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MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Friday, December 2, 2016  
8:15 AM

APPROVED  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DATE: 1-23-17

**CALL TO ORDER**

A (working session) meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 8:18 a.m. by Chair Mark Paolillo in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Sami Baghdady and Jim Williams were present. Town Administrator David Kale was present; Assistant Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall was not present.

**ACTION BY CONSENT**

**Approval of a Request from the Belmont Center Business Association for businesses to participate in their 7th annual Midnight Madness Event, to be held Tuesday, December 6, 2016 from 6 pm until Midnight**

Mr. Kale explained that this will allow the businesses to stay open until midnight. The Board discussed briefly the possibility of appearing at this event.

*The Board moved:* To approve the Belmont Center Business Association's request to hold the *Midnight Madness* event, details noted above.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Presentation on Employer Group Waiver Plan**

Ms. Sue Shillue, of Cook and Company, and Ms. Jessica Porter, Town HR Director, appeared before the Board to discuss a proposed change to the town's Retiree health insurance, specifically the Harvard Pilgrim Enhance plan for those retirees 65 or older. The proposal was to offer an Employee Group Waiver Plan (EGWP). This type of plan simply shifts the methodology by which the Town receives federal funding for Medicare Part D, which covers prescriptions. In turn, this reduces costs to the town and the retirees, and also reduces the OPEB liability.

Ms. Shillue noted that this program is beneficial to both the town and the retirees. The subsidy money from the federal government is an incentive to the town to continue offering prescription coverage to our Medicare retirees. Ms. Shillue explained the reimbursement process that currently takes place, and how the reimbursement process would work under an EGWP plan.

She then explained the EGWP plan, noting the advantages and how it differs from what Belmont currently offers to its retirees. Retirees will basically receive the same coverage for less money.

The Board then asked questions about this benefit, the potential savings, the overall OPEB

liability, and the way in which this benefit would be implemented.

From the audience, Mr. Mennis (WC member) offered some brief insights into the economic and accounting benefits.

Mr. Kale confirmed that, with consent from the Board, the town will proceed with looking toward an implementation date of July 1, 2017.

Chair Paolillo stated that the Board will vote on this at a later date; he implied that the Board is disposed to approving this.

### **FY18 Budget Update**

Mr. Kale began by highlighting the draft schedule of the budget process. He noted specific dates that the budget will be submitted to the Warrant Committee, among others. He then summarized the free cash account (what was spent in FY16 and 17, and the means by which this account will be replenished). The draft budget will be balanced and includes many “assumptions”. The town will need to strive to get through FY19 before requesting additional money for the operating budget.

Mr. Kale noted that he has met with the Superintendent and together they are planning for both FY18 and FY19. He noted where money from the general stabilization fund will likely be used to balance the FY18 budget. He reviewed how he is planning for new growth, state funding (local aid), and health insurance revenue. He then explained the health insurance component.

Mr. Kale spoke to fiscal needs of the school budget, e.g., the need for additional modular units in the future (at the elementary level), additional funding for materials, etc. He noted where the Cushing parking lot sale revenue could offset these expenses.

He reviewed that the override funding was intended to be stretched out to FY19. However, the free cash reconciliation and other reserves will impact this planning.

The Board briefly discussed the budget overview as presented by Mr. Kale, e.g., level funding of the operating budget, the potential BHS debt exclusion, a potential override versus a reduction in services, etc.

Chair Paolillo suggested periodic budget planning meetings. He noted that the School Department and other key players could attend various meetings.

Mr. Kale then raised the Recreation Strategic Plan and noted that the Board will need to consider hiring someone to help implement some of the recommendations that came out of that planning process. A job description, and a plan concerning the Recreation Department, will be presented to the Board at a later meeting.

### **Town Administrator’s Report**

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- **Retirement Board:** The Retirement recently voted on a Pension funding schedule. The Board agreed that it would be helpful to meet with the Retirement Board to understand this vote.

[Note: Selectman Baghdady left at 9:25 a.m.]

- **Town Counsel Memo:** Mr. Hall wrote a memo explaining the 2013 license transferability issue. The Board expressed its desire to understand the issue more fully. Selectman Williams and Chair Paoillo explored this topic.
- **OPEB Study Group Appointee:** Mr. Jones has a recommendation for an appointee to this study group. Selectman Williams suggested that WC Member Mennis be placed on this group as well.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

This agenda item was deferred. However, Selectman Williams offered a suggestion for the minutes' approval process. Mr. Kale reviewed the current process.

### Executive Session

*The Board moved:* To enter into executive session at 9:42 a.m. to discuss strategy sessions with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the Chair so declares. The Board will not return to open session.

A roll call vote was taken: Chair Paolillo said aye and Selectman Williams also said aye; the motion passed unanimously (2-0).

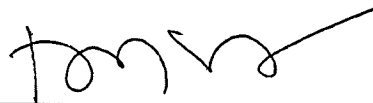
[The Executive Session proceeded. See separate minutes.]

The Board moved to exit Executive Session (and hence adjourn the meeting) at 10:12 a.m.

### NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, December 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.



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Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator