



Minutes of the  
Town of Belmont  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
of the  
**SELECT BOARD**  
February 5, 2024

**RECEIVED**  
**TOWN CLERK**  
**BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 4, 2024  
TIME: 9:30 AM

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

Approved by the Select Board:  
Monday, February 26, 2024

**I. Call to Order:** Mr. Epstein called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Select Board Members	Present	Staff Members	
Roy Epstein, Chair	Yes	Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator	Yes
Elizabeth Dionne, Vice-Chair	Yes	James Goudie, Administrative Coordinator	Yes
Mark Paolillo, Member	Yes	Jennifer Hewitt, ATA/Finance Director	Yes
<b>Others Present</b>		Ellen Cushman, Town Clerk	Yes
Holly Muson, Community Path Project Committee Chair	Yes	Glenn Clancy, Town Engineer	Yes
Carmella Arena Picone	Yes		
Julie Wu, Belmont Pan-Asian Coalition	Yes		
Geoff Lubien, Warrant Committee Chair	Yes		

**II. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Mr. Paolillo said he was notified by the President of the Belmont Women's Club that Dorothy Balentone turned 101 recently, and the Select Board wished her a Happy Birthday.

**III. COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

- Ron Sacca complained about the graffiti in the men's room in Town Hall. He went on to speak about the Historical Society materials being housed at the new library and the lack of response from the Select Board to the emails he has sent regarding this issue. Mr. Epstein explained that the Town Administrator, the Library, and the Historical Society are working on this issue and the Select Board will share the report once it is done.
- Max Colice asked about the status of the Home Rule Petition from Chapter 61B that Town Meeting voted on. Ms. Dionne said she intends to discuss this with the Town Administrator but that it has been delayed due to writing three versions of the budget as part of override efforts and planning. There was a short discussion of the delay.

**IV. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- MassDOT Public Hearing – Community Path, March 7, 2024: Mr. Clancy and Ms. Muson spoke about the reasons and goals for the public hearing and the importance of attending the hearing. Mr. Clancy provided an update on the Community Path project.

Ms. Muson asked that the vacancy on the Community Path Project Committee be filled, which was discussed.

**V. ACTION BY CONSENT: Motion of Recognition for Carmella Arena Picone**

Mr. Epstein read the Certificate of Recognition for Ms. Picone:



**Town of Belmont  
Massachusetts Select Board  
CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION**

The Belmont Select Board recognizes Carmela Picone, a lifelong resident, for the outstanding contribution she made by cleaning the 65 veteran headstones at Belmont Cemetery.

The stones shine once again because of Carmela's efforts and look as they did on the day the veterans were laid to rest.

We are proud today to honor Carmela. It is residents like her that make up the fabric of our great town and we appreciate and salute Carmela Picone.

*SELECT BOARD: Roy Epstein, Chair, Elizabeth Dionne, Vice-Chair, Mark Paolillo, Member*

Ms. Picone explained how she got the idea to clean the headstones, and described how she did the work in about 2 weeks.

**Discussion and possible vote to approve the request from the Belmont Pan-Asian Coalition to host the Lunar New Year Festival and Rolling Parade on Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, and to close Moore Street from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.**

Ms. Wu explained the plans for the event, saying it is basically the same as previous events.

*A Motion was made to approve the request from the Belmont Pan-Asian Coalition for a Lunar New Year Festival and Rolling Parade on Sunday, March 3rd, 2024 and to close Moore Street from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM plus the area in front of M&T Bank. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

**Vote the Warrant to hold the March 5, 2024 State Presidential Primary in Belmont.**

Ms. Cushman explained the requirement for this vote and the process for the primary, which was discussed. She then reviewed the election deadlines.

*A Motion was made to sign the Warrant for the Presidential Primary Election to be held March 5, 2024 in Belmont. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

**Discussion and possible vote on ballot question assignment of numbers for April 2024 election.**

Mr. Epstein explained why the two ballot questions needed numbers. He moved:

*That Ballot Question #1 refer to the Operating Override. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

*That Ballot Question #2 refer to the Elected to Appointed Assessor question. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

**Discussion and possible vote to award an Engineering Services Agreement for a Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) to Stantec in the amount of \$224,900.00.**

Mr. Clancy explained that this is a State & Federal Permit and outlined the requirements of the agreement and permit. He then reviewed the funding structure for this item. He spoke about the details of the stormwater process in Belmont and the work to develop a Stormwater Management Plan as well as the work that Stantec does.

There was a discussion of various stormwater issues in Belmont.

*A Motion was made to award an Engineering Services Agreement for a Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) to Stantec in the amount of \$224,900.00 to be drawn from the Sewer Enterprise Fund. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

**Discussion and possible vote to award an Engineering Services Agreement for an Infiltration / Inflow Project (Sanitary Sewer System Flow Monitoring) to Weston & Sampson in the amount of \$205,000.00.**

Mr. Clancy explained how the winners of the contracts are identified, which was discussed. He then outlined the purpose of this request and the funding sources and plan.

*A Motion was made to award an Engineering Services Agreement for an Infiltration / Inflow Project (Sanitary Sewer System Flow Monitoring) to Weston & Sampson in the amount of \$205,000.00. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

**Discussion and possible vote to accept the following committee resignations:**

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Committee:

*A Motion was made to accept the resignation of Kathy Miller from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

**Discussion and possible vote on committee appointments and reappointments:**

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Committee:

The Board discussed the makeup of the Committee.

*A Motion was made to appoint Phuni Kim Mesten to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Committee for a 2-year term to expire June 30, 2025. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

**Discussion on Open Meeting Law Compliance**

Mr. Epstein reminded everyone that all new committee appointees are now required to complete Ethics training and Open Meeting Law training within one month of their appointment (which will apply to the new DEI appointee).

He reviewed the recent effort to identify existing appointees who needed to comply with ethics training, and proposed that every member of every committee appointed by the Select Board be required to complete Ethics training and Open Meeting Law training within one month. He explained that there are on-line training modules for this and Ms. Garvin provided details. There was a discussion of how to implement this requirement. There was also a discussion about the lag in the posting of minutes for many Committees. He identified the following Committees who are missing minutes (last posted minutes shown in parentheses):

- Community Preservation Committee (Sept. 2023)
- DEI Committee (March 2023)
- Energy Committee (April 2023)
- Housing Trust (January 2023)
- Humans Rights Commission (October 2023)
- Structural Change Implementation Committee (August 2023)

Ms. Dionne (Chair of the CPC) explained why there has been a delay.

There was a discussion of the need for minutes to be posted, the challenges of getting minutes done, and how to enforce this requirement given that most members of committees are volunteers.

Mr. Epstein recommended that Ms. Garvin notify the Committee Chairs of the training requirements for all committee members and urge them to get minutes up to date within two months.

**Approval of Minutes**

January 8, 2024 Regular Session: Ms. Dionne said that although she was absent (due to a travel delay), she noticed the misspelling of several names in these minutes and submitted corrections. Mr. Epstein also submitted corrections.

*A Motion was made to approve the January 8, 2024 Regular session minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed a by 2-0-1 vote with Ms. Dionne abstaining.*

123 January 18, 2024 Public Forum:

124 *A Motion was made to approve the January 18, 2024 Public Forum minutes as amended. The motion*  
125 *was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

126 **Next Meetings & Upcoming Topics**

- 127 a. Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 7:00 PM – Joint Meeting with School Committee, Warrant Committee  
128 and Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee – Budget Summit IV. There was a discussion of this  
129 meeting that Mr. Lubien participated in.
- 130 b. Monday, February 26, 2024 – 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting
- 131 c. Monday, March 5, 2024 – 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting
- 132 d. Monday, March 18, 2024 – 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting

133 **Adjournment**

134 *A motion was made to adjourn the meeting of the Belmont Select Board Committee, and the*  
135 *motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.*

137 Respectfully submitted by,

138 Susan Peghiny  
139 Recording Secretary  
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