paolillo Other:**

- He asked about the progress of the scoreboard at the Grove Street Park. Chair Jones provided an update on the process and proposed that a landscaping plan be drawn up.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 pm.

---

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator