

Approved by  
the Select Board on:

8/30/2021

## BELMONT SELECT BOARD MEETING

### REMOTE MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021

7:00 PM

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: September 2, 2021

TIME: 2:15 PM

#### CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Adam Dash. Vice Chair Roy Epstein and Select Board member Mark Paolillo were present, along with Town Administrator Patrice Garvin, Assistant Town Administrator Jon Marshall, Town Counsel George Hall, and Director of DPW Jay Marcotte.

#### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM – Joint Meeting with Belmont Middle and High School Building Committee
- Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM – Joint Meeting with Warrant Committee, Capital Budget Committee and School Committee - Public Forum on American Rescue Act Plan
- Second Time of Use meeting for Belmont Light will be held on Sept. 3rd.

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

##### Tree Trimming on Concord Ave Update

- Tree branches need trimming because they are blocking signals. No tree trimming work will be done until all abutters on Goden and Concord are notified.

#### ACTION BY CONSENT

##### 125 Trapelo Road Update

- Great North Property Management notified the Town that the building at 125 Trapelo Road was unsafe and 75 residents were evacuated. There is currently no timeline for return of residents to the property. Some residents had no place to go. The Town worked together with outside organizations and elected officials to identify housing and the Police and Fire Departments helped residents evacuate. The Town is working with Metro Town Boston to collect donations to help the displaced persons. Go to the Town website to donate to those affected by the evacuation. Glenn Clancy, Community Development Director, will determine when it is safe for building to be reoccupied.

##### COVID Update

Discussion and possible vote of amendment to indoor mask mandate

- Belmont Board of Health amended the mask mandate voted on at the last emergency meeting. The modified policy was put up on screen.
- The following changes to the policy were made by the Board of Health:

- Masks should be worn in any indoor space where residents gather (not private residences).
- Face coverings for musical performers is required unless there is a distance of five feet between audience and performers.
- Face coverings for common spaces in multi-unit homes or apartments.
- Masks should be worn in private membership clubs.
- Signs about mask wearing must be conspicuously displayed.

*Motion was made to adopt the revised indoor mask mandate. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

- Wes Chin said at last week's School Committee meeting they talked about the school mask policy. The Board of Health recommended that face coverings be in place until the end of the calendar year. Revisions to this policy will apply if rates drop based on a two week consecutive basis.

Discussion and possible vote on request from the Lion's Club to host a Cookout on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM

[Discussion will be postponed until later in the Select Board meeting.]

Discussion and possible vote on request from First Church to use the Town Green on September 12, October 3, and November 7, 2021 for Outdoor Worship Services from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. 3/C 7:30

[Discussion will be postponed until later in the Select Board meeting.]

Continuation of Public Hearing – Petition of ExteNet Systems, Inc. for Grant of Location for a new streetlight fixture and all necessary internal antenna assembly equipment, located at 84 Statler Road

- Colin Robinson and Geoff Why (legal advisor) and Chris Fridrich (engineer) from ExteNet addressed issues concerning the proposed installation.
- The pole site has not moved, but they have more information at this hearing. Why said that the service will improve a gap in coverage. According to Why, the FCC said that ExteNet does not need to supply information about a coverage gap for enhancing a small cell facility. ExteNet has been proposing this site since 2018. The original site was on Channing Rd. and then an decision was reached to put the installation on Statler Road because it was determined to be a better location for service. The attachment is in compliance with the distance required by Belmont's regulations from the closest abutting resident. New construction will include granite curbing.
- The Select Board said it is clear that they are not able to stop this installation or there would be violation of federal law. Atty. Why said there is a real desire by the US to employ small cells to enhance the capacity of wireless service networks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS on ExteNet installation

Charles Napoli said he expected elected officials to push back against AT&T. The company did not give information that could be understood by laypeople. He said it is not clear if a tree is being removed, and he doesn't understand why the installation can't be placed on the existing light pole.

- Robinson replied there are no trees being removed.

- Atty. Why replied that moving the pole to a third location would increase the delay and that would require ExteNet to have to start all new studies and we don't know if moving it 40 feet would be suitable for the carrier.
- Chris Fridrich, engineer for ExteNet, said even a shift of 100 feet may have a significant effect for carrier.
- Dash said that Belmont has pushed this as far as is legally allowed.

Cosmo Caterino asked if this was going to be a 5G installation, and said that the Town should go to it's Congressman to complain.

- Colin Robinson from ExteNet replied that it's a 4G antenna. The Town would be notified if it would change. All cell sites have to comply with FCC safety rules. It has been determined there are no safety issues in regards to traffic at the site.

[Dash stated that the Public comment portion of this public hearing is now closed.]

- Dash noted that this does not mean the Select Board endorses this application, but that it is restricted by the law to approve this installation since it complies with Belmont's regulations.
- Belmont Light said they would survey the project after completion to make sure the installation was done as described by ExteNet.

*Motion was made to approve request from ExteNet Systems Inc. to install a new street light fixture and all necessary internal antennae and assemble the equipment at 84 Statler Road. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Discussion and possible vote on request from the Lion's Club to host a Cookout on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM

- Al Murphy from the Lion's Club is proposing to have a small, buffet style cookout outdoors at the club with two waitresses. Set up would be at 4 pm and they will leave by 9 pm. The set up will be the same for traffic as at Christmas event. The request was also vetted through Community Development. No police detail is necessary.

*Motion made to approve the Lion's Club request to host a cookout on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 from 4 pm until 9 pm. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Discussion and possible vote on request from First Church to use the Town Green on September 12, October 3, and November 7, 2021 for Outdoor Worship Services from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

- Rev. Chris Jablonski said the First Church has experts advising on their re-opening strategies. The Church is proposing to set up worship outside on the Town green. This will be done 1X per month. They have been online up to now. They will be setting up stage and sound system and service will be at 10 am. Less than an hour of actual worship is anticipated.

*Motion was made to approve the request from the First Church for the use of the Town Green on September 12th, October 3rd and November 7th from 8 am to 12 pm for outdoor worship services with rain dates of October 10th and November 14th. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Review of cash flow summaries and trust fund balances by Cook and Company President, Sue Shillue

- Sue Shillue presented a spreadsheet of the cash flow summary review.
- The sheet tracks the health insurance vs. funding on a monthly basis. Town's trust fund covers claims over \$200K because it is a self-insured plan.
- Cash Flow summary for FY21 is complete. The total costs for all plans for 12 months was \$15.3M and funding is \$16.9M; surplus of \$1.57M. Excess funding goes into the Trust Fund.
- The Trust fund for FY21 has not been audited, but FY21 balance should be \$1.5M more than last year. That means a significant amount has been added into the fiscal trust fund. As of July 1, 2021 premium rates went up 3%.
- Garvin said that within the last two years we have instituted plan design and it raised co pays. We have worked with Sue Shillue's company to set rates so they don't go below 3% in order to build up the Trust Fund.
- Shillue said that insurance policy gets bid out every year and we look at different levels, but we asked bidders to go a little higher in order to lower premiums. Shillue thinks we need to have four months of potential pay claims in trust at any one time to increase stability.
- Dash asked about update of joining the GIC. Shillue said the average rate increase in the GIC plan was 5.8% so Belmont did better at 3%. She announced that the GIC will have two less offerings next year and the Harvard Pilgrim and Tufts merger will affect the GIC's performance.

#### Discussion on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Forum Presentation on August 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM

- Town Administrator Garvin and Superintendent Phelan will present on the proposed use of the Rescue Plan funds and will also provide background about the Rescue Plan. The public forum is being held to bring people into the process early on.
- Sen. Brownsberger and Rep. Rogers will be attending the forum. People can send in written comments on the Q&A.
- Garvin confirmed that half of the County Allocation of \$5M will be released within the next month.

#### Discussion and possible vote on Financial Policies

- Garvin announced that auditors are looking for a final financial policy.
- Epstein said he read the document carefully and does not think it's in a form that can be approved. Epstein said he would work with Garvin and Glen Castro to develop a final policy. He anticipates that revisions of the policy will take two to three weeks. He says many issues have arisen and he would like to review the policy with Floyd Carman. The document is recommending policies that we currently don't follow and he thinks these policies should not be included.
- Garvin reported that Treasurer Carman said we could delay the submission of the final policy for a few weeks. Epstein said he anticipates revisions to be completed by September.
- The group agreed that comments would be circulated by September 13<sup>th</sup> and voted on at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Paolillo expressed the importance of getting enough advance time for Select Board members to read the document thoroughly. Garvin feels that if changes are made, that we need to include the Warrant Committee and the Financial Task Force again.



Discussion and possible vote to sign the Belmont Media Center agreement with the Town of Belmont

- This agenda item was continued from the last meeting.
- Jeff Hansell said that Mike Tymm (BMC Chair) and Laurie Grant (BMC vice chair) have joined him. The substantive change from the previous agreement were mainly the dates. Hansell reported that the Belmont Media Center has already redesigned their space to fit the new hybrid systems. He thanked Jon Marshall for his collaboration.

[Dash opened the public comment section.]

Maryann Scally expressed that the Belmont Media Center did a great job this year.

[Dash closed the public comment section.]

*Motion was made to approve the Belmont Media Center agreement for the Town of Belmont dated August 16, 2021 for a period of five years. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Discussion and possible vote on request from Diversity Task Force to extend committee charge end date

- The Diversity Task Force was appointed for six months with the understanding that their end date might need to be extended. Dash suggests extending it for six months to February 1, 2022.

Kim Haley-Jackson, Chair of the Diversity Task Force said they just started working with the schools and their focus is on communication.

- Paolillo suggested that the Diversity Task Force be included in an upcoming Select Board meeting. Haley-Jackson said that February 2022 would be enough time to prepare a final report to the Select Board. She also said she could get an interim report on education by December 1, 2021.

*Motion was made to amend the end date of the Diversity Task Force to February 1, 2022 and to amend the charge to deliver a report no later than December 1, 2021. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Possible Committee Appointments:

a. Registrar of Voters

- Seeking to the fill the vacancy for the Republican seat. The recommendation for this position comes from Republican Town Committee which recommends Paul Minor.

*Motion was made to appoint Paul Minor to the Board of Registrar of Voters for a three-year term.*

b. Viglirolo Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee

*Motion was made to appoint Tom Caputo as representative from the Financial Task Force, Meg Moriarty as the representative from the School Committee, and Ellen Schreiber as the representative from the Warrant Committee to the Viglirolo Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made to appoint Mark Paolillo as the Select Board Liaison to the Viglirolo Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

- There are six applications for the remaining four seats on this committee.

*Motion was made to appoint Dante Muzzioli as the representative from the hockey community on the Viglirolo Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made to appoint Frank French as the representative from the hockey community on the Viglirolo Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made to appoint Karen McElroy as the resident representative to the Viglirolo Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made to appoint Kayla Wiggins as the resident representative to the Viglirolo Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

- Patrice Garvin will serve as a non-voting member until a new Finance Director is hired who will then take her place.

#### c. Human Rights Commission

- There has been a resignation on the Human Rights Commission since the Board last met. The Chair endorsed the appointment of Gloria Pimentel to fill this position, however, Gloria was recently appointed to the Cultural Council. The Chair suggested Sreehaas Digumarthi to fill the open position.

*Motion was made to appoint Sreehaas Digumarthi to the Human Rights Commission for a two-year term. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

#### d. Economic Development Committee

*Motion was made to appoint Paul Joy as the "business owner other" member of the Economic Development Committee for a two-year term. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

The Board is still looking for candidates for the Disability Access Commission, Meet Belmont Planning Committee, and Solid Waste Advisory Committee. The Shade Tree Committee will attend a future meeting about changes to its membership charge.

#### Accept Resignation of Jessie Bennett from the High School Traffic Working Group

*Motion was made to accept the resignation of Jessie Bennett from the High School Traffic Working Group. Motion was approved by a vote of 2-0. Dash was recused from this vote.*

*Motion was made to enter into Executive Session for the following two stated purposes:*

- 1) Executive Session – To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; Police Chief
- 2) Executive Session – To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; Police Superior contract update.

*Motion to enter into Executive Session was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made to return to public session. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Discussion and possible vote to ratify the Belmont Police Chief contract

- The Select Board announced they just came out of the review for the Police Chief contract. The group agreed to a 1.5% merit increase and extension of the contract for two years to Dec. 31, 2024.
- Garvin reported that she conducted a review of the Police Chief. Jamie MacIsaac started right before COVID hit and then was challenged by the murder of George Floyd and the moving of the police department to a new location. He experienced a microcosm of challenges in a short time. He performed in exemplary fashion and due to his experience and performance he received a rating of exemplary.

*Motion was made to ratify the Police Chief contract as outlined. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

SELECT BOARD'S COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

- Epstein reported that the High School Traffic Working Group met to see what they could do make the Committee more effective. A priority is to develop a revised charge.
- Epstein said we had initial success with the rat problem near Grove Street but not complete victory. Patrice Garvin said she will follow up after she meets with Jay Marcotte. There is a request for Marcotte to discuss modified trash receptacles.
- Epstein noted issues with weeds and trash on the curbs in Belmont Center and Cushing Square. We need to do a better job to make these areas look more presentable.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. July 19, 2021 – Executive Session
- b. July 19, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- c. August 3, 2021 – Special Meeting
- d. August 6, 2021 – Special Meeting

*Motion was made to approve the above notes as amended. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion made to adjourn was approved by vote of 3-0.*

Monday, August 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator

