

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: October 19, 2020
TIME: 10:33 AM

Minutes

Town of Belmont

Select Board

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Thursday, June 25, 2020

6:00pm

Approved by
the Select Board on:

9/19/2020

CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 6:00pm by Chair Roy Epstein. Vice Chair Tom Caputo and Select Board member Adam Dash were present. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin was present. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: first to hear an update from the Financial Task Force II; second to complete the interview and selection process for a vacant School Committee seat.

The first portion of the meeting was joint with the Warrant Committee, Capital Budget Committee and Financial Task Force. Each of the bodies called themselves to order.

ACTION BY CONSENT:

Discussion of Financial Task Force II recommendations

Financial Task Force II (FTFII) Chair Caputo led off by highlighting three objectives for the present discussion: 1) provide an update on the work of the FTFII to key stakeholders; 2) preview the emerging (but still preliminary) consensus around recommendations; 3) obtain feedback to refine and formalize recommendations. Caputo proceeded to give a presentation describing the current financial situation of the Town, the budget assumptions used to model FY22 and subsequent years (described as 'minimum level services' scenario), preliminary recommendations, long-term structural issues and next steps in the process.

Based on its work the Task Force had coalesced around the following preliminary recommendations: To place a Proposition 2.5 override on the ballot prior to the FY22 budgeting process, and specifically to have the question on the November ballot to garner maximum participation from the community. The amount of the override need was determined to be in the range of \$12-\$14m and would ideally cover at least three years. The Town should strive to move towards a predictable schedule of smaller but more frequent overrides going forward to truly address the needs identified.

FTFII members Geoff Lubien and Mark Paolillo provided additional detail on the revenue and expenditure assumptions behind the financial model. Caputo added that detailed materials would be circulated following the meeting, and FTFII members would make themselves available to answer any questions.

There was some additional discussion about the proposed timing for an override vote (November vs. April). Dash and Paul Rickter (Warrant Committee) expressed support for November, while Jack Weis (Warrant Committee) expressed some concern about having an alternative budget prepared as well as time to sufficiently educate/inform the community.

[Warrant Committee, Capital Budget Committee and Financial Task Force II adjourned; School Committee called itself to order.]

Interview of finalists for the School Committee position and vote on appointment

The five finalists were: Vicki Amalfitano, Seetha Burtner, Evelyn Gomez, Jeff Liberty and Meghan Moriarty.

Each candidate provided two minute responses to the following questions:

1. "Please share your perspective on issues facing the district, such as remote learning, contracts, budgetary challenges, etc.?"
2. "With respect to the Town's financial situation, what role do you think the School Committee should play in addressing challenges?"
3. "How familiar are you with the work of the School Committee and how would your participation on the School Committee fit your other time commitments?"

Following the question round, each candidate provided a two minute closing statement.

The Board and School Committee took a short break to process and digest the information from the interview. The agreed upon voting process was as follows. Each member would submit their vote via email to Chair Epstein and School Committee Chair Prestwich. Additional rounds of run-off voting would take place if no clear majority (5 votes or more) was established. The voting proceeded thus:

- Round 1 – all candidates:
 - o Bowen -> Gomez
 - o Caputo -> Moriarty
 - o Prestwich -> Burtner
 - o Epstein -> Moriarty
 - o Donner -> Gomez
 - o Crowley -> Burtner
 - o Checkoway -> Liberty
 - o Dash -> Moriarty
- Round 2 – Gomez, Moriarty and Burtner all tied with 2 votes in Round 1:
 - o Bowen -> Gomez
 - o Caputo -> Moriarty
 - o Prestwich -> Burtner
 - o Epstein -> Moriarty
 - o Donner -> Gomez
 - o Crowley -> Burtner
 - o Checkoway -> Gomez
 - o Dash -> Moriarty
- Round 3 – Gomez and Moriarty tied with 3 votes in Round 2:
 - o Bowen -> Gomez
 - o Caputo -> Moriarty
 - o Prestwich -> Gomez
 - o Epstein -> Moriarty
 - o Donner -> Gomez


- Crowley -> Gomez
- Checkoway -> Gomez
- Dash -> Moriarty

The selected candidate for the School Committee position was Evelyn Gomez.

ADJOURNMENT:

The School Committee adjourned.

Motion: To adjourn at 8:13pm. (Vote passed 3-0)


Respectfully Submitted,

PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator

