

Approved by
the Select Board on:
02-03-2020

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: May 5, 2020
TIME: 9:36 AM

Minutes

Town of Belmont

Select Board

Large Community Room, Chenery Middle School

Monday, January 7, 2020

7:30pm

CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 8:01pm by Chair Tom Caputo. Vice Chair Adam Dash and Select Board member Roy Epstein were present. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin was present. The meeting was joint with School Committee, which was already in session.

ACTION BY CONSENT:

Joint meeting with School Committee – Discussion and vote on Skating Rink Request for Proposal (RFP)

Caputo first provided context on the efforts to-date to seek a public-private partnership for building a new ice rink. The public process had resulted in large amounts of valuable feedback on both the RFP and lease that had been incorporated into the final drafts. At this stage, the School Committee and Select Board were ready to finalize the documents, and upon doing so, would release the RFP to be open for bidding as of January 13.

Jeffery Wheeler (Senior Town Planner) led review of the remaining minor changes to the documents since the last iteration from December 10 (the version that had been publically posted on the Town's website). Several final modifications were proposed in the course of discussion:

- The reference to requirements for meeting Middlesex League Athletic Standards was changed to specifying instead using dimensional requirements from the National Federation of High School Sports.
- Kate Bowen (School Committee) pointed out that the two pictures showing the layout of the site were not consistent; Wheeler would correct.
- Epstein suggested deletion of a comma in paragraph in Paragraph 2.2, as it changed the meaning substantially with respect to the definition of field space being considered.
- George Hall (Town Counsel) would fix some language in the lease referring to what happens with the property when the lease ends.

Garvin thanked Wheeler, Assistant Town Administrator Marshall, and Community Development Director Clancy for the large amount of time and work dedicated to preparing the RFP and lease documents.

Epstein noted the final version of the RFP did not include reference to having tennis courts on the site west of Harris Field. He thanked Superintendent Phelan for undertaking a thoughtful process to review whether tennis courts could be accommodated, and expressed agreement with the decision to pursue funding to add courts at Winn Brook. Chair Caputo echoed that the Board would do whatever possible in leveraging Town resources to support the tennis program in finding a permanent home.

[Open public comment.]

- *Anne Paulsen*: Asked whether there were any requirements in the lease concerning maintaining the grounds/landscaping. In particular, there were several large and old trees on-site that should be preserved during and after construction.
- *Jane Otte*: Skating rink is the reason that tennis is not being accommodated on-site. Hopefully no one bids on the project, because of the inappropriateness of the site.

[Close public comment.]

[The School Committee made a motion to approve the RFP and lease, which passed unanimously.]

Motion: To approve the Request for Proposal and Ground Lease of Property for construction and maintenance of an ice skating rink at 345 Concord Ave. dated January 7, with edits as discussed. (Vote passed 3-0)

Adjourn meeting with School Committee and commence Select Board meeting in Faculty Dining Room

[The School Committee was continuing its meeting in the Large Community Room; the Select Board moved to the Faculty Dining Room.]

Award contract for FY20 Water Main Replacement Project Contract to Cedrone Trucking, Inc. in the amount of \$999,859.42

Jay Marcotte (Director, DPW) was present. This contract was part of the annual water main replacement program. The contract went out to bid on December 4, and eight bids had been received. Cedrone was the low bidder and had done work previously for the Town. Marcotte was recommending for the Board to approve the contract.

Epstein asked about the repaving of the street after the work was completed. Initially the trench would be patched over; DPW then coordinates with other necessary utility work (e.g. National Grid) and ultimately Community Development's pavement management program, so that the entire street is completely repaved within 1-2 years.

Motion: To award the FY20 Water Main Replacement project contract to Cedrone Trucking, Inc. in the amount of \$999,859.42, for scope of work that includes approximately 5,100 linear feet of new 8 inch water main and appurtenances, transfer/installation of water services, abandonment of existing water main and all other appurtenant work.

Accept gift from Liz and Graham Allison of Belmont to the Belmont Police Department in the amount of \$101,325.00

Rich McLaughlin (Former Police Chief) and Jamie MacIsaac (Police Chief) joined the meeting. The gift was intended to cover the cost of providing Tasers for the Police Department over a span of five years, which included the Tasers themselves as well as associated training and certification for the officer overseeing the program. The need for Tasers had been long discussed in the Police Department - Liz and Graham Allison had approached the Department to ask how they could best contribute. McLaughlin noted the Allison's had generously supported the Police Department financially over the years.

Motion: To accept the gift of \$101,325.00 from Liz and Graham Allison on behalf of the Police Department, for the purposes of obtaining ten Tasers and including any necessary training/certification.

- *The Board thanked Liz and Graham Allison for their generosity and commitment to the Belmont Police Department.*
- *(Vote passed 3-0)*

Discussion on supplemental funds received from The Commonwealth in the amount of \$40,000.00 for school safety programs

Garvin and MacIsaac had previously discussed the best way to utilize an unexpected earmark of State funds, an initiative of Representative Dave Rogers. The funds would go towards a new electronic access control management system for the schools, which automatically produces ID badges and keeps track of visitors. MacIsaac was currently evaluating the systems available on the market.

Executive Session: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel; Police Chief

Motion: To enter executive session as described above. (Vote passed 3-0; Roll-call vote: Tom Caputo, Adam Dash, Roy Epstein)

Motion: To leave executive session. (Vote passed 3-0; Roll-call vote: Tom Caputo, Adam Dash, Roy Epstein)

Discussion and possible ratification of Police Chief Contract

Jessica Porter (Director, HR) explained that after some minor revisions, the Board and Jamie MacIsaac had reached agreement on a final contract for MacIsaac to serve as Police Chief. Compensation was to be \$183k, all inclusive of factors such as holiday pay, educational incentives, etc. Porter reviewed other standard terms of the contract. Following the vote on the contract would be an official swearing-in ceremony at Town Hall tomorrow at 8am, followed by a public event later on, date and time to be determined.

Motion: To execute the employment agreement between the Town of Belmont and James MacIsaac as Belmont Police Chief, under the parameters outlined. (Vote passed 3-0)

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 litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares; All Unions

Motion: To enter executive session as described above. (Vote passed 3-0; Roll-call vote: Tom Caputo, Adam Dash, Roy Epstein)

Motion: To leave executive session. (Vote passed 3-0; Roll-call vote: Tom Caputo, Adam Dash, Roy Epstein)

Vote to approve request from the Armenian General Benevolent Union Young Professionals of Boston for a One Day Liquor License (All Alcoholic) for the purpose of hosting a Christmas Fundraiser for Armenian causes, on Friday January 10, 2020 from 7:30pm to 11:00pm at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research at 395 Concord Ave., Belmont

Rebecca Shahverdian (Chair, Armenian General Benevolent Union Young Professionals of Boston) was present and gave background on the group. This would be the first event held at the new building of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research.

Motion: To approve the One Day Liquor License (All Alcoholic) as described above. Applicants are reminded that no one under the age of 18 years old is allowed to serve alcohol; no one under the age of 21 years old is allowed to consume alcohol; no alcohol is permitted outside. (Vote passed 3-0)

Request for review of appointment to the Cultural Council

A member of the Cultural Council had not been attending meetings; the Chair had contacted the member but not received a satisfactory explanation. The Chair was not requesting a reappointment for the slot at this time, as the Council currently had 15 other members – would reassess after the summer.

Motion: To remove Shonool Malik from the Belmont Cultural Council. (Vote passed 3-0)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

[None.]

SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Epstein raised two matters for the Board's consideration: 1) heard a lot of feedback from residents with respect to recent tax bills – would like to extend an invitation to the Board of Assessors to attend a Select Board meeting to provide information on the assessment process; 2) based on support from Police and Fire Chiefs, would like to consider moving forward with an initiative to leave the Civil Service; Garvin would follow-up with the Chiefs and raise the matter again with the unions.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn at 10:01pm. (Vote passed 3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,



PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator