

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Monday, January 12, 2009  
7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in Open Session at 7:00 pm by Chairman Firenze in the Selectmen's meeting room. All selectmen were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

Chairman Firenze began the meeting by expressing his most sincere and heartfelt thanks for the support received by the entire Firenze family over the past ten days – since the sudden death of his grandson M.J. Chair Firenze spoke about his grandson M.J. and the joy he brought to many lives. M.J.'s memory will live on forever, he said, in the hearts of those who loved him.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

[There were none.]

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

**Use of Free Cash - Discussion**

The Board decided to postpone this discussion until more information is available.

**ALS Discussion**

Ms. Liz Allison, Fire Chief Dave Frizzell, and members of the Advanced Life Support (ALS) study committee appeared before the Board to discuss the findings of their ALS study. To summarize the highlights, of the 1,623 medical emergency calls received last year, 568 required basic life support (BLS) and 501 required ALS. Both the current response process, and the destination of calls were reviewed. It was noted that Belmont and the neighboring communities of Watertown and Arlington provide BLS in-house and contract out for ALS services. An EMT is trained to provide BLS and a Paramedic (much more highly trained) provides ALS. With regard to outcomes, response time and the time it takes to get to the hospital are key.

Ms. Allison: There is no financial reason to outsource all ambulance services; keeping BLS in house makes the most sense. Chief Frizzell: I need to award a contract and get an RFP out for ALS services soon.

*The Board moved:* To instruct Chief Frizzell to make no change in outsourcing ambulance services in Belmont at this time.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board changed the ALS study groups' charter so that it is no longer charged with examining the options to outsource basic life support, currently offered by EMTs through the fire department.

The Board thanked the study group for a thorough and outstanding report.

### **Facility Queue**

Capital Budget Chair Pat Brusch and Warrant Committee Chair Phil Curtis appeared before the Board to discuss the public facility queue. Chair Firenze: The Wellington school is the priority and is underway. How do we decide what comes next? he asked. There is the high school, the library, the police station, and the possibility that the Wellington doesn't pass. WC Chair Curtis noted that there will be a substantial cost (in the millions) to maintain and/or fix up the existing Wellington, if the debt exclusion doesn't pass. Ms. Brusch said the Mega group had "two buckets" in which they prioritized projects for the next 5 years. The first bucket included Town Hall, the Homer Building, the fire stations (which have been completed) as well as the Wellington and high school (which have not been completed). The next bucket group includes public works, the police station, the Library, the pool and the rink. All have had feasibility studies and have been analyzed by CPOC (Capital Projects Oversight Committee).

Ms. Brusch added that the library has been waiting for a decision and with \$5M in grant money pending, they will need a decision from the Board by December 2009 so they can begin next steps: design work (which assumes a site has been designated) and fundraising. Chair Firenze requested that Ms. Brusch and WC Chair Curtis think about the process by which the library and the high school and other projects can be sequenced. He asked that they put together a proposal outlining a process and meet again with the Board of Selectmen.

### **Belmont Soccer Association (BSA) Youth Agreement**

Mr. Douglas McLaughlin, President of the BSA and a representative from Belmont Second Soccer (BSS) appeared before the Board to discuss the BSA's intention to provide three wells at three fields: Town Field, Pequossette, and Grove Street. The purpose of the wells is to help maintain (water) the fields. The BSA is willing to invest \$80-\$100K for the wells, as they are currently spending about \$25K a year to maintain the fields. Once this investment is made, the BSA would like the Board's assurance that they could continue to use the fields as they have been using them. The shortage of field space in town makes field access problematic for many groups.

Chair Firenze said he supports the proposal to improve the fields and maintain the soccer programs, but wants to be sure that everyone who needs field access gets treated fairly.

He requested that Mr. McLaughlin come back to the Board with a written recommendation on how the scheduling and field allocation priorities would happen.

Mr. McLaughlin agreed to do this and asked if the cost of the water would continue to be assumed by the town moving forward. Selectman Jones suggested that the water funding be a line item in the budget for FY10, FY11, and looking forward.

### **Pho and Thai Liquor License**

Mr. Sasirat Wyckoff and Mr. Tanaporn Vongsavat, the new management of the Pho and Thai restaurant, appeared before the Board to request a new liquor license for that establishment.

*The Board moved:* To support the liquor license request of Pho and Thai.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **One Day Liquor License (First Church)**

Mr. Charles Claus and Mr. Roger Read appeared before the Board to request a one-day liquor license for a fund raising auction being held on February 7, 2009.

*The Board moved:* To support the one-day liquor license request for Feb. 7, 2009.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **Church Parking Lot Discussion**

Rabbi Kraus from Beth El Temple Center, Reverend Faretra from St. Joseph's Church, and several other clergy from town appeared before the Board to discuss the church parking lot issue. Current zoning by-laws prohibit parking in church lots except for church activities. Chair Firenze noted the violations and added that the zoning by-laws need revising. The Board of Selectmen had recommended that the Planning Board take a look at the by-laws for revision.

Ms. Fallon from the Planning Board received the Board's charge and is holding a meeting on January 28th with religious leaders (and the schools) to look at the current uses and to review the request for other uses of the church lots. The meeting will help determine what expanded uses should be considered and what are the concerns for the town and neighbors, added Fallon. However, the issue of charging fees for this parking, Fallon emphasized, is not a Planning Board issue, but a Board of Selectmen issue. Chair Firenze said that he hopes a zoning by-law change would allow for a "special permit process" for unforeseen events throughout town.

The clergy said that they hope to have an open conversation on the 28<sup>th</sup>, one that makes sense to all concerned. It's the townspeople who utilize the church parking lots and they are not aware that these by-laws exist.

Chair Firenze said that the Planning Board should come back to the Board of Selectmen with a recommendation.

### **Victualler's Licenses**

The following establishments are requesting to renew their licenses: Dunkin Donuts (Church Street), Dunkin Donuts (Trapelo Road), Vicki Lee's, Pho Thai, Gregory's House of Pizza, Café Fiorella, Bruegger's Bagel, Brothers Auto Service, Advantage Limousine, Cityside Subaru, Waverley Auto Exchange and Boston Executive Coach.

Mr. Younger mentioned that there was a "back tax issue" with two of the establishments.

*The Board moved:* To approve the license renewal requests for the above named establishments, subject to any back tax issues being resolved.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- The Governor has requested communities to lower their flags to half staff on Wed. 1/14 in honor of the fallen fire fighter.
- Brookline consortium fuel bids are on average 47% less than last year; this will result in a savings of almost \$200K.
- Snow budget update: \$470,000 was appropriated and the town has spent \$358,000, which doesn't include the latest storm. To replenish what is overspent, the town can either request a reserve fund transfer, do an "account shift", or put that amount on next year's tax rate.
- Snow Clearing – A residential by-law does not exist regarding side walk clearing, but there is a commercial by-law stating that businesses have up to 12 hours to clear snow. We need to enforce this by-law and ticket the non-compliers \$50 per day.
- The auditorium lighting is completed.
- The Blanchard Road rotary is completed.
- The Homer generator is installed.
- Stop sign projects have been approved by the TAC.

### **ACTION BY CONSENT**

[none]

### **ACTION BY WRITING**

[none]

### **OTHER**

## **William Monahan's letter 1/8/09 on Waverly Post Lease Agreement**

Mr. Younger stated that Attorney Monahan had sent a letter stating that he was not able to get a quorum to meet regarding the VFW lease agreement. Attorney Monahan has requested an extension to February 4, 2009.

*The Board moved:* To grant a final extension until February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with no further extensions to be granted.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **Other comments from the Board:**

- Selectman Jones noted that the Government Structure Committee had recommended giving the town administrator the ability to appoint committee members, excepting that the Board of Selectmen would appoint to those committees with regulatory functions.
- Selectman Leclerc requested that the Board officially accept the CPA report, while continuing to hold off on the decision process. Chair Firenze said he would be in favor of accepting the report, without accepting the recommendation of the committee.

*The Board moved:* To accept the report of the CPA without endorsing the report and by doing so acknowledge that the CPA has fully discharged its obligations and that the committee may stay in existence.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

- Chair Firenze noted that the Board of Selectmen needs to make a motion regarding the WC's recent reserve fund transfer decision.

*The Board moved:* To endorse the WC's reserve fund transfer request of \$100,000 to the Wellington Building Committee to be made with the stipulation that the \$100,000 be replenished back to the reserve fund by a TM vote in April.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

- Sidewalk Plowing – Mr. Younger will come back to the Board with a recommendation after meeting with Mr. Castanino.
- Constable Appointment – Mr. Younger is waiting for the appropriate letters of reference.
- Honoring Those Serving in the Military – Mr. Younger will look into a way to honor those serving in the military.

- Upcoming Board Meetings – The Board will meet next on January 26 and then again on February 2 and 23, and March 2 and 23. Mr. Conti noted that March 2 is the deadline by which the Board will need to vote regarding an override, debt exclusion, or ballot question for the April Town election.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 pm.

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Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator