

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BEECH STREET CENTER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
Monday, March 15, 2010
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order at 6:51 pm by Chair Leclerc in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Beech Street Center. Selectmen Firenze and Jones were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Proclamation for Martin J Richard, Boy Scout Troop

Chair Leclerc read the Proclamation and congratulated Mr. Richard.

The Board moved: To approve the Proclamation in honor of Martin J. Richard.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board signed the Proclamation.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were none.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (*continued*)

I-Net Agreement

Mr. Jonathan Greene, Chairman of the Cable TV Advisory Committee and the Belmont Media Center (BMC), appeared before the Board to discuss the I-Net Agreement. He explained that the connection to the Town's I-Net – the hardwired system built by Comcast that connects Town buildings - was lost when the BMC moved to Lexington Street in October. This has made it difficult to move video around from various town buildings. The new agreement would use the town's fiber network transition link as a connection in conjunction with Comcast extending the existing cable lines to Lexington Street. Comcast will fund the connection in exchange for being relieved of its existing I-Net maintenance obligations. The Board signed the papers.

The Board moved: To approve and accept this proposal.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY WRITING

Mark Clark Letter - Library Project

Mr. Clark submitted a letter to the Board which outlined a synergistic approach for utilizing the library in town. Selectman Jones suggested that the town begin to plan for this and for the Board to work with the Planning Board and the Capital Budget Committee. The Board should take a leadership position on this. Selectman Firenze said that a letter should be written to Mr. Clark stating that the Board will take this under advisement. Mr. Younger said it is useful to look forward on capital projects.

Snow and Ice Expenditure Report

Chair Leclerc said that this request is to approve funding over the budgeted amount of \$550K on snow and ice removal because of greater than average snowfall. This is the only area in which the Town is legally permitted to overspend its budget if the Selectmen so authorize. Similar action was taken in FY2009. Mr. Younger explained that approval of this request would allow the reserve fund to cover expenditures over the \$550K amount; Town Meeting will then approve repaying the reserve fund from other accounts at the end of the fiscal year. The budget is currently about \$6K over.

The Board moved: To approve the request to spend in excess of the appropriation to finish necessary snow and ice removal.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- He requested that the Board declare a “state of emergency” with regard to the recent flooding, to have it on record. The status of “state of emergency” would concur with the state’s recent “state of emergency” declaration and would qualify Belmont to receive any federal or state relief funds that may become available.

The Board moved: To recognize the state of emergency.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

- Belmont has received an “E-Government Award” from Common Cause for providing important information on the town’s website. It is the third year in a row the Town has received the award.
- He attended an MBTA meeting regarding the feasibility of combining physical plant resources.
- The Board will meet regarding the Cushing Village planning process on Monday, April 5 at 8:00 pm in the Homer Building. The Board discussed the

negotiation of a purchase and sale agreement (P& S) for the parking lot. Mr. Younger noted that the Board will approve both the draft design and the P & S before the project is moved forward. There is a meeting on March 22 regarding the financial planning of this project. Selectman Firenze noted that the Board will want to be sure that Mr. Starr has the financial resources to embark on a project of this size and this needs to be demonstrated before the parking lot is sold to Mr. Starr. He will need to show his committed finances for the entire project.

- The Wellington School demolition is scheduled to begin this week.

Committee Appointments

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Andrew McClurg to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Laura Panos to the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Chris Henry to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To approve the following appointments to the Energy Committee:

- For three-year terms: Mr. Anthony Alcorn, Mr. Roger Colton, Mr. Peter Castanino, Ms. Jan Kruse.
- For two-year terms: Mr. Allan Vanderley, Mr. Andrew Healy, Mr. Bob Martin, Mr. Glenn Clancy.
- For a one-year term: Ms Chris McVay, Mr. Ian Todreas, a School Department representative to be named, and a Light Department representative to be named.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Jerome Dubois to the Belmont Vision 21 Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Richard Kobayashi, Mr. William Kilzere, and Ms. Nancy Eagen to the Human Resource Consolidation Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Selectman Jones noted that, regarding the consolidation of HR among the schools and town, ideally an interim agreement should be obtained before the school's HR Director job is advertised.

Selectman Jones noted and thanked all of the workers working hard to mitigate the crisis situations from the huge rain storm of the last three days.

Goals Discussion

Chair Leclerc noted that he met with Mr. Younger regarding the Board's "goals". Mr. Younger said that the list of previous goals was updated and that he would like to have a meeting of Board members and identify the goals and objectives that each member is interested in. We need, he said, concrete goals of things that are achievable and that show results. Some goals are stagnant and some can be moved forward. Selectman Firenze added that the goals ought to be reviewed frequently. The Board discussed the issue of the goals moving forward. The Board agreed that this meeting will take place after the town election on April 5.

Benton Library Reuse Committee (BLRC)

Mr. Richard Cheek appeared before the Board to discuss the recommendation of the Benton Library Reuse Committee. He read the report. The report stated that the property should remain in Town ownership and reused in a way that should have a low impact (with regard to traffic, parking, etc.) on the immediate neighborhood. The development should be allowed to remain "revenue neutral" which means that it will not cost the town money. The Reuse Committee requests an extension of six months time to meet with the Citizen's Coalition to pursue the low impact, revenue-neutral proposal outlined above.

Mr. Doug Jones, Indian Hill Road, spoke on behalf of the Benton neighborhood. The neighborhood is happy to hear that the recommendation supports low-impact use. Traffic, parking, and safety are primary concerns of the neighborhood.

Ms. Joanna Hilgenberg, of Oakley Road, stated that the neighbors want to preserve this as a public building and formed the "Friends of the Benton Library" to support the building and to raise funds.

No one spoke against the Reuse Committee's recommendation.

Selectman Jones agreed that the impact of the property should not exceed what impact there was when it was a library. He added that "sustainable" should be added to "revenue neutral". Selectman Firenze said he is struggling with the concept of revenue neutral, as this property is an asset for the town. The property is valued at \$550K and selling as a single family home with historic provisions will have the least amount of impact on the neighborhood.

Chair Leclerc reviewed the history of Cushing Square in general, and specifically the Benton Library neighborhood. He said that the history of this "jewel of a building" should be preserved and that we ought to save this building for the community.

Mr. Younger asked: Who will control and maintain this building? He noted that if it is a Public Building, it needs to have a public use, and as such, needs to be handicapped accessible (which it is not currently).

Selectman Jones said that the Board is basically voting on the six-month extension to work with the community to come up with a plan.

The Board moved: To approve the BLRC's recommendation to allow six months for further development of a possible revenue-neutral neighborhood use for the Benton Library site.

The motion passed (2-1).

Town Election and Town Meeting Warrant – Approval by Selectmen

Mr. Conti requested that the Board sign the Warrant to have the town election on Monday, April 5, 2010.

The Board moved: To sign the Warrant to have the town election on April 5, 2010.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Conti asked that the Selectmen finalize the Annual Town Meeting Warrant by determining whether to remove certain draft Articles, and then sign the finalized Warrant.

The Board moved: To remove articles 23-28 (relating to the Light Department substation location).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To remove article 16 (relating to the Benton branch library sale or lease).

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved: To sign the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as submitted and adjusted just now.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Budget Discussion

Chair Leclerc noted that certain deadlines existed regarding placing an override on the ballot. Is the Board prepared to move forward with an override to balance the budget? he asked. He said that he has spoken with the SC Chair and the WC Chair and they are interested in waiting until June 14th for an override. Selectman Firenze said he has no idea what to ask for in terms of an override number at this point in the process.

Selectman Jones said that the Board ought to have a say in what the number is and what the format of an override will be. Selectman Firenze suggested that the Board schedule a

joint meeting with the WC to discuss override scenarios. The Board then discussed override scenarios.

A joint BOS/WC meeting was scheduled for April 14th to try to reach consensus regarding an override. Chair Leclerc said that \$3M is a potential override number, as it helps with the structural deficit. Selectman Firenze asked what \$3M would do to taxes. Chair Leclerc replied that it would add \$435 to the tax bill of an average single-family home.

Mr. Younger said he is working on an available-revenue budget. This will help voters know what will have to get cut, should the override fail.

One-Day Liquor License – Waldorf School

Mr. Chuck Claus appeared before the Board to request a one-day liquor license for the Waldorf School. Because the School rents its property, it was noted that the property owner must indicate its approval of the event in order for a license to be granted. Mr. Claus indicated that he has obtained such approval for the Town's records.

The Board moved: To approve the one-day liquor license request of the Waldorf School, contingent on receiving a permission letter from the owner of the property.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY WRITING (*continued*)

All-Night Graduation Party Funding Request

The Board moved: To deny the request of \$1,000 to fund the cost of public safety details for the Belmont High School All-Night Graduation Party.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

OTHER

The Board discussed the process for approval of the Comprehensive Plan and possibly scheduling another meeting with the Planning Board.

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter executive session at 8:52 pm to discuss litigation and not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During executive session one substantive motion was made and passed unanimously. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm.)

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator