

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, October 17, 2011
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 pm by Chair Jones in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Firenze and Paolillo were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Kelli Hebert were present.

ACTION BY WRITING

Proclamation for Vincent Wenzel, Member of Boy Scout Troop

The Board moved: To approve the Proclamation.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Jones read the Proclamation honoring Vincent Wenzel for his appointment to Eagle Scout. The Board signed the Proclamation.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Open and Close Town Meeting Warrant Dates

Mr. Younger proposed that the Warrant open on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 and close on Friday, November 4, 2011. He said that town citizens will be notified via the paper and the town's website.

The Board moved: To accept the Warrant opening and closing dates as noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board signed the appropriate papers.

Wellington School Project and Financial Update

Mr. Joe Barrell, Board liaison to the Wellington Building Committee (WBC), and Mark Haley, WBC Chair, appeared before the Board to review the financials. Mr. Barrell began by stating that the Wellington is functioning as a school, but that there are various loose ends that need to be closed. The modulars will be disassembled and removed in December. Selectman Paolillo asked about the scope of the loose ends. WBC Chair Haley noted that two entrances need to be finished, the roof screen needs to be finished, and a field needs to be hydroseeded. Selectman Firenze asked about the nighttime noise level of one of the generators. Haley said it has been evaluated and does not exceed the town's noise limit. He noted that "change orders" and punch list items are being reviewed weekly with the contractor. Haley then explained why there was water in the basement this past weekend. (Heavy rain water was overflowing from Orchard Street.) He said he expects substantial completion to be at the end of November. The Board then discussed the various systems (heating, plumbing, generator) that are up and running in the Wellington.

The Board acknowledged the WBC for the tremendous amount of work that was behind this project.

Selectman Firenze then asked for a financial update. Chair Haley said that the adjusted budget was \$39M. Soft costs and hard costs have been paid to date in the amount of \$32M. The next \$7M is in the process of being paid and will get to the budgeted amount of \$39M. There will be several hundred thousand (\$450K) left over. Chair Haley said that amount will not be needed and that it will be up to the Town Treasurer as to what to do with that funding. Chair Haley then explained the monthly MSBA payment process.

Grove Street Playground Proposed Scoreboard – Discussion and Vote

Eagle Scout Bobby Stafford, a Boy Scout in Troop #304 (and members of the Grove Street neighborhood) appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed scoreboard for the Grove Street Playground. Chair Jones reviewed the schematic drawing of where the scoreboard would be placed. Eagle Scout Stafford noted that the proposed scoreboard location is now near the tennis courts at the neighborhood's request.

Chair Jones said he would like the town to hire a landscape architect to work with the neighbors to ensure that multiple uses of the playground are made available as well as to beautify the playground.

Chair Jones then invited the neighbors to speak.

Mr. Giuffrida, from Choate Road, said he represents the opposition. He said if the Town supports the scoreboard, it needs to be built and maintained by the Town. He said this project should be sponsored by the Town or else it sets a bad precedent and sets up liability issues. He said a dialogue about how the park is used is necessary before a vote is taken. He said there has not been enough discussion on this topic. Selectman Paolillo said perhaps there could be supervision by the Town's Engineer to help construct the design of the scoreboard.

Mr. Younger said that the Town's insurance advisor and Town Counsel would be consulted with before the construction begins.

Mr. Giuffrida said the neighbors need to have input into what happens on this playground. He said sidewalks are necessary surrounding the perimeter of the playground.

Ms. Patty Gallagher, also an abutting neighbor, said she met with Bobby Stafford in June. She said that the tennis location felt acceptable, but that she does not like the idea of a scoreboard at all. She said it is not a good addition to the park. She said the fence on the perimeter of the park needs repair, before new monies are spent.

Chair Jones asked about the long-term plan for the upkeep of the scoreboard. Bobby replied that high-end materials will be used in constructing the scoreboard and that the Belmont Baseball Association will be responsible for the upkeep down the road. He added that there is precedent for future boy scouts to be responsible for the upkeep.

Mr. Tom Lockett, 112 Dalton Road, said he supports this project. He said it would be very useful to know the score of a game. He said the scoreboard is neither obtrusive nor too large. He said this is a great example of a youth giving something back to the community. He said not all projects can benefit all people. He agreed there is precedent across town that future boy scouts will help with upkeep.

Ms. Mary Ellen Oberhauser, another abutter, said that this came so soon after the batting cage issue. She said there is a black fence around the well and that that is disturbing. She said this project does not serve the whole town and that she does not support it.

Ms. Paula Giallongo, 124 Dalton Road, asked who would be responsible for taking the structure down should it deteriorate. Selectman Firenze said the town will take it down.

Mr. Chuck Oberhauser, 2 Sargent Road, said that public land should consist of empty space. He said the proposed scrubs will eat up open space and that this is concerning.

Selectman Paolillo said he wants Legal Counsel to check this out and he would like the Town's engineer to oversee the construction.

The Board moved: To approve Eagle Scout candidate Booby Stafford's project to install a scoreboard at the Grove Street Playground contingent upon Town Counsel and the town's insurance agent as well as the town's engineer and inspector to provide oversight and to engage a landscape architect to create a multiuse land.

The above motion was then withdrawn by Selectman Paolillo.

The Board moved: To engage a landscape architect (if funds are available to do so) to review the Grove Street playground and to receive neighborhood input with regards to the use and beautification of the playground.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To authorize the construction of the scoreboard as proposed by Eagle Scout candidate Stafford and to install said scoreboard at the Grove Street Playground contingent upon Town Counsel and town insurance reviewing the proposal as well as Town Engineer and Inspector oversight.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY WRITING (continued)

Consideration of House Bill H1972 – An Act Regulating Election Primaries

Town Clerk O'Brien Cushman appeared before the Board regarding the consideration of the House Bill H1972. She explained that this bill is an Act Regulating Election Primaries for the Commonwealth. She said that this bill proposes moving the State Primary held in September to the first week of June and, in presidential election years, combining the Presidential Primary (held in March) to that June Primary date. ~This would achieve the following two goals:

- Extend the time between the primary and the final election to allow Military and Overseas Voters adequate time to receive, vote, and return their absentee ballots using mail and secret ballot.
- 2 Cut election costs by consolidating two elections into one. In Belmont, each election costs approximately \$14,000, and the town would realize these savings.

The Board moved: To vote in favor of the resolution supporting H1972 and forward the resolution to our legislators and the Joint Committee on Election Laws.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Clerk Cushman then announced that as a result of Senator Tolman's resignation, a Primary vote will be held in Belmont on December 13 and the final election date to fill this seat will be on January 10, 2012. She then explained that there is potential for nine elections to be held in the next calendar year.

ACTION BY CONSENT

BOS to Accept a Donation of Funds to Support S.A.F.E. Program, Fire Department

Mr. Younger will send a letter regarding the donation acceptance.

The Board moved: To accept a donation of Funds (of \$1,000 from Cambridge Savings Bank) to Support the S.A.F.E. Program, Fire Department.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion and Vote Regarding MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) Election

The Board moved: To request that the Chair vote for Ms. Clarissa Rowe from Arlington and Mr. Hank Manse from Lexington for the at-large town seats to the MPO.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- 3 The Police Department is hosting its drug take-back program on Saturday, October 29.
 - On October 19, the new citizen website will be presented.
 - The DOR will match the CPA funding at 26.7%.
 - Watertown has contacted Belmont regarding ALS.
 - Mr. Clancy is in meetings regarding the Uplands and the Trapelo Road project.
 - The Beaver Brook surplus land is being assessed – a draft article may be placed on the Warrant as a placeholder.
 - Beech Street Center trash issue – a shed will be placed there to hold the equipment.
 - Selectman Paolillo said that the Board had agreed last summer to follow up with the citizens' concerns regarding the security camera, the lights, and the trash.

OTHER

Selectman Firenze Other:

- He asked about the next Minuteman School Committee meeting. Selectman Paolillo provided some information regarding the meeting on November 3.
- 3 He asked about the Police Department action regarding a citizen who lodged a complaint.
 - He asked about the Belmont Center parking space proposal. Mr. Younger noted that the Board supported, but there was no funding available at this time.
 - He inquired about the future MMA meeting to be held in January 2012.

Selectman Paolillo Other:

- The Board will meet with Department Heads on November 1 and 2 and with the School Committee that week as well. He noted that agendas have been set.
- Regarding the Envision Belmont forum, Selectman Paolillo said it was a good meeting, with a reasonable turnout. He noted that the Board would like to meet with the Chair of Envision Belmont – Mr. Tim Bowman – to discuss the mission of this group. Selectman Firenze suggested that Mr. Clayton Christensen be appointed to the Structure Committee. The Board discussed.

Executive Session (*if necessary*)

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 8:42 pm. to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personal. The Board will not return to open session. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:xx pm.

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator