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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MAY 10, 2004**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

**Call to Order**

The Board convened in regular session at 7:34 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present.

**Questions from Town Residents**

Mr. Roger Colton spoke in response to his outrage over comments at Town Meeting referring to affordable housing on Woodfall Road as an "obnoxious use" and he requested the Board of Selectmen to adopt a resolution repudiating such statements. The Board of Selectmen agreed with his sentiments.

The Board (Will Brownsberger) moved: to adopt the resolution, stated as

"The Board of Selectmen, speaking both as individuals and as the Board in its official capacity:

- Express the deepest regret that potential affordable housing, wherever it might be located in the Town of Belmont, was referred to as an 'obnoxious use' on the Belmont Town Meeting floor on the night of May 3, 2004.
- Expressly repudiate and reject any statement that affordable housing can be an 'obnoxious use,' irrespective of the neighborhood, precinct, or area of Belmont in which it might be located.
- Reaffirm that the pursuit of affordable housing throughout Belmont is not a burden to be borne, but rather is an affirmation of our community's highest aspirations as articulated in the Working Vision for Belmont's Future that we as Belmont residents "welcome newcomers and value diversity."

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board received a request from Mr. Simson Garfinkel of Pleasant Street objecting to the Board of Selectmen's prior approval of night-time utility work on Leonard Street. Mr. Corbett of Flett Construction was present to review the work. The Chief of Police expressed his concern for traffic and safety on Leonard Street. Mr. Garfinkel requested an earlier start time particularly with any noisy machinery.

The Board moved: to modify the hours of permitted work to commence at 9:30 p.m. and conclude at 6:00 a.m..

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Action by Appointment**

*Recognition of Jamie Riley's Military Service in Iraq*

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The Board of Selectmen presented the family of James Riley with a resolution in honor of his exemplary courage and service to his country in Iraq and as a Captain in the United States Army.

*Chief of Police re: Northeastern University Study on Racial Profiling*

The Chief of Police appeared before the Board to review and discuss finding from a recent report on racial profiling and police stops and citations in communities throughout Massachusetts. He noted that Belmont showed statistically relevant disparity in traffic stops for non-white motorists and in the issuance of tickets. The Chief acknowledged the report but assured the Board of Selectmen that racial profiling is not acceptable and will be addressed strongly.

*Michael Bruno, Keyspan, re: update on Winn Brook Gas Service*

Keyspan representatives Michael Bruno and Michael Smith both met with the Board to discuss the facts surrounding the loss of gas service in the Winn Brook neighborhood last winter during a particularly cold spell. Keyspan reported that the problem was related to water infiltration in the gas main creating frozen gas services. The infiltration has been located and repaired in all locations.

The Board also requested consideration by the Company for repair of the utility cuts on the newly paved Brighton Street. Keyspan committed to meet the requirements of the Public Works Department.

*Board of Library Trustees re: State Library Construction Grant*

Jil Westcott from the Board of Library Trustees appeared before the Board of Selectmen to discuss their desire for the Town to apply for a state library construction grant, which is due February 9, 2005. The Trustees noted the availability of design funds required to develop a schematic design (feasibility study) for the library for submission in February 2005. They noted that when awarded the grant (not earlier than January 2006), the Town must be prepared to obtain funding for the project within six months.

Mr. Brownsberger confirmed the library's expectation that state funding will not become available for this project until 2008 or later.

The Trustees discussed the issue of site location of a library, given the increasing demands and needs of the library.

The Trustees requested the Board of Selectmen appoint a site selection committee to examine the opportunities for location of a library.

Mrs. Mahoney suggested the Board should share this new information with the "Mega-Group" prior to appointing a site selection committee. The Board agreed to attempt to schedule this meeting for next Monday, May 17, 2004.

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*Discussion of Board Meeting Schedule*

The Town Administrator reviewed his memorandum relative to the Board of Selectmen's revised meeting schedule for the late spring and summer seasons. He also noted the need for the Selectmen to schedule a special meeting to interview finalist candidates for Town Counsel toward the end of May and also to schedule a date for the Selectmen's goal setting session toward the end of June, beginning of July.

The Board discussed the location of its public hearing on the O'Neill Properties' 40B application as well as its separate meeting relative to the Purecoat North (Cambridge Plating). The Board agreed that the Selectmen's Meeting Room is an appropriate size for both venues.

The Board also agreed to hold the meeting on Purecoat North on June 14<sup>th</sup>, despite the Board of Health interest in meeting with the Selectmen in July relative to this matter.

The Board moved: to adopt the Town Administrator's proposed revisions to the Board's meeting schedule through June of 2004.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Discussion of Committee Appointment Process*

The Board discussed its annual committee and commission appointment process.

The Board moved: to reappoint Judith Feins and Ann Silverman and to appoint Jonathan Jacoby to the Belmont Housing Trust.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Sara Oaklander and Margaret O'Brien to the Belmont Vision 21 Implementation Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint John Verilli to the Cable Access Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint William Chemelli and Richard Picerri as Constable.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

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The Board moved: to reappoint Jacob Kantor and to appoint Joel Samuels to the Council on Aging.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Phyllis Solomon to the Council on Aging.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0), Selectmen Solomon abstaining.

The Board moved: to reappoint Genevieve Fisher, Rebecca Richards, and Jennifer Farley Smith to the Cultural Council.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Leslie Aitken to the Education Scholarship Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Anne Corvino Goldenberg to the Fair Housing Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Nancy Richards and Lydia Phippen Ogilby, to the Historic District Commission; and further to reappoint Arleyn Levee as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Charles Smart to the Information Technology Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint June Roberts to the Insurance Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Patrick McCormack and Brendan O'Leary to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

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The Board moved: to reappoint Peter Castanino to the MWRA Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Henry Hall to the Permanent Audit Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Matthew Hausmann to the Personnel Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint John Donahue to the Registrars of Voters.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint DeNee Reiton Skipper, Ruth Foster, and Lucia Gates to the Shade Tree Committee.

The Board moved: to appoint William Trabiley to the Shade Tree Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Brenna Feeley, Anna Winston, and Robert Palladino to the Youth Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Brownsberger has suggested the Board confront the issue of conflicts of interests relative to committee appointments, by developing a policy statement. The Board agreed to take up this matter again in the near future.

*Discussion of Director of Community Development Position*

The Town Administrator reviewed his memorandum relative to his recommendations on the structural organization of the Community Development office.

Dr. Solomon encouraged exploring the transfer of the Town Engineer and building inspection functions into the Public Works Department.

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Mr. Brownsberger supported the idea of placing the Town Engineer function within Public Works. He also noted the need to address the oversight of construction projects through the strengthening of the building inspection function. In addition, he expressed a desire to find a higher level planning manager with the ability to work with a broad range of citizens.

Mrs. Mahoney expressed her desire to continue the practice of a consolidated Office of Community Development.

Mr. Brownsberger suggested the Town hire someone with the Engineering and Building Inspection functions for this position with the understanding that the Town needs to address the issue of planning for the Town.

The Board moved: to authorize the Town Administrator to recruit an engineering professional responsible for engineering and building inspection functions, but divest formal responsibility for the Town's planning function, pending additional review of the organizational model and resources for professional planning.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Action by Consent**

*Approval of Minutes (04/12/04, 04/14/04, and 04/21/04)*

The Board moved: to approve the minutes of April 12, April 14, and April 21, 2004.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Request of the Belmont Center Business Association re: Belmont Town Day*

The Board moved: to approve the request from the Belmont Center Business Association to hold a Belmont Town Day event on May 22, 2004.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Memorandum from Director of Public Works re: Authorization to Fill Garage Attendant/HMEO Position Vacancy*

The Board moved: to approve the request from the Public Works Director to fill a Garage Attendant / HMEO position vacancy.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Memorandum from Public Works Director re: Request to Renew Solid Waste Disposal Contract*

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The Board moved: to approve the request from the Public Works Director to renew the Solid Waste Disposal Contract with Russell Disposal, Inc.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Memorandum from Chief of Police re: Request to Appoint Special Police Officer*

The Board moved: to approve the request from the Police Chief to appoint Officer Joseph Cullen as Special Police Officer.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Memorandum from Chairman, Media Center Task Force re: Authorization for Phase II of Cable Television Consulting Services*

The Board moved: to approve the Chairman of the Media Center Task Force's request for funding to complete phase II of Cable Television Consulting services.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Action by Writing**

*Memorandum from Resident re: Registrar of Voters' Participation in Health Insurance Program*

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and discussed correspondence from a Town Resident relative to the Registrar of Voter's participation in the Town's health insurance program.

Mr. Brownsberger noted a conversation with Mr. Donahue indicating his willingness to leave the program, but requires a little time to process the appropriate paperwork for Medicare. The Board agreed to take this matter up again in a few weeks.

**Other**

Selectmen Solomon requested a response be given to the Grant Avenue resident request relative to the Pavement Management program to refer him to the Office of Community Development.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to rely solely on the recommendation of the Town Administrator and his review committee in developing a list of finalists for Town Counsel appointment for the Board to interview.

The Board requested a report from the Light Department on the propane tank leak

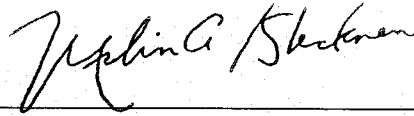
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**Action by Writing (continued)**

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy related to land acquisition and collective bargaining; and further that the Board shall not return to open session.

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

The Board adjourned their open session at 10:50 p.m.



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