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MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
CMS Community Room  
Wednesday, April 6, 2016  
6:00 PM

APPROVED  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DATE: 6-21-2016

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular (organizational) meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Sami Baghdady in the CMS Community 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 CONSENT**

**Board Reorganization and Vote**

Chair Baghdady stated that it is the Board's usual practice to hold a "reorganization" vote after the annual election. He then congratulated Selectman Paolillo on his re-election to the Board.

Selectman Williams stated that it is customary to rotate the Chair on an annual basis and he said he would like to put his name forward. Chair Baghdady noted that it was not necessarily customary since some Chairs do one year, many do more than one year.

*Selectman Williams moved:* To nominate himself as Chair of the Board of Selectmen. The motion did not pass (1-2).

*Selectman Paolillo moved:* To nominate Chair Baghdady as Chair of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Paolillo explained his motion. He stated that Chair Baghdady's leadership on several town projects has been valuable and added that having a lawyer's perspective is very useful. Chair Baghdady thanked him and added that the Board has progressed well in several key areas, namely, the successful completion of the Underwood Pool, the Solar initiatives, Cushing Village, the Belmont Center reconstruction, the MSBA approval of BHS project statement of interest, and, the biggest accomplishment perhaps, that the MBTA is keeping the Waverley Station open. However, he said it is time for him to pass the torch.

*Chair Baghdady moved:* To nominate Selectman Paolillo as Chair of the Board of

APPROVED  
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Chair Baghdady stated that Selectman Paolillo just came off a very successful election and has learned anew what is most important to the residents. He stated that Selectman Paolillo is the most experienced of the three Board members. Selectman Paolillo thanked Chair Baghdady for his support. He acknowledged Ms. Alexandra Rubin on her campaign and said he would like continue to reach out more to the residents.

Selectman Paolillo stated that he will accept the nomination.

Selectman Williams expressed his frustration with how challenging it has been to get items placed on the agenda for the Board to discuss together. He said the while some things went well this past year (Solar, for example) other areas were not delved into deeply enough. He said he would like to be able to place items on the agenda.

Selectman Paolillo suggested that the Selectmen sit down in an open meeting to determine the Board's priorities. This Board should be a *strategic* Board, one which sets the vision for the future. Important items need to find themselves on the agenda. The Board's priorities should set the meetings' agendas. He emphasized that a working session should be set for the Board to determine its top 5-10 areas of focus for the coming year.

Selectman Williams responded that he is frustrated that the Board has never finished the conversation on the Pension and OPEB obligations. He stated that he has talked with Dr. Jones, Mr. Widmer, and Mr. Carman on the Pension/OPWB obligations but that he would like to talk about this issue with *Board* members. He would like the Board to work together as more of a team.

Selectman Paolillo suggested that one Board member could take the lead in gathering information on a particular topic. He broached ways in which the Board could study the Pension/OPEB matter.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*Chair Paolillo moved:* To nominate Selectman Baghdady as Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen.

The motion passed (2-1).

Selectman Baghdady stated to Selectman Williams that he and the Board have given serious consideration to the Pension/OPEB issues. The WC issued a fine report on this topic. He added that the Board had agreed to not pursue Pension Obligation Bonds and it agreed to continue with the current funding schedule. Also, the OPEB advisory group was formed, it met, and it offered a recommendation concerning the collection of "real data".

Selectman Baghdady said that the Board has made considerable progress on these topics. He said he saw the Board members as equals, but that Selectman Williams becomes frustrated when his ideas were not agreed to. The important thing, he said, is for the Board to work together.

Selectman Williams responded that he does not believe the Board has had a meaningful discussion of the Pension/OPEB topic in front of the camera. He said this has been frustrating. Chair Paolillo said Pension/OPEB will continue to be an ongoing conversation. Selectman Williams said that it was he who put forth the Citizens Petitions that got the WC to issue its report and got the OPEB Advisory Group formed. He stated again that he wants to meet with his fellow Board members first, before he meets with other people from the community.

Chair Paolillo requested that he provide an outline for a discussion on Pension/OPEB. Following this, the Board will meet and discuss the topic fully.

Selectman Williams then requested that the vote be retaken and that he be considered for Vice Chair. Chair Paolillo declined to do this. He said that he has felt at times that Selectman Williams has not worked together well with the Board. Selectman Williams pointed to several areas where he has been cooperative with the Board. He said perhaps there is a stylistic difference in play.

Chair Paolillo said that he will govern with all points of view (WC, CBC, etc.) being given full consideration. There is a chance, he said, that Selectman Williams has not been willing to take all points of view into consideration. Selectman Baghdady stated that, while he has respect for both his colleagues, there have been negative comments made behind his back. He said it was not collegial what Selectman Williams did concerning his request for the Vice Chair vote to be reconsidered.

## **Annual License Renewals**

### ***Licenses for the Sale of Antiques and Second Hand Goods (Renewals)***

- **Dick's Place, 360 A Trapelo Road**
- **As Tyme Goes By Antiques, 97 Trapelo Road**
- **Benchcraft Jewelers, 383 Trapelo Road**
- **Sacca Junk, 51-53 Baker Street**

Selectman Baghdady noted that the new formatting, as recommended by the Town Clerk, is being used for these license applications. All of the paperwork appears to be in order.

*The Board moved:* To approve the license renewals for the above named establishments. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### ***Livery Licenses (Name Change)***

**Name Change from "ArmLux" to "MA Transportation LLC", 140 Slade Street, Yervand Atshemyan**

*The Board moved:* To approve the Livery license name change to MA Transportation LLC, details noted above.



The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

## **ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

### **Vote to sign the Warrant for Special Town Meeting (STM), May 4, 2016**

Chair Paolillo stated that this agenda item is to sign the Warrant for the STM, which will be held during the first part of the Annual TM. Articles to be discussed under the STM would be: the proposed Minuteman project and debt, the appropriation of funds from the sale of Woodfall Road to the BHS Building Committee, and the appropriation of free cash to fund the Modular units.

Selectman Williams said he is not familiar with Article 2 (the appropriation of funds from the sale of Woodfall Road to the BHS Building Committee). Selectman Baghdady said that the topic could be discussed tonight.

Mr. Kale noted the times where the STM have been discussed by the BOS.

Selectman Baghdady stated that this is the selling of a capital asset to fund the study of another capital asset – the Belmont High School. Chair Paolillo said more information on the free cash balances would be useful.

Mr. Kale then explained the Free Cash guidelines as well as the free cash balances.

Chair Paolillo explained why there are Free Cash *guidelines* as opposed to a *policy*. It allows for flexibility. Mr. Kale explained where the \$1.75M from the sale of Woodfall Road is now. If the proceeds from the sale of the Woodfall Road came in last fiscal year, the BOS could have recommended appropriation to the Capital/Debt Stabilization Fund and if approved the appropriation to the Belmont High School Building Committee could have come from the Stabilization Fund. However the money came in FY16, it is available for appropriation. . The money has not been appropriated and it is in revenue budget account. He further explained the timing behind the receipt of the money and the establishment of the Capital/Debt Stabilization Fund at last year's Town Meeting.

Selectman Williams asked what other alternatives are available to fund the BHS feasibility study. Mr. Kale said the Kendall Fund is another option to fund the study including Free Cash. Selectman Williams wondered why the Kendall Fund would not be used to fund this study.

The Board continued to discuss issues relating to the funding of the BHS feasibility study. Chair Paolillo said it shows good faith to fund the feasibility study this way.

*The Board moved:* To sign the Warrant for Special Town Meeting, May 4, 2016.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Paolillo raised the question of the timing for a citizen's petition to be filed. A petition could be filed and the Board would need to call a STM for the June Town Meeting.

The Board signed the Warrant.

### **Discussion on School Committee's Support of Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's (FBRC) Recommendations**

Selectman Baghdady provided some background information concerning the formation of the Chapter 70 formula. It appears that Chapter 70 does not reflect the true cost of education, as there are many unfunded mandates. The School Committee has endorsed the FBRC recommendations and requests that the Board do so as well.

Chair Paolillo noted that, while Chapter 70 has been increased slightly, if this report had been recognized by the state, more money would have been released under Chapter 70.

The Board discussed the FBRC recommendation and agreed that Chapter 70 needs updating. Chair Paolillo noted that it would be useful to meet periodically with the state representatives (Senator Brownsberger and Representative Rogers) concerning these issues.

*The Board moved:* To support the Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's (FBRC) Recommendations.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- **OPEB Advisory Group:** They will meet with WC this evening to present their report.
- **Cushing Village:** The rodent control plan is moving forward and clean-up of the property
- **Belmont Center:** A bump-out was installed for the Moore Street/driveway in front of Belmont Savings Bank. He explained the dimensions of the bump-out and explained the rationale for installing it. The construction of the bump-out was part of the approved plan in September.
- **Gas Leak Presentation:** Sustainable Belmont will hold a meeting at the Library on April 27 to discuss this topic. He offered Gas Leak contact information. Selectman Williams stated that Belmont ought to have a protocol for Gas Leaks. The Board discussed the public safety issue as it relates to reported gas leaks.

### **Committee Liaison Reports**

#### *Minuteman*

Chair Paolillo noted that the Minuteman group will meet soon to discuss the building project.

### **Miscellaneous**

Chair Paolillo stated that at the end of upcoming Board meetings, the *next* meeting's agenda should be briefly reviewed.

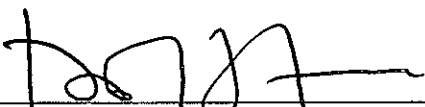
Selectman Baghdady stated that the BHS Building Committee met recently. Mr. Bill Lovallo was elected Chair and the funding for the feasibility study was discussed.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

Monday, April 11, 2016 7:00 p.m. Town Hall-Selectmen's Room

Monday, April 25, 2016 7:00 p.m. Town Hall-Selectmen's Room

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

  
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Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator