

**APPROVED BY
SELECT BOARD**

June 7, 2023

**Minutes of the
Town of Belmont
REGULAR SESSION
of the
SELECT BOARD
May 24, 2023**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: June 13, 2023
TIME: 8:39 AM

To view the recording of the meeting, please click [HERE](#).

Call to Order: Mr. Paolillo called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

Select Board Members	Present	Staff Members & Others	
Mark Paolillo, Chair	Yes	Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator	Yes
Roy Epstein, Vice Chair	Yes	Jennifer Hewitt, Assistant Town Administrator & Finance Manager	Yes
Elizabeth Dionne, Member	Yes	Geoff Lubien, Chair, Warrant Committee	Remote
		Michael Widmer, Town Moderator	Remote

Discussion and Possible Votes on Positions for Warrant Articles and Possible Amendments for Segment B of the May 1, 2023 Annual Town Meeting (ATM)

Article 16: Ms. Garvin explained that a name change is needed to repurpose an existing fund, rather than repeal and replace it. There was a discussion of this suggestion including some of the challenges. The Board discussed how the fund would work and possible wording options for the motion.

Mr. Lubien expressed his support for the proposed changes.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 16, as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 1: Mr. Widmer reviewed the reports that would be given as part of this article.

Article 4: Ms. Garvin explained that the purpose of this article is to clean up some wording.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 4, as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 7: This article will be deferred, and there was a discussion of when to do that, what influences new zoning laws, and the impact of this type of work on staff.

Article 12: Ms. Garvin explained that this is a standing article. Ms. Dionne expressed concern about finding residents to serve and that there might need to be increase the Select Board compensation, although she is not asking for it herself. There was a discussion of this issue.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 12. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 13: Mr. Paolillo asked if the numbers include the adjustments that were made at the last meeting regarding the consumption and billing cycle. Ms. Hewitt said it reflects the budget. This was discussed.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 13. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 14: There was a discussion of the Revolving Fund and some questions about a report submitted by Jack Weis of the Warrant Committee.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 14. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 15: Ms. Hewitt explained that the certified free cash as of the end of FY22 was \$15,522,799 and showed how much was being used in FY23 for Operating Expenses and OPEB, which leaves about \$5.3 million. There was a discussion of the use of Free Cash and the Free Cash Guidelines.

Mr. Lubien offered his views on the topic and agreed that changing policy was not something to do without full review. He recommended keeping to the current policy.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 15. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 17: Ms. Hewitt explained that this money comes from fees on Lyft and Uber and other transportation providers, and how these funds might be used. This was discussed.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 17. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 18: Ms. Hewitt explained the purpose of this article, how the settlement works, and the specific rules that must be followed when spending these funds. She explained that best practice is to create an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and she provided information on how this would work. There was a discussion of how these funds could be used.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 18. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 19: *A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 19. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

Article 20: There was a discussion of funds to plant and maintain trees in Town, as well as the sidewalks and the impact of trees on their condition.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for all of the motions contained in Article 20. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 21: Mr. Epstein asked if the calculations shown are in accordance with the Financial Policy Document. Ms. Hewitt explained where the numbers she used came from. There was a discussion of this question and the policy.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 21. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 22: Mr. Paolillo asked about transferring the funds, which Ms. Garvin answered. He then asked questions about the numbers including the most recent budget discussions and update, which Ms. Garvin confirmed. Ms. Hewitt added that these numbers include the new Shared Services arrangement, which is different from last year. There was a discussion of how to communicate this at Town Meeting.

There was a discussion of the Belmont Light PILOT payment.

Ms. Garvin asked what the Board's position would be if someone put forth an amendment to use more Free Cash for the schools. This was discussed, especially given the financial challenges that will come next year.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for all of the motions contained in Article 22. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Next Meetings

- 1 a. May 31, 2023 at 5:30pm
- 2 b. June 1, 2023 at 7:00pm

- 3 c. June 5, 2023 at 5:30pm
- 4 d. June 7, 2023 at 5:30pm
- 5 e. June 26, 2023 at 7:00pm

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting of the Belmont Select Board Committee, and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny
Recording Secretary