

Approved by  
the Select Board on:

8/15/2022

Select Board Meeting

Monday, August 8, 2022

Hybrid Meeting

7:00 PM

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: August 16, 2022  
TIME: 2:37 PM

#### CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Select Board was called to order by Chair Mark Paolillo. Vice Chair Adam Dash and Select Board member Roy Epstein were present, along with Town Administrator Patrice Garvin, and Assistant Town Administrator Jennifer Hewitt.

#### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A number of Town committees still have vacancies available. The Select Board would like to make the final appointments for these committees by mid-August.
- Office hours at the Belmont Light Department will be held on Wednesday, August 10th from 2 – 4 pm. Questions will be answered by representatives of the newly elected Light Board. Call 617-993-2970 to register.
- “Understanding Gun Reform” about the Supreme Court gun laws effect on Massachusetts will be conducted by Police Chief MacIsaac at the Beech St. Center. Free presentation on Friday, August 12 at 1:15 pm. Free event: call 617-993-2970 to register.
- Waterworks Museum will hold a lecture on the Great Fire of Boston in 1862 on Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup>. Free event: call 617-993-2970 to register.
- Belmont Recreation and COA sponsor movies every Thursday evening during the summer until August 18, 2022 on Town Field.

#### COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[NONE.]

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

##### August Bulletin

Patrice Garvin announced that there is a newly formatted bulletin. The bulletin will be posted online tomorrow and distributed to Town Meeting members.

##### Update on Veterans Services Officer

Garvin announced that Bob Upton has decided to come back from retirement and returning as the Belmont Veteran’s Services Officer on August 15, 2022.

## Master Plan Update

Metro Area Planning Council (MAPC) is helping the Town with the comprehensive and the housing production plans. Garvin said there are plans to create a Housing Production Plan Working Group and there is a group of Belmont staff supported by the MAPC working on that project. After that is formed, then a Comprehensive Plan Refresh Committee will be formed to focus on the Comprehensive Plan that will further develop the objectives of the Housing Production Plan.

### ACTION BY CONSENT:

#### Discussion and possible vote on request to use Town Green for Porchfest event, September 10, 2022

Mary Bradley, event Chair for Porchfest, joined the group. Winbrook School will no longer be used for the event because it could not meet their electrical needs. Town Green will be the new venue for the Palooza event which will be held from 2:30 to 6 pm. They are requesting to use the Town Green from 1:30 to 7 pm. The Raindate will be following day on Sunday, Sept. 11th. Bands will be performing on 65 porches from 11 am to 5 pm. Mary said she will be meeting on Thursday with DPW, Police and Fire Chiefs, and Patrice Garvin to discuss details. The schedule for events will be posted soon.

*Motion was made to approve the request from Mary Bradley to use the Town Green on Sept. 10, 2022 for the Porchfest event from 1:30 to 7 pm. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

#### Discussion and possible vote on request for 9/11 Tree Dedication Ceremony, September 11, 2022

Joanna Tzouvelis, Belmont resident, joined the group. She said through her research with the Belmont Historical Society she found out that a tree was donated by Hartney Greymont in the honor of 9/11 victims and a dedication ceremony was held on October 25, 2001, however, the plaque to identify the tree was never installed. With the help of the Brown Funeral Home and Town employees, the plaque has been installed on a stone next to the tree. She would like to have a re-dedication ceremony for the tree on September 11, 2022 at 10:28 AM.

Paolillo thanked her for doing this. He said to let the Select Board know if there is anything else they can do for this re-dedication. They discussed involving Belmont students and the Belmont Fire and Police.

*Motion was made to approve the request for the Town of Belmont to host a tree dedication ceremony at the corner of Morris St. and Pleasant St. in memory of the victims of 9/11 on Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 10:28 AM. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

#### Discussion and possible vote to approve the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds

Mark Haley, Chair of the Municipal Skating Rink Building Committee, joined the group. He said that at the last Select Board meeting, when they discussed putting the rink on the November ballot, the topic of additional funds to supplement the state funding was raised. The design of the entire rink is going to be between \$2.5 to \$3M. He said the Committee would like to establish an interim fund of \$300K using ARPA funds to continue to move the design forward and to firm up the numbers for the debt exclusion vote.

He said the Municipal Skating Rink Building Committee is setting up public forums to discuss the rink plans and the first public forum is scheduled for August 17, 2022. He reported that the Committee is meeting on a weekly basis in order to push the project forward.

Paolillo asked how much is left from the state appropriation of \$250K. Haley said that there is approximately \$100k remaining from the state appropriation so if the additional \$300K is approved, that will provide \$400K to support the final stages of the design work and to pay subconsultants for mechanical and structural engineering services. He said there need to be more details in those areas to firm up the costs.

Ann Marie Mahoney said it seems like a lot of money, but the designer now needs to bring in outside people to get the final estimate on the building and the fields in order to advertise for the debt exclusion. Galante Architectural Studios is bringing on a civil engineer for parking design and a landscape designer for fields. Those plans will be used, whether the rink debt exclusion gets approved or not. If debt exclusion passes, then any money spent now would be transferred back to the Town to reimburse the ARPA money of \$300K

Dash was concerned about appropriating the use of additional money before the debt exclusion vote takes place. He doesn't believe that we have to design everything before the vote. He's concerned about using the ARPA money because it might be needed for other Town expenses.

Epstein said the \$300K is a high estimate, and the plan to return the money makes sense. Dash feels that a lower amount would be more appropriate. Haley said he would like the Board to approve the \$300K and then he will keep Select Board informed of the expenditures. He said the money will be used for the design of piping and mechanical systems, which is very important to include in the budget estimates. Dash said he agreed we need a better estimate, but \$300K seems like an excessive amount. He said that the Select Board is meeting frequently in August and September and there should not be a problem for Mark Haley to come back to the Select Board for further approval. Patrice Garvin said that regardless of whether the debt exclusion passes, we will still need to address the White Field House, playing field and parking and she feels this appropriation will not be wasted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS about the ARPA appropriation for further rink design:

Lisa Pargoli, Town Meeting member, pct. 4 agrees with Adam that the amount of money requested is too high. Roads need attention as well.

Bill Anderson, pct. 2 said he understands the concerns on both sides. He suggested that funds could be distributed as milestones are completed.

Paolillo asked Mark Haley if the committee could get a report out every week through Patrice Garvin on the spend down amounts. Haley said he can get the architects to produce invoices on a bi-weekly basis and he could report spend downs on a regular basis.

Dash suggested approving \$200K and then once the first report is received, additional ARPA funding can be approved, if needed.

*Motion was made to approve the appropriation of \$200K from ARPA funds for the purpose of refining the overall cost of the rink before the November debt exclusion vote. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

#### Police Chief Performance Review

Shawna Healey and Chief MacIsaac joined the group. Healey reported that Chief MacIsaac did a self-evaluation that was provided to Patrice Garvin and then each board member received the review with Patrice's comments. Chief MacIsaac was rated in eight different categories and the overall average rating was 4.875 points out of possible 5.0 points.

Some comments on the Chief's performance from the Town Administrator and Select Board members were:

- Honesty
- Instills confidence in the police force
- Long range views
- Spearheaded policies to deepen community involvement
- Uses data analysis to plan department activities
- Devoted to the Town and Town residents
- Strong leader and has worked hard to enhance the image of the Police Department
- Communicates with stakeholders and continues to educate himself.

Improvement suggestions included undertaking the development of a financial plan to complement his five-year strategic plan.

MacIsaac thanked everyone for the positive feedback. He said he doesn't do this alone. He has support from others in the Police Department and from the Town Administration. He said the citizens of Belmont have also facilitated many new ideas. An example of this is the new LGBTQ policy that was developed through the efforts of Town residents.

Paolillo announced that the Select Board will go into Executive Session to discuss the merit raise for Police Chief MacIsaac and then return to public session.

*Motion was made to go into Executive Session and return to public session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

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*Motion was made to leave Executive Session. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

#### Discussion and possible vote to ratify merit increase for Police Chief

Chief MacIsaac and Shawna Healey continued their participation in the meeting. Healey reported that a cost of living increase for Chief MacIsaac was approved at 2% on July 1, 2022. That increase brought his salary to \$195,182. During the Executive Session, the Select Board agreed to approve a 2.5% merit

increase retro to July 1, 2022 based on his performance evaluation rating. This merit increase would bring Chief MacIsaac's salary to \$200,061

Healey reported that Human Resources is currently undertaking a market adjustment study that affects 80 non-union and SEIU positions and will be released by the end of the year.

*Motion was made to approve a merit increase of 2.5% for Chief James MacIsaac. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Possible vote on appointments, reappointments and acceptance of resignations:

a. Energy Committee

*Motion was made to accept the resignation of Francesca Kitch and Adrienne Allen from the Energy Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made to reappoint Marty Bitner, Claus Becker and Greg Piotrowicz to the Energy Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2025. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made appoint Eliana Lesser to the Energy Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2023. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made to appoint John Kolterman to the Energy Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2024. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

b. Cable Television Advisory Committee

*Motion was made to reappoint Mark Carthy to the Cable Television Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2025. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

c. Council on Aging

*Motion was made to reappoint Andrea Paschal, Maryann Scali, Joel Semuels and Ellen Sullivan to the Council on Aging for terms to expire June 30, 2025. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

d. Cultural Council

*Motion was made to reappoint Vickie Amalfitano, Evelyn Corsini, Millie Rahn and May Ye to the Cultural Council for terms to expire June 30, 2025. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

[One appointment for Cultural Council remains vacant but there are not enough candidates to choose from currently].

e. Housing Trust

*Motion was made to reappoint Judith Fein and Rachel Heller to the Housing Trust for terms to expire June 30, 2025. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made to appoint Mark Kagan to the Housing Trust for a term to expire June 30, 2025.  
Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

f. Community Preservation Committee

*Motion was made Reappoint Elizabeth Dionne to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2025. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS  
[NONE].

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. June 13, 2022 – Executive Session (tabled from July 18)
- b. July 18, 2022 – Regular Session
- c. July 18, 2022 - Executive Session
- d. July 25, 2022 – Regular Session
- e. July 25, 2022 – Executive Session

*Motion was made to approve the June 13, 2022 Executive Session minutes as submitted.*

*Motion was made to approve the July 18, 2022 Regular minutes as amended.*

*Motion was made to approve the July 18, 2022 Executive Session minutes as submitted.*

*Motion was made to approve the July 25, 2022 Regular minutes as amended.*

*Motion was made to approve the July 25, 2022 Executive Session minutes as submitted.*

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*Motion was made to go into Executive Session and not return to public 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; all unions. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Next Meetings:

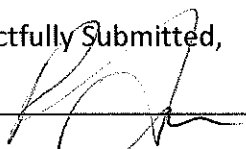
a. Potential Topics:

- (1) Committee Appointments/Reappointments

b. Next Meeting Dates:

- (1) Monday, August 15, 2022 – 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting
- (2) Monday, August 29, 2022 – 7:00 PM – Regular meeting about the Collins Center report
- (3) Monday, September 12, 2022 – 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting
- (4) Monday, September 19, 2022 – 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,



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PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator

