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BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
August 1, 2005  
REGULAR SESSION

**Call to Order**

The Board of Selectmen convened in open session at 7:05 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of Belmont Town Hall. All members were present. Town Administrator Thomas G. Younger was present.

**Questions from Town Residents**

There were none.

**Action by Appointment**

*Award of Pumper Bid*

Fire Chief David Frizzell appeared before the Board of Selectmen to request approval of an award of a bid of a 1250 GPM Custom Pumper. The Selectmen questioned an increase in the cost of the pumper.

The Board moved: To recommend the award of the bid of a 1250 GPM Custom Pumper to Greenwood Emergency vehicles for \$353, 293, contingent upon the approval of the Town Accountant and Town Treasurer and further moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the pursuit of a prepayment credit option.

The motions passed unanimously (3-0).

*Discussion of Vision 21 Implementation Committee – Belmont Neighbors Network*

Vision 21 Implementation Committee Chair Jennifer Page introduced the Belmont Neighbors Network, a subcommittee of Vision 21 created to welcome newcomers to Belmont: Kathryn Bonfiglio, Laurie Graham and Heli Tomford of the Belmont Neighbors Network. Kathryn Bonfiglio told the Selectmen about "Meet Belmont" to be held on August 31, which is an informational session to highlight civic organizations, town government and town departments.

Chairman Solomon thanked all who work on this committee.

*"No Place for Hate" Proclamation*

Human Rights Commission Chair Garrett Barry introduced a “No Place for Hate” proclamation and asked that the Selectmen sign the proclamation, which he feels is a very worthwhile document to express the mission of the Human Rights Commission.

The Board moved: to sign and endorse the “No Place for Hate” proclamation.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Discussion of Wellington School Building Committee as Special Employees*

Chairman Solomon explained that because members of the Wellington School Building Committee all have special expertise which may allow them to bid on other town projects or town work, these members must be named as Special Employees of the town in order to avoid any conflict of interest in the future. A Special Employee receives no pay and no health benefits.

The Board moved: to approve the designation of members of the Wellington School Building Committee as Special Employees.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Traffic Sign on Harris Street*

Selectman Firenze said that a traffic sign should be placed in front of 14 Harris Street and summarized some of the background for the placement.

The Board of Selectmen heard from Mr. Bleiberg, resident at 14 Harris Street who advocated for the sign being strategically placed so that it is most visible for an oncoming pedestrian to read before stepping into a danger spot (a driveway at 14 Harris Street).

George Myles of 22 Harris Street asked that cars leaving the 14 Harris Street driveway honk their horn before exiting the driveway.

Brian Hitchcock, a resident of Harris Street, explained that he erected a fence to shield his view from activities of the neighbors at 14 Harris Street and stated that he does wish to have the sign erected in the most visible spot possible.

The Board moved: to approve the placement of a traffic sign in front of 14 Harris Street.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Discussion of Concord Alewife Rezoning*

Chairman Solomon introduced Mr. Robert Simha of the Mystic River Watershed Association. Mr. Simha explained a variety of scenarios for development of the Concord Avenue – Alewife area quadrangle and also explained what impact there would be on Belmont from traffic and flooding, that might arise from the development. He expressed the opinion that unless Belmont takes some positive action, Belmont would be the victim of traffic and flooding problems once this area is developed through the City of Cambridge. The Cambridge Planning Board is in the consideration phase currently for this development.

There were discussion and comments from the audience.

The Board of Selectmen suggested that the Town Administrator speak with the City of Cambridge to try and determine what their plans are for traffic and stormwater, related to this area.

The Board of Selectmen also asked that the Director of Community Development give some direction to the Traffic Advisory Committee, relative to this development.

The Board of Selectmen further directed the Town Administrator to examine all that has been presented today and arrive at a plan which identifies who would address the various components, as well as talk with Mr. Toomey of Cambridge.

The Board of Selectmen asked that the Director of Community Development and the Town Administrator report their findings at the September 12 Selectmen's meeting.

#### *Town Administrator's Report*

The Town Administrator reported on the following:

1. He will be notifying Chairs of the Planning Board, Traffic Advisory Committee and the Belmont Vision 21 Implementation Committee regarding their appointing a member to the Regional Transportation Plan.
2. Has begun the FY06 process of meeting with Department Heads to evaluate and set up goals and objectives that will be accomplished by the 6 month interval.
3. The Traffic Advisory Committee will be holding public hearings about Trapelo Road on August 2 and August 16.
4. Will be interviewing for the Assistant Town Administrator over the next week with Diane Jenkins, Human Resources Director.
5. The Belmont Center Planning Group will be meeting August 3, August 10 and August 22.
6. The description of the Town Planner position is being written and it is targeted to be advertised within 2 weeks.

#### **Action by Writing**

*Discussion of Board of Selectmen Schedule*

The Board of Selectmen was presented with a meeting schedule for the fall. There was some discussion about holding a meeting on Tuesday, October 11.

The Board moved: to approve the recommended schedule and to change the Tuesday, October 11 meeting to Wednesday, October 5 at 5:30 p.m. with no Selectmen's Office hours on October 5.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chairman Solomon asked that Selectmen's Office Hours (to be held between 6:00pm and 7:00pm) be posted at Town Hall and on the town website.

*Belmont Housing Trust Designation as Local Housing Partner*

Chairman Solomon explained that the Chairman of the Belmont Housing Trust, Roger Colton has asked that the Belmont Housing Trust be designated as the Local Housing Partner since the Fair Housing Committee had been disbanded.

The Board moved: to designate the Belmont Housing Trust as the Local Housing Partner.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Other**

Chairman Solomon noted that the Board of Selectmen had received a memo from Town Counsel Kopelman and Paige regarding the recording of minutes at Committee meetings. Dr. Solomon asked that this be forwarded to Committee Chairs. Sandra Curro, Committees and Commissions Coordinator stated that this has been done.

Chairman Solomon mentioned that he has heard (from Verizon) that Verizon is interested in providing Cable TV to Belmont. A draft report has been sent to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Selectmen would need to sign it to show approval.

The Board moved: to approve the Verizon report subject to approval by the Town Administrator, Cable Advisory Committee and their attorney.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chairman Solomon asked the Town Administrator to investigate a parking issue at Sherman Street.

The Board moved: to adjourn the meeting.

The Board of Selectmen adjourned its open session at 9:52 p.m.

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Thomas G. Younger  
Town Administrator