

- **MINUTES**
- **TOWN OF BELMONT**
- **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
- **SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM**
- **Monday, March 30, 2009**
  - **6:00 PM**

- **CALL TO ORDER**

- A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 6:00 pm by Chairman Firenze in the Selectmen's meeting room. All the members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present. Additionally present were Town Counsel John Giorgio, Warrant Committee Chair Phil Curtis and Town Accountant Barbara Hagg. Additional counsel Darren Klein arrived later.

- The Board moved: To enter executive session to discuss contract negotiation and collective bargaining, and subsequently to return to open session.

- Motion carried unanimously (3-0). The Board entered executive session at 6:08 PM.

- *(During executive session, no substantive motions were made.)*

- The Board returned to open session at 8:00 PM and recessed. The Board reconvened at 8:10 PM.

- **Discussion of FY10 Budget**

- Town Administrator Younger explained that he is proposing an available funds budget which includes reductions from FY09. In October, the Town began a hiring freeze and did not fill several positions. For FY10, the budget proposes to either not fill or reduce 12 positions (11 FTEs).

- Mr. Younger presented a chart to the Board showing that in FY2002 the Town had 270-275 FTEs. By FY2009, that number had been reduced to 260, and for FY10 it is proposed at 249.34 FTEs for a reduction of 20 FTEs over the eight year period. This actually represents even more gross positions eliminated because during the same period the Town expanded its IT department. Proposed layoffs for FY10 include 1 police position, 1 DPW position, 1 building inspector, and some part-time positions totaling 1 FTE.

- Town Accountant Hagg went over projected FY10 revenues which, at approximately \$80 million are more than \$1 million less than FY09. The only operational stimulus money the Town might receive is a competitive grant that would help pay to preserve two police officer positions.

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- Chair Firenze noted that for basic life support (BLS) ambulance transports, the Town is only charging the Medicare reimbursible rate rather than the higher rate that private ambulance companies charge.
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- The Selectmen asked various questions about items in the budget that had increased or decreased from FY09 levels.
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- Mr. Younger said he would like to restore the building inspector position that is being cut as it represents fully half of the Town's zoning enforcement efforts including this winter's enforcement of sidewalk clearing by businesses. This can be accomplished without raising the bottom line if the \$75,000 Comprehensive Plan item is funded from the Kendall fund.
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- The Selectmen agreed that they would like to see the proposed street patching oversight position included in the budget. Mr. Younger and Ms. Hagg will look at how this can be funded.
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- It was noted that the Town Hall is the most expensive Town building to maintain. The Board asked Mr. Younger to study what could be saved by relocating the offices and meetings elsewhere.
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- The Board discussed use of free cash and the amount of a possible override. The Board expressed its intention to adhere to its previous vote not to use any of the additional \$1.6 million available in free cash for the FY10 operating budget, but to save it for FY11. Selectman Leclerc supports placing an override question on the ballot for an amount in the vicinity of \$2.2 million. Selectman Firenze said if the Town can show it is making progress in making structural changes, he could support an override of \$1 to \$1.5 million.
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- **Wellington School**
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- The Board briefly discussed the Wellington School project and noted that the Wellington Building Committee will come before the Board on April 6 to discuss this.
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- **Warrant Discussion**
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- Mr. Conti is in the process of preparing the Warrant for Town Meeting. He asked for the Selectmen's approval to pull articles from the Warrant concerning oversight changes to the Library Director and Council on Aging Director positions, saying that the legal framework for these changes are more complicated than anticipated and suggesting that the changes could be accomplished in the fall as part of special legislation making a number of structural changes as recommended by the Structure Committee.
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- The Board moved: To remove articles concerning the Council on Aging and the Library Trustees from the draft Warrant.

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- Motion carried unanimously (3-0).
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- Mr. Conti also asked permission to remove language from an Article concerning the Town's OPEB fund. The Warrant Committee has objected in the past to this language which would deposit all Medicare Part D reimbursements received by the Town into the OPEB fund.
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- The Board moved: To remove language pertaining to Medicare Part D reimbursements from the OPEB Article in the draft Warrant.
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- Motion carried unanimously (3-0).
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- The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm.
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• Thomas G. Younger, Town  
Administrator