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Minutes

Town of Belmont

Select Board

Select Board Meeting Room

Monday, September 9, 2019

7:00pm

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DATE: 10/21/2019

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Tom Caputo. Vice Chair Adam Dash and Selectman Roy Epstein were present. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin was present.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 'The Reminisants' will perform Sunday September 15 from 4-6pm at Payson Park.
- The Tom Nutile Big Band featuring vocalist Jim Bramante will be performing at the Beech Street Center September 12 at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 – the event is sponsored by the Friends of the Council on Aging, with proceeds going towards the Senior Center and Seniors' services.
- A community meeting to discuss a draft RFP for a potential public-private partnership to build a new ice rink will be held Monday September 16, 7-9pm at the Beech Street Center. Contact the Town Administrator's office for further details.
- Thanks go out to Mary Bradley and other organizers/volunteers on a successful Porchfest event held this past weekend.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS:

[There were none]

ACTION BY CONSENT:

Minuteman update and discussion

Jim Gammill (Representative, Minuteman School Committee) was present to follow up on the discussion held at the previous Board meeting (August 26), regarding his request for an article to be put on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. The article would ask Town Meeting whether it wanted to rescind the 2016 notice of withdrawal as a member from the Minuteman (MM) school district. Caputo asked Gammill if there were any updates from the prior discussion:

- Gammill reported that Superintendent Phelan and others were in agreement that Special Town Meeting in November was the right time to make a decision on the matter due to implications for the Town, School, and MM budgets, as well as the impact on students applying for next year.
- On the agenda for the next MM School Committee meeting was to discuss parameters (timing, installments, etc.) for the potential repayment of ~\$472k in foregone debt service payments, in the case that Belmont were to rescind the notification of withdrawal. Gammill would then work towards having an official public statement from the MM School Committee on what they would

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- like to see with respect to the payment, following the October MM School Committee meeting on the 16th.
- Dash reported on Superintendent Phelan's discussions with Watertown and Lincoln over their plans with respect to the MM district. Watertown had no plans to join as a member, citing higher costs and outside option of Medford in the unlikely case that MM was at capacity. Lincoln similarly had no plans to rejoin as a member.

Epstein asked if it was possible to put together a pro forma for next year based on potential outcomes of a Town Meeting vote – need to come up with a forecast to inform the decision. Gammill was meeting with the Warrant Committee on Wednesday night (September 11) to discuss a framework for analyzing the decision. Caputo confirmed he had spoken with Warrant Committee Chair Slap who planned to have a group put together some modelling.

Dash advocated for putting the article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant – enough had changed since 2016 and Town Meeting should have the chance to vote. Caputo agreed with the sentiment. Epstein expressed concern that it was a complicated issue and wasn't sure how much of an opportunity there would be to delve into the required detail.

[Open public comment.]

- *Jack Weis (Warrant Committee / Former MM School Committee representative):* In terms of process, now (i.e. Special Town Meeting) is the best time to address the question – it would be the most expedient process to get back into the MM district, and MM School Committee needs an answer for their budgeting process. Did not agree the door would be entirely closed in the future if Belmont were to proceed with the withdrawal as planned.

[Close public comment.]

Motion: To put on the Special Town Meeting Warrant for November a question as to whether to rescind Belmont's withdrawal from the Minuteman Regional School District. (Vote passed 3-0)

Approve request for a One Day Liquor License, Wine and Malt Only, from Mrs. Donna Depace to host a baby shower at the Beech Street Center on September 22, 2019, from 11:30am to 3:30pm

Items missing from the original application package had subsequently been provided.

Motion: To approve the request for a One Day Liquor License as specified above. (Vote passed 3-0)

Discussion on Requests for Proposals (RFP) for Rink

Jeffery Wheeler (Senior Town Planner) and George Hall (Town Counsel) joined the meeting. Caputo summarized progress on the RFP for the rink. At present, a draft RFP and lease had been assembled and feedback was needed: a public forum would be held on September 16, joint with the School Committee; Wheeler was seeking one-on-one meetings with School Committee members to get their feedback; Epstein had already provided edits/comments individually. The following points were discussed regarding the RFP process:

- Purview of the School Committee / Select Board: With respect to signing the lease, negotiating the lease/RFP, etc. Hall's preliminary take was that it was appropriate for the School Committee to ultimately sign the lease, as it was on School land and the School had care and custody.

However, it was acknowledged the School Committee had limited bandwidth to drive the process and could delegate responsibilities to Board and/or Town Administrator's office.

- Timelines/process: Epstein questioned the proposed timeframe for evaluating bids – final bids were to be received Friday October 30 and School Committee was expected to make a selection the following Monday. Dash agreed, and suggested the evaluation process could be lengthened by taking up the Town Meeting vote on one of the later nights (e.g. November 20). Hall explained the decision at the selection stage is still essentially preliminary – the School Committee would be voting to move forward with a presumptive party, but lots of negotiation required and can back out / switch at any point.
- Details of draft RFP/lease: Epstein was unclear as to how respondents could prepare a legitimate financial plan given that terms in the lease were still unspecified, e.g. rates charged to School/Town. He also did not feel that all major contingencies were covered in the lease, e.g. what happens if the rink fails as a commercial enterprise.

Hall said he still had comments regarding the lease to provide to Wheeler.

Dash/Caputo commented it was intentional to leave some aspects of the lease vague so as to allow creative solutions from potential developers. Also, the current lease was conceptual, let bidders know what to expect but details would need to be negotiated with a successful applicant.

- Next steps: Garvin would post an official Select Board meeting for the September 16 forum; Wheeler implement changes and post the draft RFP/lease to the website to allow for public review in advance of the forum; Caputo requested to clarify the evaluation process – i.e., what would it look like, possibility of extending the amount of time allocated; additional comments/questions on the draft RFP/lease should be taken up individually with Wheeler via email or in-person as soon as possible.

Discussion on Roll Call Bylaw

Michael Widmer (Town Moderator), George Hall (Town Counsel) and Meg Piccione (Assistant Town Clerk) were present. Widmer explained that problems around the roll-call vote at the previous Annual Town Meeting had prompted a commitment to bring a recommendation (i.e. article) to upcoming Fall Town Meeting, regarding bylaw changes covering the roll-call vote process. Widmer had been working with Town Administrator Garvin, Town Clerk O'Brien Cushman and Town Counsel Hall to put together the proposal, which was also informed by an informal survey of Town Meeting Members. Widmer hoped to have the Select Board's support in presenting a unified endorsement of a single article for Special Town Meeting.

Piccione gave a run-down of the changes: a roll-call vote would be automatic for votes requiring two-thirds majority, or, after a vote that passed by a margin of 10 votes or fewer; if members wanted to request a roll-call vote, the number of supporting Town Meeting Members was changed to 50, instead of the current 35. Widmer commented that clarifications regarding reconsideration were also a component of the proposal, codifying and clarifying the procedure that was essentially already in place.

Widmer and Hall commented the proposal was still in draft form. A public meeting would be held in October to educate the public and obtain feedback following which changes could be made, with a final proposal ready for Special Town Meeting. The Board was supportive of the changes in general as well as the process outlined by Widmer and would look to review another iteration.

Federal Census Complete Count Committee

Piccione, on behalf of the Town Clerk's office, was requesting that the Board look into formation of a committee to engage in efforts to increase the response rate for the upcoming 2020 Federal Census. There was discussion as to what kind of activities such a committee would engage in – Piccione clarified that she was merely bringing the suggestion to the Select Board, it was up to the executive branch to decide how best to implement.

Dash suggested: contacting other Middlesex communities, see what they are undertaking; perhaps tap into an existing committee, e.g. Meet Belmont. Piccione agreed to reach out to other town clerks in the area. Garvin would draft a list of tasks for the potential committee and contact Meet Belmont to see if they would be willing to take up the work.

Committee appointments

Human Rights Commission

Carl Brauer (Chair, Human Rights Commission) was present. Full membership for the Commission is nine members. Two current members (Kimberly Hayley Jackson, Fran Yuan) sought reappointment, Brauer was supportive. There were two other vacancies left to fill and Brauer was recommending Brian Nadeau and Yi Pogue.

Motion: To appoint Kimberly Hayley Jackson and Fran Yuan to three year terms on the Human Rights Commission; to appoint Brian Nadeau and Yi Pogue to the Human Rights Commission for terms associated with the remaining two vacancies. (Vote passed 3-0)

Community Preservation Committee

One upcoming vacancy for which the member was seeking reappointment.

Motion: To appoint Elizabeth Harmer Dionne to the Community Preservation Committee. (Vote passed 3-0)

Conservation Commission

Three vacancies with three members seeking reappointment.

Motion: To reappoint Charles Chiang, Jeffrey North and Miriam Weil to the Conservation Commission. (Vote passed 3-0)

Constable

Dash noted for the record that this appointment is not actually a standard committee appointment where applications are open to the public at large.

Motion: To renew the appointment of Richard Picceri as a Belmont Constable. (Vote passed 3-0)

Council on Aging

There were four upcoming vacancies with four members seeking reappointment. Epstein noted that some members had been serving for many years – good to think about a succession plan; in general, benefit to bringing in new blood to committees if feasible. Caputo agreed with the sentiment but pointed out that

long standing members should be given due notice out of respect for their service, and as they may be interested in other committees. Appointments were deferred to next meeting to get input from the Chair of the Council on Aging.

Cultural Council

The Council could have up to 22 members and there were many good candidates to consider. One member (Jennifer Angel) was seeking reappointment and there was another full term vacancy to consider. Dash proposed a list of other viable applicants that would bring the total number of members to 19. It was necessary to stagger the terms in order to keep a reasonable rotation of expiring appointments.

Motion: To reappoint Jennifer Angel to a three year term on the Belmont Cultural Council; to appoint Karen Twietmeyer to a three year term filling a vacancy on the Belmont Cultural Council. (Vote passed 3-0)

Motion: To appoint Evelyn Corsini and Robert Nalbandov to three year terms on the Belmont Cultural Council. (Vote passed 3-0)

Motion: To appoint Eve Halpern and Bethany Murray to two year terms on the Belmont Cultural Council. (Vote passed 3-0)

Motion: To appoint Millie Rahn and May Ye to one year terms on the Belmont Cultural Council. (Vote passed 3-0)

Disability Access Commission

Two vacancies, two members seeking reappointment.

Motion: To reappoint Nancy Donald and Janet MacDonald to the Disability Access Commission. (Vote passed 3-0)

Education Scholarship Committee

Chair Floyd Carman had provided an email regarding appointments: Leslie Aitken was seeking reappointment (Carman supported); June Yacubian had withdrawn consideration for reappointment. Dash and Caputo had identified Stephanie King for the remaining slot, Epstein was in agreement.

Motion: To reappoint Leslie Aitken to the Education Scholarship Committee; to appoint Stephanie King to the Education Scholarship Committee. (Vote passed 3-0)

Energy Committee

There were four appointments to be made – three Town residents and a representative from a Town environmental group. Two long standing members, Roger Colton and Marty Bitner, were seeking reappointment. There was agreement among the Board on appointing candidate Greg Piotrowicz. Epstein advocated for appointment of Jeremy Romanul due to his background in environmental policy; Dash thought he was qualified, but was concerned that Romanul was also serving on TAC, would be a heavy workload. It was agreed to follow up with Romanul before making the final appointment.

Motion: To appoint Roger Colton, Marty Bitner, and Gregg Piotrowicz to the Energy Committee. (Vote passed 3-0)

High School Traffic Working Group

No appointments required at this time.

Historic District Commission

Done at previous meeting.

IT Advisory Committee

Four vacancies with three members seeking reappointment. Jonathan Birge had been interviewed for the Planning Board and had impressed the Board with his qualifications though he was not appointed to the Planning Board.

Motion: To reappoint Daniel Ellard, Glenn Wong and Charles Smart to the IT Advisory Committee; to appoint Jonathan Birge to the IT Advisory Committee. (Vote passed 3-0)

Permanent Audit Committee

Glenn Logan was seeking reappointment; Town Treasurer Carman highly recommended him.

Motion: To reappoint Glenn Logan to the Permanent Audit Committee. (Vote passed 3-0)

Recreation Commission

There were two vacancies, with one member (Anne Helgen) seeking reappointment. The Chair had recommended Aaron Pikilings for the remaining slot.

Motion: To reappoint Anne Helgen to the Recreation Commission; to appoint Aaron Pikilings to the Recreation Commission. (Vote passed 3-0)

Shade Tree

Motion: To reappoint Michael Chesson, Jennifer Parker and DeNee Reiton Skipper to the Shade Tree Committee; to appoint, Ava Hoffman and Isabella Molina to the Shade Tree Committee. (Vote passed 3-0)

Transportation Advisory Committee

The Committee had only been formed recently, so Dash proposed reappointment of those serving one year terms. He noted that all the members thus far had been vocal and participated well in the Committee.

Motion: To reappoint Cliff Gaysunas, Charles Hamad and Jeremy Romanul to the Transportation Advisory Committee. (Vote passed 3-0)

Vision 21 Implementation Committee

The Board agreed to table the appointment and re-advertise the position due to the exceptional need for someone qualified to assist with the master planning project.

Youth Commission

Recently created with staggered appointments, no appointments expiring this year.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Garvin reviewed the Town Administrator's Report:

- Town Hall Halloween event planned for October 28, 4-6pm in the Town Hall complex. The Board was supportive of holding the event.
- Met with the Insurance Advisory Committee to distribute the Town's health insurance plan design proposal – moving forward with negotiations, will report back to the Board once concluded.
- Preparations begun for the FY21 budget, working with Financial Task Force II to look into when an override is needed. Select Board will need to meet with Department Heads to review their budgets – agreement on October 24/31 from 7:30-10:00am.
- Freak storm last week caused outages and downed trees – kudos to Belmont Light and DPW for their responses.
- Numerous upcoming public meeting to be aware of: ice rink public forum, September 16; roll-call by-law information/feedback, October 15th; joint Select Board / School Committee meeting to discuss the rink RFP, September 24th; High School Traffic Working Group meeting to discuss recommendations for the Goden-School neighborhood, October 17th.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Dash:

- Large Transportation Advisory Committee meeting last week, public input concerning the Lexington-Sycamore intersection: voted to 1) adopt BSC Group recommendation to install a traffic signal and 2) recommended speed calming measure at the intersection – the neighborhood was divided on whether this meant the speed table should remain in place.

Caputo:

- Warrant Committee will meet for the first time Wednesday: have expressed interest in increased involvement in the budget process; take up the Minuteman discussion; discuss how best to get involved with the Financial Task Force II.
- Belmont Middle and High School Building Committee meeting tomorrow, joint with School Committee: discuss turf vs grass fields, hopefully take a vote.
- High School Traffic Working Group meeting last week: discussed how to improve High School traffic flow, evening dismissal has been challenging; next steps for Goden-School neighborhood.

Epstein:

- Community Path Project Committee is having a length kickoff meeting with Nitsch Engineering, Friday from 9am-12noon.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- *July 8 2019, Regular Session:*

Motion: To approve the July 8, 2019 regular session minutes. (Vote passed 3-0)

- *July 15 2019, Regular Session:*

Motion: To approve the July 15, 2019 regular session minutes. (Vote passed 3-0)

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn at 9:28pm. (Vote passed 3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

PATRICE GARVIN, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR