- **MINUTES**
- **TOWN OF BELMONT**
- **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
- **SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM**
- **Monday, November 17, 2008**
- **7:00 PM**

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- **CALL TO ORDER**

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- A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:08 by Chairman Firenze in the Selectmen's meeting room. Selectman Leclerc was present; Selectman Jones was not present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

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- **QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

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- [There were none.]

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- **ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

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- **Tax Classification**

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- The Board of Assessors appeared before the Board of Selectmen to formally request to set a single tax rate for both residential and commercial entities. It was noted that no extra revenue would be generated by having a dual tax rate; small business tax would increase and residential tax bills would decrease. Mr. Reardon stated that it would amount to a tax shift only with no added revenue for the town.

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  - *The Board moved:* To continue the past practice of taxing at a single tax rate.
  - The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

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  - *The Board moved:* To not have a residential tax exemption for FY09.
  - The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

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- The Board of Assessors stated that they will meet on the morning of Dec. 2 to set the tax rate.

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- Chair Firenze noted that $149K is the new growth amount. He asked if some portion of that money was going to be added to the $845K that's presently in the overlay account. Will some of that $149K be needed to cover the amount the town taxed Verizon, which totaled $80K? $80K has been held aside in the event that Verizon wins its appeal, he explained. If that happens, the town will need to return the taxes it withheld to Verizon. Firenze added that the Board of Selectmen would like to request the entire

$149K with the hope that the $845K is sufficient to cover overlay appeals and Verizon. Firenze stated that the $149K will be used to offset the street lights shortfall.

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•   Mr. Reardon: Overlay surplus accounts were depleted to cover the FY09 budget shortfalls. The overlay account is needed for appeals and for those who don't pay their taxes. With that said, Mr. Reardon and the Board of Assessors agreed that the $149K could be used by the Board of Selectmen.

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•   **Catherine Yeo – 480 Concord Avenue, Unit C, License for Internet Business**

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•   Ms. Catherine Yeo appeared before the Board to request a license for her Internet Business which she will operate out of her residence at 480 Concord Ave. Ms. Yeo confirmed that she is operating an Internet business selling books and postcards which she obtains from auctions and estate sales. She stores them in her spare bedroom, and sells the items via the internet. Chair Firenze cautioned that her business operated out of a residence, and as such UPS trucks shouldn't be doing pick ups, etc. Ms. Yeo said she is sensitive to those issues and uses the Post Office for such matters.

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•   *The Board moved:* To issue the license for Ms. Yeo to operate her business to buy and sell precious items.
•   The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

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•   **Approval Town Meeting Warrant**

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•   Ms. Keefe, Town Clerk, appeared before the Board regarding the approval of the Town Meeting Warrant.

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•   *The Board moved:* To appropriate $149K for the purpose of supporting street lighting.
•   The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

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•   November 24th at 9:00 am Chair Firenze will meet with Mr. Widmer, Town Counsel and Mr. Younger to prepare for Town Meeting.

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•   Committees wishing to report at Town Meeting should make a request to the Selectmen's Office.

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•   Mr. Conti noted that as written, if the Warrant Committee were to recommend an alternate appropriation for any part of the $149,000 in Article 3, the motion would have to be amended from the floor of Town Meeting.

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•   *The Board moved:* To accept the Warrant as recommended with the understanding that the new growth of $149K will be used for street lighting.
•   The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

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•   The Board members signed the warrant.

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- **Town Administrator's Report**
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- Mr. Younger declined to report at this time.
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- **Other**
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- Mr. Conti noted that the holiday party for Town employees will be held on December 17, 2008 from noon to 2:00 in the Gallery. Chair Firenze stated that his inclination is to cancel the event, due to the fiscal situation in town. Mr. Conti noted that planning has begun on the event and that the budgeted money ($800.00) can't be used for anything else this fiscal year.
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  - *The Board moved:* That the holiday party be funded out of the three Selectmen's campaign accounts. It will not be paid for by the town.
  - The motion passed unanimously (2-0).
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- **ACTION BY CONSENT**
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- There was none.
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- **ACTION BY WRITING**
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- There was none.
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- The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm.
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- Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator
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