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BELMONT, MA

2017 APR -5 PM 3:09

MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Monday, February 6, 2017  
6:30 PM

APPROVED  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DATE: 04-03-2017

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 6:33 p.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 and noted that the meeting was starting early to accommodate the Executive Session which will be held after the Community Announcements.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Community Path Implementation Advisory Committee** – Three public meetings will be held to discuss various possible pathways. Please check the town website for meeting details.
- **Board of Health** – Will host a Honey Bee Forum on Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.
- **Talk of the Town** – This event will be held on Tuesday, March 21, from 7–9 pm at the Chenery Middle School.
- **Foodies Presentation** – A tasting and introduction will be held by the Women's Club at the Homer Building on Wednesday, February 8 from 11:30 – 1:00.

**Fire Department New Members**

Fire Chief Frizzell appeared before the Board to introduce the five newest fire fighters:

- Nicholas Navarrett
- Greg Oulett
- Brittany Taylor
- Jonathan Caravello
- Mike McNamara

The Board welcomed the newest fire fighters to Belmont. Photos were taken.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

[There were none.]

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

APPROVED  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
DATE

*The Board moved:* To enter into Executive Session at 6:44 p.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 return to open session.

A roll call vote was taken: Chair Paolillo said aye, Selectmen Baghdady and Williams also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **Return to Open Session**

*The Board moved:* To exit Executive Session and Return to Open Session at 7:51 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: Chair Paolillo said aye, Selectmen Baghdady and Williams also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **ACTION BY CONSENT**

#### **Approval of a Request from the Brendan Grant Foundation seeking permission from the Town of Belmont to use the public ways and the high school track for their 16<sup>th</sup> annual charitable run and walk planned for Sunday morning June 18, 2017**

Mr. Casey Grant and Mr. Brian Rogers appeared before the Board to discuss the request for the Brendan Grant 16<sup>th</sup> annual charitable run and walk planned for Sunday morning June 18, 2017. Mr. Grant expressed his thanks to the town (all the many town departments who are involved) for their support of this activity. He noted that the race allows the Foundation to give back to the town (via capital upgrades and the funding of scholarships). The event is a volunteer event and it attracts runners from all over the world. Mr. Grant then provided some background information on the race.

The Board expressed its support for this event.

*The Board moved:* To approve the request from the Brendan Grant Foundation seeking permission from the Town of Belmont to use the public ways and the high school track for their 16<sup>th</sup> annual charitable run and walk planned for Sunday morning June 18, 2017. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### **Review of Health Insurance with Human Resources Director, Jessica Porter**

Ms. Jessica Porter, Human Resources Director, and Mr. Brian Higgins, HR Generalist, appeared before the Board to discuss the town's Health Insurance. Ms. Porter explained the health plan offerings – Harvard Pilgrim HMO Plan and the Harvard Pilgrim PPO Plan. Most employees opt for the HMO plan and pay 20-25% toward the plan. She then explained the plans for non-

Medicare retirees (55-65), as well as for the Medicare retiree plans. She discussed the eligibility requirements for the various plan options. She touched on the surviving spouse eligibility requirements, as well.

**Approval of a One Day Liquor License Application from the Foundation for Belmont Education for a Fundraiser Event for the Belmont Public Schools to be held on March 18, 2017 at the Belmont Hill School, 350 Prospect Street, 7:00 – 10:30 pm**

*The Board moved:* To approve the One Day Liquor License Application from the Foundation for Belmont Education for a Fundraiser Event, details noted above.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**FY18 Budget Update (continued from Thursday, February 2, 2017)**

Mr. Kale began with the new growth number of \$900,000, which does not include the new substation. The new substation is currently being assessed by the Board of Assessors and a new growth figure will be provided during the Budget Process. The Board briefly discussed the tax payments on the new substation. Mr. Kale noted that, while the FY18 budget is in balance, one-time money was applied (General Stabilization) in order to achieve this balanced budget. The goal is to stretch out the General Stabilization fund as long as possible. The state aid number came in significantly higher (\$476,000 higher) than anticipated, which is helpful with regard to the General Stabilization goal of using as little as possible in the FY18 Budget.

Selectman Williams raised the issue of the policy concerning the Enterprise Funds' annual contribution to OPEB. The Board briefly touched on the OPEB funding guidelines. Selectman Williams suggested that the town's contribution be raised to \$500,000. He also noted that certain WC members are interested in also raising the OPEB contribution.

In answer to a question raised by Selectman Williams, Mr. Kale noted that the current SPED Stabilization Fund is zeroed out. However, there is a circuit breaker revolving account and this account helps fund out-of-district tuitions. The Board discussed how/if to fund the SPED Stabilization Fund. Mr. Kale noted that Superintendent Phelan will address both of these accounts (SPED Stabilization and Circuit Breaker) at the meeting on Monday, February 13.

Chair Paolillo stated that the goal is to have a steady, balanced budget through 2020. He said he would like to avoid another operating override until after the high school debt exclusion is put on the ballot.

Selectman Williams then raised the topic of a Pension Stabilization Fund. This was briefly discussed.

Mr. Kale broached the topic of the additional modular units needed at the elementary schools. Costs for these units will be higher than they were at Chenery. The units will need to be ordered in January 2018, but the plan for funding them should be determined this fall at a Special Town Meeting. The Board discussed the increasing enrollment numbers and the pressure placed on the existing school budget.

## **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- **Cushing Village:** Sage Environmental (who are employed by Toll Brothers) is extending the remediation comment timeframe until mid-March. Belmont has hired an environmental remediation consultant to review Sage's remediation plan. Toll will reimburse Belmont for the fee for the environmental consultant.
- **Alcohol License Transferability Update:** Senator Brownsberger has reviewed the language that Town Meeting will be asked to vote on. The Board will need to finalize the version of the language (there are two versions). An article for Town Meeting will need to be formulated. Chair Paolillo stated that he favors the more restrictive language. A "BYOB" regulation (or bylaw) will need to be explored as well.
- **Capital Project Working Group:** Site visits are winding down and the Board will need to create a more formal group to move forward with a recommendation.

## **Committee Liaison Reports / Other**

### *Train Intersection/Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC)*

Selectman Williams will raise safety options with the TAC concerning the MBTA train path out from Belmont Center.

### *Speed Limit of 25*

Mr. Kale noted that a 25 MPH statute could be adopted town-wide. Selectman Williams will raise this issue when he attends the next Traffic Advisory Committee meeting.

### *Town Administrator (TA) Transition Plan*

Chair Paolillo raised several areas that will need to be explored in a Transition Plan, e.g., the exploration of hiring a Search Firm, creating an in-town search committee, the need to appoint an interim Town Administrator, and a review of the current TA job description.

### *Update: Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC)*

Selectman Baghdady noted that 12 submissions were received from the Owners Project Manager RFP. The OPM subcommittee will review and rank the submissions this Wednesday; four or five applicants will be interviewed on February 15.

## **ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

### **Executive Session II**

*The Board moved:* To enter into Executive Session at 9:18 p.m. to discuss strategy

sessions with respect to litigation 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. (Massachusetts State Lottery Commission)

A roll call vote was taken: Chair Paolillo said aye, Selectmen Baghdady and Williams also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **Adjournment**

*The Board moved:* To exit Executive Session and so adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken: Chair Paolillo said aye, Selectmen Baghdady and Williams also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

Monday, February 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Selectmen's Meeting Room Town Hall – Joint with Warrant Committee



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Phyllis Marshall, Interim Town Administrator