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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: 7-25-16

MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Working Session
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Friday, May 13, 2016
8:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

A (working session) meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 8:14 a.m. by Chair Mark Paolillo in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Sami Baghdady and Jim Williams were present. Town Administrator David Kale and Assistant Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall were also present.

Chair Paolillo reviewed the agenda.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

Ms. Judith Ananian Sarno, Waverley Terrace and TMM Pct. 3, requested follow-up status on the four written complaints concerning the violations of the building permit at the end of Waverley Terrace. She noted that a written response is due within 14 days. Mr. Kale stated that Mr. Clancy, Director of Community Development, will respond to the complaints and will enforce the bylaw. Chair Paolillo concurred.

Mr. Glenn Herosian, 585 Pleasant Street, asked if the Board would support holding a public hearing with the Historic District Commission (HDC), concerning the Plymouth Church and the Verizon request. There has been much discussion, he said, regarding the "certificate of appropriateness". Residents would like to ask questions concerning Verizon's plan for the Church, via a "106 hearing".

Chair Paolillo stated that on June 8 there is a Special Town Meeting (STM) on the Citizen's Petition about the Special Permit for internal cellular towers. He asked if this is sufficient? Mr. Herosian replied that more questions have arisen about the "certificate of appropriateness" versus the "certificate of non-applicability". Residents are requesting more information.

Chair Paolillo said that the Board does not typically direct committees (in this case the HDC) to hold hearings, but that he will reach out to the Chair of the HDC regarding this issue.

Selectman Baghdady suggested that the residents' questions be submitted in writing to the HDC and to the Office of Community Development. Selectman Williams agreed and provided some statutory background information on the HDC.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of Contract for Modular Classrooms

Mr. Kale explained that the contract will be awarded to Triumph Modular for the six modular classrooms at the Chenery Middle School (CMS). The bid (\$1,096,659) came in slightly less than the appropriation, but it will be good to have a little money in a contingency fund. The bid does not cover outfitting the units.

The Board moved: To approve awarding the contract for the CMS modular classrooms to Triumph Modular (\$1,096,659).
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Audit Results Discussion with Powers and Sullivan

Mr. Craig Peacock, Powers and Sullivan, appeared before the Board to discuss the results of the FY15 Audit Report. Ms. Chitra Subramanian, Town Accountant, and other Accounting staff were in the audience. Mr. Carman, Town Treasurer, was also in the audience.

Mr. Peacock provided an overview of the FY15 Audit Report. He will also provide answers to the questions submitted by the Board members. He stated that town government financials differ from the private sector in that they are not driven by the profit margin.

Government financial statements, he began, have three sections:

1. budgetary (UMAS – the state’s accounting system)
2. fund based (modified fund accrual statement - see page 75 of the report)
3. full accrual basis of accounting (government-wide statements – see page 15)

The Board discussed briefly the following topics as they relate to the Audit Report: the encumbered budget amount, the rating agency concerns, the free cash certification, OPEB/Pension, balance sheets, the 103 statement, GAAP, and GASB.

Mr. Peacock then addressed the questions submitted by Selectman Williams.

Mr. Peacock stated that the Town Administrator, the Town Treasurer, and the Town Accountant are the key individuals who oversee the town’s financials. Also, the Audit Committee (of which the Board has a liaison) will work with Powers and Sullivan. The *Letter of Representation* was discussed as well as the overall management of the financial document. Also explored was the Board’s role in writing the report. The Municipal Light Board financials were then discussed. Other questions concerned the Internal Service Fund, the Statement of Activities (page 16). The Incinerator Site financials were then discussed (pages 50-51).

Mr. Carman expressed a concern about Selectman Williams answering residents’ questions about the financial documents. He requested that the residents’ questions be forwarded to the Financial

Team – those who are paid to answer those questions. Selectman Williams said he has a right to ask questions as a resident, a TMM, and as a Selectman. He added that he will review the documents with residents and it is ridiculous to expect him not to do so. Selectman Baghdady clarified that Mr. Carman is available to meet with residents to answer their concerns. He said that there may be miscommunication if the Financial Team is not present and that the way the town is fiscally managed should not be characterized negatively or disrespectfully.

Chair Paolillo requested that there be a level of respect going forward. He raised the issue of letters sent to the paper (by Selectman Williams) concerning “failed policies” and suggestions that the Town/Board have ignored OPEB/Pension. He added that these issues should be talked at the Board table, together, and not vetted externally.


The Board discussed issues relating to Selectman Williams’ concerns, specifically the management of OPEB/Pension. Selectman Williams stated that the Town has made commitments that it does not have funding for; this is a great concern. He added that he would like to discuss the Projection Model, prior the Town Meeting.

Chair Paolillo thanked Mr. Peacock for his presentation.

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, May 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Selectmen’s Meeting Room Town Hall

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m.



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator