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**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
CMS Community Room
Tuesday, September 8, 2015
7:15 PM**

A joint meeting (with the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee) of the Capital Budget Committee (CBC) was called to order at 7:24 p.m. by Chair Mahoney.

Members Present: Chair Anne Marie Mahoney, Patricia Brusch, Mark Paolillo (BOS), Jenny Fallon (WC), Susan Burgess-Cox (SC), and Rebecca Vose

Members Absent: Michael Battista (PB)

BOS Members Present: Chair Baghdady, Selectman Paolillo

SC Members Present: Chair Slap, Members Graham, Fiore, Shuster, Burgess-Cox, Caputo

SC Administration: Superintendent Phelan, Assistant Superintendent Darius, Finance Director DiCologero

The CBC met in joint session with the Board of Selectmen and School Committee to hear the presentation on the proposal for a new skating rink and field house on Concord Avenue.

Mr. Bob Mulroy, Belmont Youth Hockey Association (BYHA), provided background information on a proposal for a new Recreation Center for Belmont. He began by noting that the current rink is 35 years old and is well past its useful life. Additional needs include locker rooms, recreational classes, as well as field house and health club space to meet the demands of Belmont.

The proposal includes creating a multi-purpose Belmont Recreation Center which integrates the existing High School and pool facilities to improve the Concord Avenue infrastructure.

Mr. Mulroy reviewed the activities of the BYHA. He then summarized the status of the current rink as well as the Town's and School's many recreational needs, e.g., the High School's need for space, more interior space for evening/summer programs, performance space, in-door sports programs, etc.

He then summarized modern rink designs, including the "one and a half" ("1.5") rink proposal, which allows for multi-purpose design support. Revenues and expenses were reviewed. The cost range is around \$6M to build the 1.5 rink model, with at least another \$2M for landscaping and equipment.

Concerning site prospects, Mr. Mulroy reviewed two options, Site A (swap locations with the softball field) and Site B (build the new facility on the site of the existing rink). He touched on the Basic Governance Concept, e.g., land lease for the Facility, new non-profit board, etc.

BOS Chair Baghdady stressed that specific details have not yet been thought out thoroughly. He encouraged the conversation to focus on the overall proposal and not on the governance details. He then explained that the Board is generally supportive of the proposal. He outlined the attractive features of the proposal, including the public/private partnership, the fact that a new facility is desperately needed, and that it could potentially pay for itself.

Selectman Paolillo noted that, while more needs to be fleshed out concerning this proposal, a Rink Study Group could be formed to address the many issues in moving this proposal forward. The current rink is likely to fail in the next few years and will need to be dealt with.

SC Member Schuster offered that the High School as a whole needs to be looked at, given that the High School is due for renovation and that the indoor pool is a facility that also is in need of renovation. She said she likes the proposal overall but that a recreation complex on a broader level will need to be looked at.

Selectman Paolillo agreed that a broad view at the athletic complex should be taken.

Chair Mahoney stated that, by dealing with the rink and the White field house together, two very needy facilities will be taken care of. However, she stressed that usage, maintenance, and parking (for this facility) should be looked at very closely. The neighborhood must be taken into consideration with regard to the timing of programs. She then spoke to the importance of a maintenance plan going forward.

Mrs. Bruschi put forth two issues: 1) use of the field will need to be examined closely, as well as the need for a press box with handicap accessibility; 2) the BHS enrollment will only continue to increase, so space may be needed (perhaps using current field space) to house the increasing number of students – the new High School building may need to be bumped out (to handle enrollment) and it may encroach on current field space.

SC Chair Slap spoke regarding the focus of the SC going forward. She noted that the SC should come up with a list of its most pressing concerns and questions, as a part of moving forward.

Ms. Fallon raised the issue of usage and what hours the facility would need to be open to generate sufficient income. Belmont is a dense community and all-night hours are probably not feasible.

BOS Chair Baghdady said that there are many issues that will need to be worked out. He stated that good questions were raised and that the proposal is one that is worth exploring.

BOS Chair Baghdady thanked the SC, the CBC, and Mr. Mulroy.

The Board of Selectmen adjourned the joint meeting at 8:10 p.m., at which point the School

Committee continued its individual meeting and the CBC moved to a conference room to continue its own meeting.

Chair Mahoney suggested that the CBC meet once or twice before the 2016 budget cycle begins. In addition to the rink proposal just presented, the CBC will need to discuss other facilities, e.g., BHS, Police, DPW, Library. Member Fallon added that the Butler School will need to be looked at as well in the not too distant future.

The CBC noted that it will need to prioritize the major remaining capital projects. Ms. Brusch noted that the library is now looking differently at the notion of a new facility.

The CBC agreed that a priority list is necessary and that the High School will need to be put before the voters, once the state gives its approval. Chair Mahoney raised the issue that this new Rink/Rec Facility will need to be cost neutral. Selectman Paolillo agreed.

The CBC briefly discussed state and town funding received for a community path. State money, while appreciated, should not serve to jump the Community Path to top of a priority list.

Setting of Future Meeting Dates

Proposed next dates for CBC:

Thursday, October 1 at 7:00.

Thursday, October 15 at 7:00.

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vose
Secretary