

Approved by the Select Board:

November 7, 2022

Select Board Meeting

Monday, October 18, 2022

Hybrid Meeting

9:00 AM

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: November 21, 2022

TIME: 10:07 AM

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/Finance Director Jennifer Hewitt, Director of Community Development Glenn Clancy.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Paolillo read a letter about the striping on Concord Ave. from Mike Callanan, President of the Belmont Veteran's Memorial Committee. The letter expressed concerns about older citizens exiting their car directly onto the travel lane and then navigating the bike lane on Concord Ave. Mr. Callanan said there are veterans who cannot go to the Memorial Park because of dangerous traffic issues caused by the re-striping.
- Cardboard Drop off Event will be held on October 22nd 8 am to 1 pm. Participants can pre-register through MyRec or submit a check at the event.
- Belmont Municipal Light Board will hold a Public Forum on Belmont Light rate design on October 26th at 7 pm on Zoom.
- There are still openings for volunteer members on Town committees.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[NONE.]

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Community Path Project Update. Garvin reported that two firms responded to the recent RFP for Community Path Phase II design. The Phase I Engineering firm is meeting with the MBTA on the 25% design. Garvin said information about Phase I and Phase II design projects will be disseminated at the next meeting on November 7th.
- Transportation Bond Bill Award. Garvin said that Belmont is part of a \$3M bond bill for safety improvements on Grove Street. Glenn Clancy said he would like to use this funding to improve pedestrian issues at the Grove St. Playground, and traffic management from Huron Ave. to Belmont St. Senator Brownsberger and Representative Rogers assisted the Town in securing these funds. The bill still needs to be signed by the Governor. There is another bond bill due for signature that includes funding for the Community Path, rink and library.

- Update of FY24 Budget. Garvin affirmed that there will be NO Operating Budget Override Vote for FY24 in April 2023. Paolillo said he thinks that the Select Board has been clear that no override is being considered for FY24.
- Debt Exclusion Impact by home class. Jennifer Hewitt displayed a table that includes the average financial impact of each debt exclusion based on type of home.

COMMENTS

Bill Anderson asked if the analysis provides expected projected impact of the annual 2.5% increase on the levy. Hewitt said the current analysis shows the property values based on FY22 assessments.

Lisa Pargoli asked for more information about how the two-family house average was computed and if owner-occupied two-family homes would include a discount. Hewitt explained the table in more detail and Dash said there is currently no discount for owner-occupied two-family homes.

Andrea Campbell asked if any capital projects are expected to be rolling off the tax bills. Paolillo said some debt is being retired and they will post which debts will be retired.

Michael Flaherty commented that the November ballot did not include any dollar amounts on the debt exclusion questions. Dash explained that only legal language goes on ballot questions. The numbers will have to be approved by Town Meeting and if the number changed, Town Meeting would not approve. Epstein concurred that ballot question legislation does not include dollar amounts.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Designate part-time zoning consultant as a Special Municipal Employee (SME)

Glenn Clancy said this issue is related to difficulty he has had in filling vacant positions at Community Development. Two local building inspector positions have been unfilled for a number of years. After some restructuring, he has an applicant for code enforcing officer and a good candidate for local building inspector. He would also like to hire a retiree who knows the zoning laws on a part-time, short-term basis to handle the short-term zoning applications and help train the new inspector. He said that after discussing with Town Counsel, George Hall, it was determined that the temporary position would be hired under the Special Municipal Employee designation for a three-month period. This requires approval by the Select Board. The SME employee hourly salary will be close to what the local building inspector was being paid.

Clancy said he will be reviewing the administrative structure during the winter to evaluate changes before he completes the FY24 budget. He said he may be able to shift resources to the Planning Division which has been burdened with increased work lately.

*Motion was made to designate the part-time zoning consultant as a Special Municipal Employee.
Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Discussion and possible vote to approve a contract for Crack Sealing of Various Roadways in Belmont awarded to Superior Sealcoat, Inc. in the amount of \$144,150.00

Clancy explained that this is a regular maintenance contract for the roadways. The Town received \$249,336 in MassDOT funding in July 2022 under the Winter Recovery Assistance Program. The DPW

evaluated the roads to determine which would be candidates for crack sealing. Clancy said they also put out bid for a patching contract, but did not receive any bidders yet. He will set it up for new bid for Spring. Both the crack sealing and patching should be able to be completed using the MassDOT funding and capital budget funds of \$150K. He included a list of streets for the crack sealing project in the packet for the Select Board.

Motion was made to approve the contract for Crack Sealing of Various Roadways in Belmont awarded to Superior Sealcoat, Inc. in the amount of \$144,150.00. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote on request to control non-native and invasive plants on Town owned land

Leonard Katz, Belmont resident, has formed a group called the Belmont Conservation Volunteers, under the purview of Sustainable Belmont. He is requesting permission to act on behalf of the Town to control invasive plants on Town-owned property, and hopes that the Select Board can give permission to Mary Trudeau to clear any work planned by the volunteer group so that they do not have to ask permission from the Select Board each time a new project is undertaken. Mary Trudeau confirmed that the Conservation Commission trusts Mr. Katz with this work.

Epstein asked about the methods Mr. Katz plans to use and the number of people in the volunteer group. Katz said the three people in the group use hand tools and use proactive techniques. He explained that they plan on training a core group of people who have knowledge and experience with local species and who can then train others.

Garvin said she will work with Mary Trudeau on the liability for the volunteers.

Motion was made to allow Mr. Katz and Belmont Conservation Volunteers to act on behalf of the Town to control invasive plants on Town-owned property under the direction of the Town's Conservation Commission. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote on request from The Lion's Club:

Felix Firenze and Tom Hevey of the Lion's Club asked the Select Board for permission for the Lion's Club to use the Delta at Memorial Park and the 15 parking spaces in front of the Lion's Club for their annual Holiday Tree and Wreath Sale and to add Christmas lights to two trees at the Delta.

Motion was made to grant the request to the Belmont Lion's Club to exclude parking in front of the Lion's Clubhouse to host the annual Holiday Tree and Wreath Sale from November 25 through December 24, 2022 at the War Memorial Delta and to accept the donation of the Belmont Lion's Club of holiday tree lights to be installed on two mature trees on the War Memorial Delta by Belmont Light. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Update from Belmont Light on Street Lights

Craig Spinale, General Manager of Belmont Light Department reported that 2,300 street lights were replaced with LED technology. Spinale reported that this will save the Town of Belmont approximately \$200K per year on energy costs. A recommendation from the Structural Change Impact Group was to lower the output to 30%, which has already been done wherever feasible. LED lights last up to 20 years and greenhouse gas emissions are lowered due to this project.

Epstein stated that a further reduction in brightness would not save a significant amount of electricity.

Discussion and possible vote on Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging/Parking lot fees

Craig Spinale informed the Select Board that there are four charging ports at the Claflin lot which are free to the public, but they are nearing the end of their useful life. Belmont Light is looking for ways to recover the cost of replacing those chargers and installing additional chargers at Claflin Street and other locations, and will begin charging for the cost of electricity, as previously approved by the Select Board prior to Belmont Light's transition to the Light Board. Level 2 chargers will replace the older charging stations, and a grant will be used to purchase one Level 3 charging station.

Spinale provided three payment options for charging for parking in public lots: 1) continue to let people pay to park at the kiosk, and pay separately for charging at the port for electricity use; 2) add the cost of parking at the charging station, (parking charges would be regularly transferred to the Town); and, 3) do not assess a parking fee and the Town would forego the parking costs.

Dash said there are many vehicles using the charging stations now and the incentivizing for electric vehicles is not necessary anymore. He feels that combining parking and charging costs would be best.

Epstein agreed that Option 2 provides flexibility. Combining parking fees with the charging makes the most sense.

Motion was made to allow Belmont Light to collect parking fees at the Belmont Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Municipal Lots with the understanding that Belmont Light will transmit the total collected fees to the Town on a quarterly basis. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote to sign Green Communities Annual Report submission for FY2022

Ben Thivierge, Energy Specialist at Belmont Light said all department reports have been received and the final Green Communities annual report for FY22 can be signed by the Select Board. He explained that Green Communities gives the Town access to funding for energy efficiency upgrades. Currently Belmont is eligible to receive \$200k per year in grant funding. Grants have to be applied for per project and the funding goes to the Town.

Motion was made to sign the Green Communities Annual Report for FY22 as presented. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Approve new Common Victualler license for Theo's Pizzeria & Grill, 389 Trapelo Road, Belmont (new owner)

The new owners of Theo's Pizzeria joined the group. They noted they have experience in the industry and own a business in Concord, MA.

Motion was made to approve a new Common Victualler license for Theo's Pizzeria & Grill, 389 Trapelo Road, Belmont. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Award FY2023 Water Main Replacement Project Contract to Cedrone Trucking, Inc. of North Billerica, MA in the amount of \$790,070.09

Jay Marcotte, DPW Director, said three bids were received for this project. Cedrone Trucking was the low bidder and the DPW has done business with them throughout the years. Based on this experience and price, Marcotte recommends this company. Contract includes patching and paving.

Motion was made to award the FY23 Water Main Replacement Project Contract to Cedrone Trucking, Inc. of North Billerica, MA in the amount of \$790,070.09. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote on final language of the Leaf Blower Bylaw

Epstein said the Leaf Blower Bylaw The Article has the same language in substance as presented in May. Town Counsel made a few wording changes. There was a change made that pushes ahead the date for the Town to stop buying combustible leaf blowers to January 1, 2023. The phase-out deadline will stay at January 2026. There was also a minor change to the enforcement mechanism; violations will not be cited until the second warning has been issued.

Dash questioned the language in the bylaw that states “No combustible equipment can be done for compensation.” He said this would allow a contractor to do leaf blowing with combustible equipment for free.

Epstein said the intent of the language was to allow the homeowner to do their own leaf blowing.

The Select Board decided to move forward with the current language of the bylaw and amend it later, if necessary. Amendments can be filed until three days before Town Meeting.

Motion was made to approve the final language of the Leaf Blower Bylaw as presented for the Warrant for Town Meeting. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Amend Charge of MBTA Communities Advisory Committee

The current charge includes two members of the Planning Board and the Planning Board is going through transition so Garvin said they would like to change the committee structure to include one Planning Board member and one member of the Select Board. Garvin said that Epstein expressed to her that he is willing to serve on the MBTA Communities Advisory Committee. Garvin and Epstein said that the committee needs to complete a draft report by November 2022 and a final report by January 2023, so it is incumbent on the committee to address these projects in a timely manner.

Motion was made to approve the amended charge of the MBTA Communities Advisory Committee as presented. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Motion was made to approve appointment of Roy Epstein to the MBTA Communities Advisory Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote to accept resignations for:

Transportation Advisory Committee

Motion was made accept the resignation of Lawrence McDonald from the Transportation Advisory Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Select Board thanked Mr. McDonald for his long-time service.

Vision 21 Implementation Committee

Motion was made to accept the resignation of Rogelio Fussa from the Vision 21 Implementation Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Select Board thanked Mr. Fussa for his excellent service on this committee.

Possible vote on appointments, reappointments and acceptance of resignations:

Historic District Commission

There are three vacancies for associate members on the Historic District Commission. Meg Reilly was endorsed by the Chair, but her residency needs to be verified before an appointment is made. The Select Board decided to defer on Alexandra Danahy, Judith Feinleib and Christine Arthur's appointments until decisions have been made on Planning Board candidates because Ms. Danahy and Ms. Arthur also expressed interest in the Planning Board. The Select Board will be interviewing Planning Board candidates at an upcoming meeting.

Dash commented that he feels Judith Feinleib does not have the appropriate credentials and background needed for the Historic District Commission. Paolillo said that he plans to vote for Ms. Feinleib for the position when the appointment comes up again.

Motion was made to appoint Meg Reilly (contingent upon confirmation of her Belmont residency) to the Historic District Commission for the Associate Member position for a term to expire on June 30, 2026. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Motion was made to appoint Mary Perry to the Historic District Commission for the Associate Member position for a term to expire June 30, 2025. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Vision 21 Implementation Committee

Taylor Yates, acting Chair of the Vision 21 Implementation Committee strongly supports Dan Barry and Max Colice to fill the open three-year terms on that committee.

Motion was made to appoint Daniel Barry and Max Colice to terms expiring June 30, 2025. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Review and possible vote on Medicare rates for Calendar Year 2023

Garvin displayed a slide with the new Medicare rates to inform the Select Board of rate changes. Philippe Hyppolite, Assistant HR Director, joined the group. He explained that this issue is related to the supplemental rates for Medicare Part B plans for retirees' prescriptions for Tufts and Harvard Pilgrim plans. Paolillo asked if Mr. Hyppolite could supply the Select Board with the number of retirees who participate in the supplemental plans at a later date.

Update on FY2022 Q4 Report

Patrice Garvin presented a report on General Fund Revenues and General Fund Expenditures for FY2022 Q4.

The group discussed key points on these reports. The total revenues collected were a little over 1% more than projected and the total expenditures were 2.8% less than projected. The Select Board were pleased that both revenues and expenditures were very close to what was expected. Garvin said that the discrepancies in expenditures were predominantly impacted by staff vacancies and facilities turnbacks.

SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

The new Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee members have been appointed by the Moderator and will be joining future budget summits.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 20, 2022 – Executive Session

Motion was made to approve the September 20, 2022 Executive Session minutes, as amended. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Next Meetings:

a. Potential Topics:

- (1) Committee Appointments/Reappointments
- (2) Belmont Middle High School Building Committee Update
- (3) MAPC Presentation on Net Zero Carbon Emissions
- (4) Update from the Solid Waste Committee

b. Next Meeting Dates:

- (1) Thursday, October 20, 2022, 7:00 PM – Joint Meeting with School Committee, Warrant Committee, Long Term Capital Planning Committee – Budget Summit II
- (2) Thursday, October 27, 2022 – 7:00 PM – Public Forum – Elected to Appointed Treasurer
- (3) Monday, November 7, 2022, 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting
- (4) Potential meeting to interview candidates.

Submitted by

Virginia Quinn

Recording Secretary