

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2007
TOWN MEETING
PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM
BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL
6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 6:00 PM in the Principal's Conference Room at Belmont High School. All members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger, Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti and Town Counsel John Giorgio were also present.

II. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were no questions.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved: To enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the sale of real property and litigation and subsequently to return to open session.

Motion carried unanimously. The Board entered exec at 6:01 PM.

(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and passed unanimously.)

The Board returned to open session at 6:39 PM.

III. ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Town Meeting Issues

Article 9

The Board moved: To support Article 9.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Article 14

The Board moved: To support Article 14.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Article 18

The Board moved: To support Article 18.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Article 19

Chairman Firenze said he is going to move to dismiss Article 19 after the Library Trustees have made their presentation in favor of the Article. He will then explain his reasons for recommending dismissal: The Town does not know when the state library grant will be given, there will be clarification over the next few months from the School Building Authority on the Wellington School, and the benefit of obtaining some input from the Capital Projects Overview Committee before proceeding. The Board agreed that if Article 19 is defeated now it would send a very bad message to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The Library Board is meeting tonight to discuss whether or not to support dismissing the Article. If the Trustees wish to make the motion instead this would be welcomed.

Chairman Firenze said if the goal was to kill the library project, the best way to do that would be to let it get voted on tonight, but that would not be in the best interest of the Town.

Chairman Firenze asked whether he should make the motion as an individual or on behalf of the Board.

The Board moved: To support a motion to dismiss Article 19.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Other Issues

Police Officer Timothy Connors has been told he needs a letter from the appointing authority in order to continue discussions with Boston about a lateral transfer. The Chief said he is okay with this but the approval needs to come from the Board. Chairman Firenze recommended that the Board support whatever the Chief's position is and send a letter to the city of Boston to that effect. The Board agreed.

Discussion of Health Insurance for Elected Officials

With respect to Article 5, Chairman Firenze noted that compensated elected officials in Belmont are eligible to receive health benefits. A few are currently receiving them. It is up to the Selectmen to decide whether this should continue. Chairman Firenze noted that if Town Meeting were to vote to eliminate compensation for various officers, their health benefits would also be eliminated. Currently only two elected officials other than the Town Clerk and Treasurer take health care benefits from the Town.

The Board moved: To make no change to the health benefits of elected officials at this time.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Younger explained that the Board needs to vote to accept the gift of \$65,000 worth of kiosks and markers from the Waverly Trails group for the Waverly Trail.

The Board moved: To accept the donation.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Younger said Geof Tillotson will be resigning from the Warrant Committee effective July 1 so there will be a vacancy to fill.

The Board moved: To approve two proclamations in honor of Will Brownsberger and Anne Paulsen for their years of service to the Town of Belmont, to be read at Town Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board remained in session for the Annual Town meeting and adjourned at 11:35 PM.

Thomas G. Younger
Town Administrator