

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Thursday, January 6, 2011
8:00 AM**

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 8:10 am 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.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

FY12 Departmental Budget Discussion - DPW

The Board met with DPW Director Peter Castanino and Water Division Manager Mike Bishop to discuss goals for the FY12 budget and beyond.

Mr. Castanino explained that DPW includes 12 programs across 3 divisions – Highway, Parks&Cemetery, and Water. Employees perform services across multiple programs throughout the workday regardless of which program they are assigned to for budgetary purposes.

Budget cuts over the years have limited the department's ability to do pro-active maintenance, such as a valve exercise program and the regular cleaning of sewer and storm drains.

Much of the water and sewer budget is spent directly on the MWRA's regional distribution cost of transporting water to Belmont, and transporting and treating sewage that comes from Belmont. Belmont's water and sewer programs are fully funded by the ratepayers through their water and sewer rates, and not subsidized by taxpayers, which can mean higher rates than in some communities.

There was discussion of the ongoing concerns regarding trench patching. Selectmen Firenze noted that temporary patches do not have to be of the same quality as permanent ones, yet residents have no way of knowing if a patch is temporary or permanent. He suggested using orange paint to mark temporary patches.

Mr. Younger said that the level service budget includes \$50,000 for sidewalk repairs. Ideally he would like to increase this amount by 10% every year. He would also like to do something similar with the tree planting budget.

FY12 Departmental Budget Discussion – Community Development

Community Development Director Glenn Clancy appeared before the Board. He explained that Planning Director Jay Szklut was unable to attend and recommended that the Selectmen schedule a time to meet with him separately regarding the Planning budget.

Community Development consists of four divisions – Administration, Planning, Inspections, and Engineering. In total there are 8.97 FTE, of which 3 are assigned to Planning.

There was discussion of the status of the Trapelo Road corridor project. It is close to submitting 75% design to the state.

There was discussion of the re-design of Belmont Center and how this should be funded.

There was discussion of infiltration/inflow and water quality projects and how these are funded.

Looking ahead, the Town will need a comprehensive stormwater management policy.

Mr. Clancy said that the department's tracking shows that 83% of building permit applications are being turned around within 10 days, and 78% within 5 days. 10 days seems like a reasonable standard; if the goal is 10 days rather than 5 perhaps the staff can devote more time and resources to zoning enforcement. The Board agreed and commended Mr. Clancy for developing this suggestion.

Both the FY12 level services (\$901,000) and level funding budget (\$900,000) are basically flat from FY 11 (\$898,000).

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 am.

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator