

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2007
REGULAR SESSION
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL
7:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:02 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

II. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

Brian Galvin, commander of Waverley VFW post 1272, appeared before the Board. Mr. Galvin said the post has been active since the 1920s and has run into some financial difficulties, and cannot financially support the VFW hall building. They are asking for the Town's help in maintaining their quarters there.

Chairman Solomon said that the Town appreciates the veterans' service to our country, and that the Board has scheduled discussion on this issue for March 26.

Joseph Finnegan, Scott Stratford and Alex Corbett, all residents of Alexander Avenue, appeared before the Board. They objected to the removal of 2-hour parking restrictions on Alexander Avenue. Mr. Finnegan said the removal will allow non-resident commuters to fill up the whole street. He presented a petition signed by 19 residents to rescind the Board's action.

Chairman Solomon said the Board will revisit the decision and it will not be implemented until then.

Art Wolfson of Pleasant Street asked if the Pleasant Street project is over budget and whether the Town is going to have to provide contingency funds to cover extra costs as originally specified. Selectman Brownsberger said he is going to be meeting with the project engineer and will ask that question, however he is not aware that there is any need for Town funds at present.

III. ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Permanent Audit Committee-FY06 audit report

Ernie Fay of the Permanent Audit Committee explained that Belmont's by-laws require an audit every three years, but the Town holds one every year which helps to ensure its AAA bond rating. 2006 was the second year of the Town's three-year contract with Powers & Sullivan to perform the audit. Copies are available on the Treasurer's web site.

The Committee feels the most important finding of the audit is that Belmont needs to accelerate disaster contingency plan development for Town and School Departments. It will take at least two years to implement such plans fully across the Town. Meanwhile, the Town has completed six of the eight recommendations from the FY05 audit.

Viktoria Haase appeared for the Committee. She reported that the Committee is ready to launch several initiatives. They have done some fundraising and will be selling lapel pins, Town seal chairs, and Town flags. There will be a kickoff event on Town Day, May 19. There will be various events throughout 2009 for the 150th anniversary of the Town's incorporation. The Committee is asking for \$8,000 to be allocated to the Committee's account to underwrite these projects, which is the amount the Board gave for the bicentennial celebration in 1976. It is less than \$1 per household.

The Board moved: To support the request subject to the Town Administrator's discretion of how much of the funding can be allocated at what time.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Committee noted that a florist in Connecticut is selling the Belmont gardenia which was developed by the Lenk family in Belmont. The Committee intends to purchase some for resale.

IV. ACTION BY CONSENT

Memorial Day parade request.

The Board moved: To approve the request to hold a Memorial Day parade.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Liquor license regulations

Maryann Scali appeared for the Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee. The Committee has drafted regulations to govern the issuance of one-day liquor licenses. Mr. Younger said he has reviewed the regulations.

One of the regulations requires a one-day liquor liability insurance policy if Town facilities are going to be used. The Board decided the minimum coverage amount should be \$500,000 rather than \$1 million. Selectman Brownsberger said this is very expensive and will practically be prohibitive of holding this type of event on Town property. The fee for a license will be \$50 for a non-profit and \$75 for a profit organization. Alcohol shall not be served before noon or after 11 PM. The Board removed the requirement to consult with the police regarding police details, with the understanding that the Town Administrator will consult with the police whether to recommend details in each case. The Board also removed the prohibition on outdoor functions to the extent otherwise permitted by law.

The Board moved: To approve the recommended regulations as amended.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

VI. OTHER

The purchase and sale agreement for the Harvard Lawn Fire Station is being worked out. The developer may ask for a Town Meeting article to change the zoning to allow them to add a third unit on the site. It was clarified that the time period for the agreement to be closed expires at about this time. Mr. Younger will report to the Board in writing by the end of the week on the status and what the closing date is.

Jan Kruse, Sustainable Belmont re: Green Buildings Policy

A number of communities have adopted similar policies for the construction and renovation of municipal buildings. Chairman Solomon is requesting that the Board adopt the policy that Sustainable Belmont has drafted.

Selectman Brownsberger noted that while he fully supports the policy, there is no provision for enforcement. Chairman Solomon noted that the Permanent Building Committee was not comfortable with the enforcement provisions in the original draft - this version has their unanimous support.

Selectman Firenze proposed and his colleagues approved a change to clarify some of the language of the policy to indicate that the consideration of what is economically practical applies to all of the provisions of the policy, not just the specific clauses in which that language appears. At his suggestion, the Board also removed a specific reference to "non-PVC plastics" which was felt to be unnecessarily specific.

The Board moved: To accept the policy as changed.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

There was discussion of pursuing specific green power procurement and generation initiatives and goals with the Light Department.

Budget issues

Mr. Younger said the Town faces an approximately \$2.8 M operational deficit including Town and School. The Warrant Committee has asked for a more accurate level services budget. For the Town, this means no additional money for sidewalk repair, no summer help for DPW, no small capital items that weren't included in the operating budget last year such as the fire hose, no full-time public health nurse, no School Resource Officer, no shared IT staffer, no Human Resources hours extension, no additional printed Town reports, no additional library hours, and anything else that wasn't in last year's budget. These items add up to about \$400,000. There may also be \$300,000 that could be added to the revenue estimates. The Governor's budget also contains an additional \$54,000 of local aid over what was projected.

There will be further discussion of the larger budgetary decisions at the end of this Saturday's budget hearings.

Town Administrator's report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

" Traffic count numbers for the intersection of School Street and Fairview Avenue should be in soon.

" 3 bids came in for wooden Town hall doors, ranging from \$11,000-\$17,450. The Town Hall Building Committee is reviewing them. The Historic District Commission has rejected fiberglass doors which would have cost \$8-9000.

" The Sherman Street land auction will be at the end of March. The Assessors will conduct the auction. A final date for the Lamoine Street auction is being worked out. Formal authorization by the Board will be on Saturday.

" The Insurance Advisory Committee is meeting tomorrow afternoon on health insurance. There will also be a regionalization meeting of several towns on Wednesday in Lexington.

Selectman Brownsberger raised an issue of a senior police officer who wants to buy back pension eligibility for his military service. This would require a Town Meeting vote to authorize a home rule petition. The Board will consider this at an upcoming meeting.

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into executive Session to discuss the deployment of security devices and to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel, and to discuss potential litigation, and not to return to open session.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0). The Board entered executive session at 9:00 PM.

(During executive session, no substantive motions were made. The Board adjourned at 10:59 PM.)

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator