

Special Select Board Meeting

April 4, 2022

Remote Meeting

7:00pm

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: May 5, 2022
TIME: 2:45 PM

APPROVED BY
THE SELECT BOARD

April 11, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Select Board was called to order by Chair Adam Dash. Vice Chair Roy Epstein and Select Board member Mark Paolillo were present, along with Town Administrator Patrice Garvin, Acting Assistant Town Administrator Glenn Clancy, DPW Director Jay Marcotte, Facilities Director David Blazon, Acting Recreation Director Brandon Fitts, Town Counsel George Hall and HR Director Shawna Healey.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- "Safe Routes to School" project will be starting this week at Wellington. The contractor has until the end of summer 2023 to finish the project. This is a Mass DOT project, but Community Development is interfacing with residents who are affected by the project. Please call the Office of Community Development with any questions or concerns.

Dash announced that tomorrow is the annual Town Election.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[NONE.]

ACTION BY CONSENT:

Vote to open Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant, possible vote to add articles:

Motion was made to reopen the annual Town Warrant. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

a. Amend General Bylaw § 60-325 - Stormwater Management and Erosion Control

Glenn Clancy reported 2013 Town Meeting adopted the current Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw in 2013. At that time, he said he was aware that there would be a new Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit issued by the state because new permits are issued every five years. He said this Article amends the bylaw to reflect the new language of the MS4 permit. Clancy displayed revisions of the bylaw on the screen. He said that our current bylaw is set at a higher threshold than most towns with a limitation of 2500 sq. feet rather than the acre required by the MS4 permit and the new bylaw extends that standard. Paolillo suggested that the public be provided more information about this this bylaw in an upcoming meeting.

Motion was made to add the amended Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw as an Article to the Town Meeting Warrant. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

b. An Act Relating to the Retirement Classification of Certain Employees of the Town of Belmont

George Hall, Town Counsel, Tom Gibson, Chair of the Belmont Retirement Board and Shawna Healey, HR Director joined the meeting to discuss this Article.

Tom Gibson reported that this is a follow up to the Select Board meeting discussion in February. Belmont Dispatchers have been classified in Group 2 for retirement purposes. The Group 2 benefits include a retirement grid which allows for employees to receive enhanced retirement benefits not available to Group 1 employees. The current audit issued last year, asked that these employees be classified in Group 2. Many of our Belmont employees affected by this change have over 25 years of service and expected certain retirement benefits. Gibson said a supplemental regulation was submitted by the Belmont Retirement Board to the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) asking if we could retain these employees in Group 2. PERAC has not yet acted on this request and he said he is doubtful about approval. Gibson said he would like to get this Article on the Warrant for May Town Meeting.

Atty. Hall discussed whether this request should be grandfathering the existing dispatchers hired before the January 1, 2022 change date, or reclassifying their job descriptions. Garvin reported that after her communication with Senator Brownsberger and Representative Brown, it was agreed that the attempt to grandfather the employees would be more acceptable than permanently reclassifying the position.

Epstein asked if there were any other employees across the state who are in this situation. Gibson said there are only six other communities out of 300 Towns with dispatchers in Group 2.

The language in the article asks that existing employees be grandfathered in and new hires after January 2022 classified in Group 1.

Motion was made to place the Article relating to retirement classification for certain employees of the Town of Belmont on the Annual Town Warrant. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

Motion was made to close the Town Warrant. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote to approve ATM Warrant

Garvin displayed a list of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles and said there are 22 Articles for discussion. She said she is meeting with the Moderator this week to break up the Articles into Segment A and B. There are three citizen petitions and the standard budgetary and financial Articles.

Dash announced that the Leafblower Warrant is expected to put on the Segment B Town Meeting for June.

Motion was made to approve the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting as stated. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote to approve contract for the Fire Sub-Station Building Envelope Repairs with Northern Contracting Corporation from Canton, MA in the amount of \$1,274,213.40

Dave Blazon, Facilities Director, said that CHA, the project manager, has been overseeing the fire station projects for the last three years. The repairs were required because the two fire stations required major renovations almost immediately after construction. After litigation with the contractor, the Town received \$1M for repairs. This Article involves the second phase of the project that will repair the substation on Leonard St. The Fire Station Headquarters was repaired two years ago. Blazon reported that there were three quotes received for the project ranging from \$1.2M to \$1.5M. Northern Contracting was the lowest bidder for this project. Blazon said CHA has vetted the company and he reported that CHA would be the OPM of this project.

Motion was made to approve the contract for the Fire Sub-Station Building Envelope Repairs with Northern Contracting Corporation from Canton, MA in the amount of \$1,274,213.40. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Discussion of a portion of the Community Preservation Committee Articles:

a. Grove Street Baseball and Basketball Reconstruction Phase I: Study and Design

Brandon Fitts, Acting Director of the Recreation Department, said he has been working with the CPC on this project. Phase I will focus on the design to reconstruct the baseball field and basketball courts near Grove St.

Both the baseball diamonds and the basketball courts are in very poor condition. The baseball field grounds are uneven and the fencing is corroding. The basketball court has deep cracks and is uneven. Fitts said he is asking for \$40K for pre-project design and engineering work. Marcotte said that this a part of the Grove St. Master Plan completed in 2015.

b. Community Path Phase 2: Preliminary Design Funds

Russ Leino, Chair of the Community Path Project, reported that this request is for preliminary design funds for Phase 2. Leino showed slides of the history of the Community Path project since 2017. He said the MassDot review of the 25% Phase I design process should be completed soon. He is requesting \$200K for design consulting procurement and submission of the 25% design plan. The first step will be to submit the project need form to MASS DOT to make the project eligible for Transportation Improvement Program funding. The next step will be to go out to bid the design for Phase 2 and find a company who has the best qualifications to undertake the project.

Leino said they hope to supplement the CPC funds with \$250K from state earmarked funds. Phase II will focus on determining possible design alignments. Leino showed a map that displayed two different alignment designs.

Approval by Town Meeting would allow Phase 2 to commence to advance the project as quickly as possible.

Epstein asked how much has been spent on the Phase I work so far? Leino reported that Phase IA for the underpass cost \$274K and Phase IB cost \$527K. Epstein said that it looks like Phase 2 is more complicated so he questioned whether \$450K will be enough to finish Phase 2. Leino said they are also pursuing a \$200K state grant from Mass Trails.

Clancy said that they are focusing on the 25% design phase until they can get an estimate on extension of the Waltham route. Epstein asked about the bridge crossing over to Belmont Housing. Leino thinks it makes sense for this area to be developed separately. Epstein also inquired whether a new Waverly Sq. station would need to be built? Leino said they need the engagement of MBTA before they can move forward with that decision.

Clancy said the Waverly Commuter Line was ordered to be made accessible by the Architectural Access Board. The MBTA will eventually have to address that project. He noted that if both projects are tied together, it could be an advantage for securing funding.

All agreed that there are potential roadblocks to development that will have to be addressed as the project unfolds.

c. Benton Library: Reconstruction of Chimney and Roof

Elizabeth Gibson, from the Belmont Historic Commission, joined the meeting to discuss the reconstruction of the chimney and roof for the Benton Library. She said the library is owned by the Town and the chimney collapsed in February 2022. Because the deadline for the Community Preservation grant was imminent, she submitted an emergency request of \$150K. She said the bids will probably come in lower than that amount, but she was advised by the CPC to ask for enough money to complete the project and unused funds could be returned. The recommendation was to rebuild the chimney. There is no heat in the building currently and they need to rebuild the bulkhead door, repair rafters, repair or replace molding, and re-shingle the roof. She said they are still hoping to capture insurance money, but she has not received a final reply from the Town's insurance company.

Elizabeth Dionne, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, said they are trying to preserve maximum flexibility by doing integrative projects and she affirmed that they will probably not spend all the funds, but they need to know there is enough to complete the project. She hopes they will have a clearer understanding of the financial situation by the June Town Meeting.

d. Belmont Library: Envelope Conditions Study

Elizabeth Dionne reported that the CPC received an increase in administrative funds from Town Meeting last year and they are currently undertaking an inventory and conditions study of the Town's recreation assets. She said the CPC would like to do another study of the Town's historic assets which would help them to prioritize projects. If they receive funding to start the historic asset study, it can be applied to the Benton Library and then they would not have to go to Town Meeting to ask for additional funding.

Dash said that CPA Articles don't go on Town Meeting until June so more information can be obtained on these two Articles before the June Town Meeting.

SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

The Structural Change Impact Group has delivered their final report to the Board and we need to find time to review. Paolillo suggested that the report be presented at Town meeting as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. March 14, 2022 – Joint with Preliminary Rink Design Committee
- b. March 21, 2022 – Regular with Diversity Task Force
- c. March 21, 2022 – Executive Session

Motion was made to approve the minutes of March 14, 2022 and March 21, 2022 regular and executive session meetings as amended. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Dash announced that this will be his last day as Chair of the Select Board.

Motion was made to adjourn and approved by a vote of 3-0.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 – 8:30 AM – Reorganizational Meeting

Monday, April 11, 2022 – 7:00 PM – Joint with School Committee, Warrant Committee, Capital Budget Committee and Long Term Capital Planning Committee

*Submitted by
Virginia Quinn
Recording Secretary*

Respectfully Submitted By,


Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator