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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: 4.25.16

MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, March 14, 2016
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Sami Baghdady in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Mark Paolillo and Jim Williams were present. Town Administrator David Kale and Assistant Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall were also present.

Chair Baghdady reviewed the agenda.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Becca Pizzi Family Fun Run on Sunday, April 10, 2016

Mr. Becca Pizzi, Mr. Curtis Cole (Belmont Boosters), and Ms. Kayla Murphy (Belmont Savings Bank), appeared before the Board to discuss the Becca Pizzi Family Fun Run. Mr. Cole reviewed Ms. Pizzi's amazing accomplishment of running 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days.

Mr. Cole noted that all the approvals are in place for the Fun Run. He informed the Board that the event will raise money (via the establishment of a foundation) for scholarships. Ms. Pizzi stated that she felt a desire to give back to the community.

Chair Baghdady clarified the date of the run and noted that it will be a 5K, with a one-mile option for children. Ms. Marshall added that the Police detail is still pending, but is likely to be worked out soon.

Ms. Murphy explained the Bank's sponsorship and role.

Mr. Cole emphasized that this event is a fundraiser.

The Board moved: To approve the Becca Pizzi Family Fun Run on Sunday, April 10, 2016, subject to Police detail confirmation.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Cole informed people how to register for the Fun Run.

Update on the Cushing Village Project

Chair Baghdady stated that the project is moving forward and that the Board has been a part of the process from the beginning. He provided some background information on the project. He explained that the deed to the parking lot was contingent upon secure, solid financing. This contingency, he said, was prudent. The P & S agreement expires at the end of the month. If it is not extended, the Board will have the option to keep \$600K in an escrow fund. He stressed that the Board is overseeing this project in order to protect the town and its interest

Selectman Paolillo agreed and added that the Board has worked hard to assure that the project was credible. He said he is leaning toward not extending the P & S agreement. Selectman Williams reiterated that the parking lot was safeguarded until the financing on the larger project was secured.

The Board then discussed some scenarios that could go forward.

From the audience, Mr. Roy Epstein, TMM Prec. 6, asked about the condition of the existing buildings. He noted that rodents have been seen in the area. There is a chance that the buildings will be deemed "nuisance".

ITAC (Information Technology Advisory Committee) Report Presentation

Mr. Phillip Lawrence, ITAC Chair, appeared before the Board to present the ITAC report. Mr. Lawrence provided some background information on ITAC, including its establishment, membership, and mission. He explained that committee members bring wide and varied expertise to the committee and work closely with ITAC liaisons across the town.

Mr. Lawrence then reviewed ITAC's contributions, including: creating a plan for the fiber-optic network, conducting a needs study which led to the creation of an IT department, overseeing the MUNIS system, and offering Cloud based service recommendations.

Topics reviewed by ITAC include: security, school technology, GIS mapping, keeping track of the old light department, the utility billing system, ongoing system upgrades, and citizen resources. The trends in technology are centered on exploring security threats, increased applicability of cloud-based services, the need for specialized expertise, and continued interdepartmental cooperation.

The Board discussed issues relating to the ITAC report, specifically the need for strong password management, application updates, cloud storage, the digitizing of records, and how this works with the Vision 21 Plan.

Chair Baghdady acknowledged the valuable work of this committee. He thanked Mr. Lawrence for the presentation.

National Grid Petition for Middlecot Street

Ms. Barbara Kelleher, of National Grid, appeared before the Board to discuss the petition for Middlecot Street. Ms. Kelleher read the petition for the installation of gas main on Middlecot Street.

Audience Comments:

Ms. Robin Busch, of 71 Middlecot Street, stated that she would like to have her home added to the petition. The Board explained this will have to be under a separate petition.

Mr. Ken Levis, whose mother is a resident of the street, asked about the timing of the installation of gas services in relation to the new pavement. Chair Baghdady said that there is a five-year moratorium on placing mains after the pavement has been installed. Therefore, now is the time to pursue this.

The Board moved: To approve the National Grid Petition for Middlecot Street, subject to the conditions listed on the petition.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion/Vote on RFP (Request for Proposal) for the Community Path Feasibility Study

Mr. Jeffrey Wheeler, Community Development, Mr. Russell Leino, Chair of the Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC), and Mr. Vince Stanton, member of CPAC, appeared before the Board to discuss the RFP for the Community Path Feasibility Study. Mr. Leino explained that the CPAC has drafted an RFP for the feasibility study. The engineering study is the next step in the process, and there is \$100K in state money (in addition to the \$100K appropriated by the town) available to proceed with this step.

Chair Baghdady agreed that the engineering study is the necessary next step – the potential routes definitely need to be studied. He noted that the avenue for obtaining the funding from the state has been a little unclear. Ms. Marshall explained what has been done to get firm information concerning how to obtain the state funding. The state money, she said, has been appropriated; however, it has not been received by the town. Chair Baghdady stated that getting this matter settled will serve to strengthen the RFP.

Mr. Kale explained the work being done to fine-tune the RFP, e.g., the scope of services and the evaluation criteria.

The Board discussed briefly issues relating to the RFP and the bid process. Mr. Kale reviewed the qualification-based bid process, the criteria that are set out, and the negotiation process.

The Board moved: To approve the RFP in principle, subject to the technical requirements added before its issuance.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board thanked members of CPAC.

Notification of Belmont High School (BHS) Building Committee Appointments

Mr. Mike Widmer, Town Moderator, appeared before the Board to announce that 15 people have been appointed to serve on the BHS Building Committee. He reviewed the selection process and noted the cross-section of people who were selected to serve on this committee. Mr. Widmer read the list of the BHS building committee members. The commitment is huge and he thanked the group of members on behalf of the town.

Chair Baghdady explained his role on the building committee, as the Board's liaison. He thanked Mr. Widmer for all his work in putting the committee together.

Hillcrest Road's Discussion on Pavement Management/Private Way

Mr. Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development, Mr. David Hurley, and Mr. Al Murphy, of the Hillcrest Road area, appeared before the Board to discuss the road conditions in this area. Mr. Hurley noted that, as a private road, Hillcrest is in horrible condition. Town vehicles, he explained, have torn up the road. He noted that the road has become dangerous to walk on, drive on, and for the kids to play on. As a private road, Hillcrest is not paved, but it is plowed. He stated that there are no benefits to Hillcrest being a private way.

Mr. Hurley noted that most private roads are not full roads, but smaller, dead-ends. He reviewed roads in the area that have been recently paved. Most residents are in favor of the road becoming a public way, but there are concerns, e.g., privacy, a lack of trust with the town, and the expense to pave.

Mr. Hurley then explained the preferred parameters of the potential project and some estimated reconstruction cost figures. He summarized the residents' responses to outreach on moving forward with this: most are in favor, but not all.

Chair Baghdady discussed, from a lawyer's perspective, ways in which this could proceed. Mr. Kale added that Town Counsel will need to offer insights into the process. Mr. Clancy explained the Board's and Town Meeting's role going forward.

The Board agreed: a policy needs to be established concerning private ways becoming public roads, as well as the paving of private ways. The Board discussed several issues pertaining to this – safety among the highest priority.

Mr. Hurley requested that the Board do establish a set of policy guidelines and procedures for private ways as public roads. He also requested that the Board allow the Hillcrest residents to proceed as a group and to proceed expediently.

Audience Comments:

Ms. Connie Jeffery, Stony Brook, requested that the paper roads remain the property of the residents.

Mr. Guy Carbone, 65 Woodfall Road, expressed concern about how the roads have been treated. He expressed concerns with how the area was subdivided in the 1950s – with no bond. The sight distances are not in compliance with the state. The road's sub-base is not right. The lighting is also inadequate.

Mr. David Berman, 33 Birch Hill Road, expressed that the situation is intolerable.

Mr. David Baxley, 48 Lantern Road, expressed concern with the speed of cars, once the road is paved. Mr. Clancy noted that the Police Department will do active enforcement if speeding is found to be a problem.

Mr. Clancy explained some of the issues impacting this area, e.g., right of way and the width of pavement.

Mr. Karnig G. Ostayan, 6 Lantern Road, said that even if residents do patch their own roads, the utility trucks will dig up the roads.

Ms. Colleen Carney, 97 Stony Brook Road, stated that there is speeding in this area and that this is a big concern. She requested speed bumps on Stony Brook. She stated that DPW does not do a great job filling in the pot holes.

Mr. Leo Saidnaway, 56 Lantern Road, said that the Emergency response time is 6 minutes; this needs to be improved.

Mr. Frank French, Evergreen Way, thanked the committee and Mr. Clancy. He said most of the people in the area really want this. This is an issue of fairness. The people in this area pay high taxes.

Ms. Chris Jones, 26 Woodfall Road, said that the houses will increase in value and this will lead to more tax revenue.

Chair Baghdady said the Board will consult with Town Counsel and will gather more information in order to establish a policy.

The Board took a brief recess.

Discussion on Pension Unfunded Liability Schedule and Strategies

Mr. Jim Sloman, Retirement Board (RB) Representative, Mr. Roy Sacco, Chair of the RB, Mr. Tom Gibson, RB member, and Ms. Angela Olszewski, RB Executive Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the Pension Liability – its schedule and strategies.

Chair Baghdady began by stating that the town has a \$74M Pension obligation, of which 51% is funded. Massachusetts' law states that the Pension must be fully funded by 2040. However, the investing and funding schedule is the responsibility of the RB. The Town plans to fully fund this obligation by 2027, assuming all investment assumptions come true. The Pension liability

funding will strain the operating budget at some point. POBs (Pending Obligation Bonds) are being explored along with possibly stretching out the funding schedule.

Mr. Kale explained the Financial Task Force's FTF projection model that goes to 2020. He explained the assumptions used in this model and how they relate to Pension funding.

Selectman Williams said he met recently with Mr. Carman, Mr. Widmer, and Dr. Jones to discuss the OPEB and Pension funding. The Advisory Group expressed interest in obtaining real data. Also discussed was extending the funding schedule. This can be applied to the financial model that Mr. Kale is working on. He expressed interest in pursuing POBs, going forward, although he noted that the town might not be ready for this step.

Chair Baghdady noted that the WC recently issued a report concerning funding the Pension obligation, at Town Meeting's request.

Mr. Gibson explained the reasons not to extend the funding schedule. He discussed other retirement systems and their schedules. He discussed the investment performances (rate of return), the recent valuation, and the PRIM/PERAC results.

Selectman Williams expressed his concerns, noting that the way the schedule is set up now, it will have an impact on the operating budget.

The Board discussed issues relating to this topic. The Board agreed that funding aggressively now helps down the road.

Mr. Gibson articulated why this responsibility is in the hands of an independent body. The ultimate decisions concerning the funding schedule, he said, lie in the hands of the RB.

The Board thanked the members of the RB.

Application from Belmont World Film for a One Day Wine and Malt Liquor License for an event at Belmont Studio Cinema on March 21, 2016

Mr. Kale asked that this application needs to be withdrawn as it is not complete.

Application from Folk Arts Center of New England for a One Day Wine and Malt License for an event at the First Church on April 2, 2016

Mr. Kale said that this application is complete.

The Board moved: To approve the license for the Folk Arts Center of New England for a One Day Wine and Malt License for an event at the First Church on April 2, 2016.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Kale deferred his report.

Committee Liaison Reports

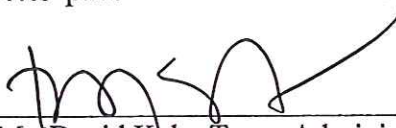
Minuteman

Selectman Paolillo reported that DESE approved the revised agreement. The proposed new building debt will need to be dealt with now. The working group will convene to discuss issues relating to the proposed building and the ensuing debt.

NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 6:15 p.m. Selectmen's Meeting Room Town Hall
Monday, March 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Selectmen's Meeting Room Town Hall

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



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator