

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Friday, March 10, 2017  
8:15 AM**

**APPROVED  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DATE 6-5-2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 8:26 a.m. by Chair Mark Paolillo in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Sami Baghdady and Jim Williams were present. Interim Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall was also present.

Chair Paolillo reviewed the agenda.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

[There were none.]

**ACTION BY CONSENT**

**Vote to Approve Annual Town Election Warrant for April 4, 2017**

Ms. Ellen Cushman, Town Clerk, appeared before the Board to discuss the Annual Town Election Warrant. Ms. Cushman informed the Board that they will need to sign the Warrant. She reviewed the contents of the Warrant. Poles will open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8 p.m.

The Board briefly discussed the upcoming Election.

*The Board moved:* To approve and sign the Annual Town Election Warrant for April 4, 2017.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Executive Session**

*The Board moved:* To enter into executive session at 8:32 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 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).

[The Executive Session proceeded. See separate minutes.]

**Return to Open Session**

APPROVED

*The Board moved:* To exit Executive Session and Return to Open Session at 9:17 a.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).

## **DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET MEETINGS**

### **Council on Aging (COA), Nava Niv-Vogel**

Ms. Niv-Vogel, Director of the COA, and Ms. Maryann Scali, COA Chair, appeared before the Board to discuss the department's FY18 budget. Chair Paolillo expressed his appreciation for the services offered by the COA. Ms. Niv-Vogel began by noting that services and programs are booming; participation rates are also climbing. She reviewed some of the new programs: Clearview 360, de-cluttering support group, intergenerational programming, and evening programs. She then reviewed some of the other new initiatives, e.g., a survey concerning the age-friendly community network, a Cummings Foundation grant to hire a part-time social worker, etc.

The Board expressed its support for the activities of the COA and agreed that, if the grant is not successful, they would like to find a way to support the needs of the department.

Ms. Niv-Vogel noted that the part-time summer social work hours were helpful. She then explained the administrative staffing changes that have recently occurred.

### **Treasurer, Floyd Carman**

Mr. Carman, Town Treasurer, appeared before the Board to discuss the department's FY18 budget. Mr. Carman began by explaining the activities of the Treasurer's department. There are 7.5 full-time town employees. The budget is \$687K and is basically flat. Accomplishments include implementation of on-line tax payment services, the property tax receiver review, issuance of debt bonds, etc. Mr. Carman briefly discussed the Wellington project; this discussion dovetailed into a High School Building Committee bill paying process.

Mr. Carman then discussed the short-term debt for the light substation noting that NSTAR did reimburse the town, which allowed the short-term debt to be paid off. The substation will now cost the ratepayers \$26.1M. The Board discussed the substation project and the debt.

Mr. Carman then reviewed the parking meter plan for Belmont Center, which begins March 27.

Mr. Carman stated his overall concerns: several large projects are looming (Library, substation, the high school), the need to upgrade Cushing and Waverley Squares (in a similar fashion to the recent Center upgrade), and the Cushing Village and Uplands infusion of people – with over 400 new housing units. He also noted that the Police Station and the Incinerator Site will need to be dealt with as well.

### **Health Department, Angela Braun**

Director of the Health Department, Ms. Angela Braun, and Mr. Wesley Chin, Assistant Health Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the department's FY18 budget. Ms. Braun began by noting the department's duties, e.g., environmental health, licensing and enforcing, animal control, social services, disease control, and the administration of the public health permits and public records requests.

She briefly reviewed the accomplishments: a Mt. Auburn grant for an opioid epidemic assessment, DEP electric vehicle grant, Massachusetts' Housing grant, fulfilling the state mandates, etc. She reviewed several initiatives: the tobacco control regulation, the honeybee initiative, Veteran's outreach, website updates, private well regulations, FOG (keeping fats, oils, and greases out of the sewer systems) regulations etc.

Ms. Braun then highlighted the budget changes; \$7,000 was allocated for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the removal of flu clinic funding.

Chair Paolillo raised the issue of bringing back Youth Commission activities.

### **Fire Department, Chief Frizzell**

Fire Chief Frizzell appeared before the Board to discuss the department's FY18 budget. Chief Frizzell began by introducing some team members from the Fire Department – all of whom have applied for the open Assistant Fire Chief position. He briefly explained the interview process for this position.

Chief Frizzell reviewed several accomplishments, e.g., the Safer Grant initiative, the installation of fire records management software, the creation of the departmental rules and regulations handbook, and the five new hires to the department. Concerning challenges, he noted that retirements and injuries have stressed the budget for FY17. Chair Paolillo suggested informing the Warrant Committee that a request could be forthcoming to the Reserve Fund account.

Chief Frizzell then reviewed the FY18 budget. Concerning challenges, he noted opioid abuse and explained the administration of Narcan by the first responders. Also, ambulance reimbursement may be reduced to the Medicare rate amount, which will result in Belmont taking in half the revenue it currently takes in – a potential loss of \$400,000.

[The Board took a brief recess.]

### **Library, Peter Struzziero**

Mr. Struzziero, Library Director, and Ms. Gail Mann, Library Trustee, appeared before the Board to discuss the department's FY18 budget. Mr. Struzziero began by highlighting some library usage data, including programs offered, meetings held, materials borrowed, etc. He noted that the Library budget increased slightly for materials and utilities. However, there is a budget request for four additional staffing hours per week and a request for funding to pay Library interns. Some of the repair costs and capital costs were reviewed.

The Board briefly noted that the Library Trustees will vote on the feasibility study when it meets next week.

**Assessors, Dan Dargon**

Mr. Robert Reardon and Mr. Dargon, from the Assessors Office, appeared before the Board to discuss the department's FY18 budget. Mr. Robert Reardon began by noting the budget increases for a consulting service contract to assist in the new growth calculation associated with the Electric Substation, one instance of change in health insurance status, and the reclassification of one position.

The Board briefly discussed issues relating to the Assessors Office.

**Police Department, Chief McLaughlin**

Police Chief McLaughlin, Assistant Police Chief MacIsaac, and Special Officer Dan MacAuley appeared before the Board to discuss the department's FY18 budget. Chief McLaughlin began by noting that there are minimal changes in the budget. The department is fully staffed and budgeted. The Chief noted that with the Uplands and Cushing Village coming online, the level of service may need to change if the staffing remains the same and monitoring of the situation will take place.

Chief McLaughlin noted that the several divisions within the department: patrol, detectives, traffic/parking, community services, and communications. He noted that the School Resource Officer is doing a great job and is an example of the great collaboration with the School Department. Also, there is now an Officer focusing on juvenile/domestic violence.

The Board discussed future needs of the department, e.g., more presence at the Chenery, more overall staffing, Informational Technology personnel and materials. The need for a new building continues to be a concern.

**Emergency Management, Leo Saidnawey**

(Mr. Saidnawey could not attend the meeting.) Ms. Marshall noted that the budget is level. The biggest budget expense is due to copper phone lines.

**ACTION BY CONSENT (Continued)**

**Approval of a Common Victualler License from Gilson Marcos, Thyago's Pizza, 368 Trapelo Road. Permitted hours of operation Monday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday noon – 10:00 p.m.**

Mr. Gilson Marcos, the new owner, appeared before the Board to discuss the license request. The ownership (name) has changed. The ZBA, he said, approved this change.

Ms. Marshall provided the background information.

*The Board moved:* To approve the license request, details noted above.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**Approval of a One Day Liquor License Application from the Folk Arts Center of New England, 10 Franklin Street in Stoneham, MA, to serve Wine and Malt at their Benefit Gala scheduled for March 25, 2017 from 7:30 pm -11:00 pm in the First Church in Belmont**

*The Board moved:* To approve the one-day liquor license request, details noted above.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- **OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) RFP (Request for Proposal) –**  
Selectman Williams noted that the RFP is still in place as described previously. The OPEB actuarial report needs to be updated for the FY16 as needed for the Belmont Light Department fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. KMS is being contracted for this analysis.

**Committee Liaison Reports / Other**

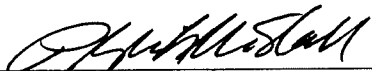
***Belmont Center Parking Fees***

Ms. Marshall noted that the meters will be in place on March 27.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

Monday March 27, 2017 - 7:00 P.M. Town Hall Selectmen's Meeting Room

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 p.m.

  
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Ms. Phyllis Marshall, Interim Town Administrator