

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DECEMBER 2, 2002  
REGULAR SESSION**

**Call to Order**

The Board of Selectmen met in regular session on Monday, December 2, 2002 at 6:30 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Belmont Town Hall. All members were in attendance.

*Discussion of Collective Bargaining (Executive Session)*

The Board met with members of the School Committee and the Warrant Committee and its labor counsel to discuss bargaining strategy for changes to the Town's employee health insurance.

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining; further that the Board will return to open session.

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

The Board re-convened in open session at 7:30 PM.

The Board recognized the efforts of Chairman, William Webster and members of the High School Athletic Facility Building Committee for their dedication and contributions to this project. The Board presented Mr. Webster with a token of their appreciation.

**Questions from Town Residents**

Tomi Olson of Bay State Road requested the Board of Selectmen formally recognize Town resident Mitt Romney on his recent election as Governor the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Board moved: to authorize a resolution honoring Belmont resident, Mitt Romney on his election as Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Action by Appointment**

*Discussion of Branch Library Services*

The Board convened a public hearing on the merits of funding branch library services.

The Library Director and the Chairman of the Library Trustees identified their unanimous support to retain branch library services at this time.

The Board reviewed a financial analysis of the Warrant committee subcommittee for branch library costs.

The Board heard from a number of Town residents in support of retaining branch library services.

The Board took this matter under further consideration.

#### *Discussion of FY 2003 Pavement Management Projects*

The Board addressed a funding crisis in the budgeted pavement management program for FY2003. The Director of Community Development reviewed his recommendation to defer certain projects until FY 2004 to meet the available funds pursuant to the project bid. The deferred projects would include a portion of upper Concord Avenue, Munroe Street and Clifton Street. The Board concurred with this recommendation.

The Board addressed the matter of sidewalk construction plans for Prospect Street. The Director of Community Development reviewed his proposal to install new sidewalks in areas of Prospect Street.

The Board heard from a series of residents who were generally opposed to installing sidewalks on Prospect Street in areas where none currently exist.

Understanding that there were impediments to installing new sidewalks in some sections of the north side of Prospect Street, the Board considered limiting new sidewalks to the south side of Prospect Street from Clifton Street to approximately Ernest Road.

There were further discussions relative to the materials the sidewalks would be constructed with—bituminous concrete or cement.

Mr. Brownsberger recommended the approval of a plan that would install new sidewalks on both sides of Prospect Street from the Belmont Hill School to the Clifton Street intersection, but to limit new sidewalks between Pleasant Street and Clifton to the south side, with the exception of Prospect Street between Pleasant Street and Richmond Road in which sidewalks should be installed on the north side if technically feasible from an engineering perspective. He also proposed the use of cement sidewalks, except where impractical because of trees.

The Board moved: to adopt the above recommendation.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board also requested Mr. Gatzunis examine the costs associated with pigmenting concrete.

*Discussion of Draft Charge for Affordable Housing Project Committee*

The Board reviewed a proposed charge for a new temporary committee to advise the Board of Selectmen on leading the process to have the 1.34 acre housing parcel at McLean be developed for affordable housing and enhanced parking at the Waverley Oaks complex.

The Board moved: to approve the proposed charge with the understanding that the Town Administrator edit the document necessary to clarify that their responsibilities are advisory to the Selectmen.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Discussion of Position Vacancies*

The Board reconsidered its prior decisions to fill vacant positions in several departments.

The Board moved: to reauthorize the filling of vacant positions in the Human Resources and Fire Departments.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board debated the merits of filling vacancies in the Highway and Water departments. Mr. Brownsberger advocated not filling the positions at this time, especially given the impending study to consolidate public works functions. Mrs. Mahoney supported filling the positions given the overall work needs of the departments. She would agree to defer this matter for a few weeks.

*Fire Chief re: Request for Promotion of Firefighters to Lieutenant (2)*

The Board reviewed a memorandum from the Fire Chief regarding a request for promotions of two firefighters to Lieutenant.

The Board moved: to approve the request.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Execution of the AT&T Cable License Transfer Settlement Agreement*

The Board executed the necessary documentation associated with the AT&T Cable License Transfer Settlement Agreement and transfer of the cable television license.

**Action by Consent**

*Application for License and Permit  
Auctioneer's License (One Day)*

The Board reviewed an application for a one-day Auctioneer's License by Custom Liquidators of America, Inc. on January 11, 2002.

The Board moved: to approve the application for a one-day Auctioneer's License by Custom Liquidators of America, Inc. d/b/a Newton Oriental Rugs, for January 11, 2002.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Action by Writing**

*Correspondences from Police Department:  
Traffic Safety of Intersection at Washington and School Street  
Traffic Count at Intersection of Lexington and Sycamore Street*

The Board considered information from the Police and Community Development departments that documents the need for equipment to complete the required traffic engineering analysis for these intersections. The Board agreed to pursue funding for this equipment from the Reserve Fund, pending receipt of a grant decision.

*Parking on Marsh Street*

The Board reviewed a report from the Police Department regarding parking on Marsh Street.

The Board moved: to approve parking restrictions on Marsh Street as recommended by the Police Department.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Letter from Residents re: Allocation of Parking Spaces for Pleasant Street Project*

The Board reviewed a letter from residents regarding allocation of parking spaces for the Pleasant Street project.

The Board moved: to refer this communication to the Office of Community Development for review and recommendation.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Memorandum from Senior Planner to Town Administrator re: Town-Owned Parcels*

The Board requested that this matter be scheduled for further discussion.

*Memorandum from Town Counsel re: Appeals Court Decision on McLean Zoning*

The Board received this communication.

*Memorandum from Town Administrator re: Municipal Vehicle Use Policy*

The Board reviewed a memorandum from the Town Administrator recommending changes to the Town's municipal vehicle use policy.

The Board moved: to approve the changes to the policy with an amendment to require an annual inventory of municipal vehicles and well as a list of proposed vehicle acquisitions in the coming budget year.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Draft Letter to Governor Elect re: Expenditure of State Funds to Address Flooding and Water Quality in the Alewife Area*

Mr. Brownsberger reviewed his proposed letter to the Governor-Elect. There was general support and discussion of the issues related to care and maintenance of Little Pond and issues related to private property abutters to the pond.

The Board moved: to approve the finalization and submission of this letter to the Governor-Elect.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Brownsberger offered to seek support for a similar letter from the Town of Arlington and the City of Cambridge.

*Selectmen's Issues List*

The Board deferred this matter to its next meeting.

### *Approval of Minutes*

The Board reviewed draft minutes of the Board's meetings of November 4 and 18, 2002.

The Board moved: to approve the minutes as drafted.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **Other**

Mr. Brownsberger noted his involvement in a request by a group of bicycle advocates for Town support in enhancing the informal bikeway on state property off of Blanchard Road. He encouraged Town departmental support for this activity. The Board noted the need for more public notification for this project and scheduled a discussion at an upcoming meeting on December 16.

### **Action by Appointment (Continued)**

*Discussion of Litigation (Executive Session)*

*Discussion of Location of Fire Station Headquarters (Executive Session)*

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation and potential acquisition of property to locate a fire station headquarters; and further the Board shall not return to open session.

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

The regular session adjourned at approximately 10 p.m.

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