

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, January 5, 2009
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 by Acting Chairman Leclerc in the Selectmen's meeting room. Selectmen Jones was present; Chairman Firenze was not present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

Acting Chairman Leclerc began the meeting by reading a statement expressing sympathy on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Younger, Mr. Conti, and Ms. Gibalerio on the death of Chairman Firenze's grandson: Marc Joseph "MJ" Firenze. A moment of silence was recognized in honor of MJ. Selectman Jones also offered his sympathy as well.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Recreation/Youth Commission discussion – S. King/D. Alper

Youth Commission Chair Dr. Alper and Recreation Commission Chair Stephanie King appeared before the Board to discuss the status of the Youth Commission (YC) in conjunction with the Recreation Department. Dr. Alper updated the Board: The DARE program has contributed \$5,000 to keep the Youth Commission's programs going. There is \$3,500 in the YC's revolving fund. The Recreation Department is pleased to join forces with the Youth Commission. Both Ann Bere and Laurie Carlson have current appointments on the Youth Commission and would like to receive Recreation Department appointments. Ms. King articulated two concerns: There are still two vacancies in the Recreation Commission; and it is unclear how the YC's revolving fund could support future programs (the Recreation Department does not have a revolving fund). Dr. Alper stated that there is \$5,000 in the budget for the Youth Commission and that money, coupled with the \$5,000 from DARE, should keep the YC's programs solvent for FY10.

ACTION BY WRITING

Teen Center Refund of Contribution

Dr. Alper noted that a local citizen had donated \$2,500 for the proposed for teen center. Since the formation of a teen center is unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future, he has requested that the money be returned to him.

The Board moved: To return the \$2,500 check to the (unnamed) donor.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (*continued*)

OPEB/Light Discussion

Selectman Jones noted that, at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting, the Light Board had appropriated a \$600,000 contribution for the OPEB fund. The Board accepted this offer, Jones said, but realized later that it was probably inappropriate to do so. Selectman Jones explained that since OPEB is a town-wide benefit, it would be inappropriate for the Light Board to pay at a higher level than what the Town Treasurer is recommending their portion to be for the next 30 years. Light consumers in town would end up paying a high burden for this. Selectman Jones added that he has written a memo to the Light Board summarizing his thoughts. Acting Chair Leclerc requested that he and Chair Firenze read this memo before taking further action on the \$600,000.

ACTION BY WRITING (*continued*)

Contracts for Execution

Acting Chair Leclerc noted that 17 roadway sections within the town have been approved for pavement management and engineering services.

The Board moved: To approve \$101,000 for the Vanasse Hangen Brustlin contract.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Acting Chair Leclerc noted that the Trapelo Road-Belmont Street Corridor improvements are on-going.

The Board moved: To approve the amount of \$450,000 to support the Trapelo Road Corridor initiative.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (*continued*)

Victualler's Licenses

Acting Chair Leclerc read the names of the establishments which are renewing their licenses:

Angelato Foods, Asai, Belmont Country Club, Belmont Hill Club, Brother's Pizza, Michael's Pizza, Shangri-La, Teddy's Kitchen, Patou Thai, and Nick's Place.

The Board moved: To approve the above named establishments for a Victualler's License.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of Board of Selectmen Minutes – 10/21/2008, 11/3/2008, 11/10/2008, 11/17/2008 and 12/1/2008

The Board moved: To pass the minutes of the above noted dates.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

OTHER

Acting Chair Leclerc reported on the following items:

- *Snow Removal.* The sidewalks on the southern side of Concord Avenue were not all plowed, which impacted the businesses there. While the town is not obligated to plow sidewalks for citizens, commercial enterprises are legally required to plow. The commercial businesses were not removing snow in front of their establishments. How can this be enforced, he asked? Selectman Jones suggested we target enforcement on the habitual non-plowing offenders. The DPW, Mr. Conti offered, makes public a list of businesses which are required to plow. Conti suggested that data-gathering on the businesses would be needed at this point.
- *CPA (Community Preservation Act).* Acting Chair Leclerc stated that he would like to have an interim resolution. Could the Board accept the CPA report and take "no action at this time", he asked? He requested that the CPA issue be a future agenda item for the Board to discuss.
- *Fuel Contract.* Selectman Jones requested that the town investigate the possibility of reopening the contract with the fuel suppliers. The price of oil is low now, he said, and the town is paying a very steep price because of last year's prices. He also asked how early the town can establish a contract for next year. Mr. Younger said that the process is currently underway.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (continued)

Police Station Cell Tower – Metro PCS

Mr. Jeffrey Wheeler, Assistant Town Planner, appeared before the Board to discuss the possibility that the town sublease space in the existing cell tower facility on the attic/roof of the Police Station for Metro PCS (a discount wireless service). In reviewing the

relevant issues, no problems have arisen, thus far. A special permit would be needed from the Zoning Board of Appeals in order to proceed, Wheeler added, that the request to the Board of Selectmen was simply to allow the negotiation to continue. Acting Chair Leclerc asked if the town would receive more in rental fees, and the answer was yes.

The Board moved: To authorize moving forward to enter into negotiations with Metro PCS.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Budget Update – Town Administrator

Mr. Younger said that reductions would be necessary for FY10, including eliminating 6 FTE positions, making reductions in the capital and street sweeping budgets, and reducing the police vehicle fleet by one cruiser. He also stated that local aid cuts could impact FY09. This is being discussed on Beacon Hill. A local aid payment was received in December, he said, but the local aid money expected in March is questionable. Mr. Younger continued: The state could make further cuts or dip into their stabilization fund (thus jeopardizing in FY10 the ability to use that fund). The state may look to the federal government stimulus package and/or consider a gas tax increase to make up the potential shortfall. Local aid cuts will impact both the town and school side, although the town has less flexibility in shifting funds.

Mr. Younger and the Board then discussed the implications of the stimulus package from the federal government. Selectman Jones said that the town should be ready for this money. Mr. Younger said that he is in touch with the Lt. Governor about projects that are pending and may benefit from stimulus funds. Selectman Jones said that he is readying “water and waste water” projects for these funds as well. Projects that are “shovel ready”, put people to work right away and are “green” will get funded, said Jones.

Town Administrator’s Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- *PILOT Program.* Belmont Hill School has offered services to the town, but not money. In Worcester, one of the universities donated a \$50,000 PILOT payment for library use. Mr. Younger will continue discussions.
- *Pleasant Street.* Manhole covers are now level.
- *Senior Center.* It should be operational by the end of May. Mr. Younger said it may be necessary to move the Senior Center to temporary trailers when the present lease is up in March. This would save some lease money.
- *VFW.* The deadline for them to return the signed lease is January 8th.
- *GIC.* The deadline passed in December for towns to join the GIC in FY10.
- *Church Parking Lots.* There will be a meeting on the 12th of January to discuss this issue.

Acting Chair Leclerc said that he met with the pastor from the new Church of God on Marlboro Street. They are holding an opening celebration January 17th.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator