Belmont Warrant Committee Meeting Minutes FINAL April 28, 2010, 6:30 p.m. Belmont High School Auditorium

- Note: This was a joint meeting between the Capital Budget and Warrant Committees.

- Present: Chair Curtis; Members Allison, Becker, Brusch, Callanan, Dash, Epstein, Hofmann, Libenson, Lynch, Manjikian, Millane, Smith; BOS Chair Jones; School Committee Chair Rittenburg

- Assistant Town Administrator Conti, Town Accountant Hagg, BOS Paolillo

- Members Absent: McLaughlin

- The WC meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Curtis.

Capital Budget Committee: Members Clark, Mahoney and Fallon

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Capital Budget Committee (CBC) – Minuteman Discussion

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- CBC Chair Brusch began by saying that the CBC has met with Minuteman and is requesting an enrollment study. The CBC would be more willing to participate in an enrollment study and feels that it is premature to talk about a new building without understanding enrollment and how a building built for 1,200 students currently has only 400 students.

- Dr. Bouquillon said that Arlington shares similar concerns to Belmont and that an enrollment study must be completed. He said that no architectural firm will be hired until the enrollment study was completed. SC Member Vose asked what the enrollment study would cost. Dr. Bouquillon replied that it would cost around \$90K to \$120K, which is built in to the \$725K.

- Chair Brusch suggested that, before committing to the feasibility study, the CBC needs to know where Minuteman wants to be, e.g., a school that serves 400 or how many students? She went on to explain the approval process, which states that if a town has not yet approved the Minuteman feasibility motion within the 60 days of their vote, then it is deemed approved. She stated that Belmont had a difficult experience with a legal counsel document (relating to the Wellington) and that, as such, Belmont is leery of legal documents. She said that both the WC and the CBC do not support going forward with the feasibility study without knowing the appropriate enrollment numbers. She added that Belmont schools have their own issues and the town needs to be judicious with its money.

- Selectman Paolillo said that clearly Minuteman needs renovation, but that the Minuteman study group voted against the feasibility study as the building needs to be right-sized.

- CBC Chair Brusch asked if the MSBA would let Minuteman do an enrollment study now, and then come back to towns for a feasibility study at the fall TM? Dr. Bouquillon said that he would bring this suggestion back to his school committee.

- WC Member Callanan asked why the feasibility study is so high at \$725K? Why hasn't there been an enrollment study yet, she asked? And if this doesn't pass through the member towns, would Minuteman find the funds in its operating budget? Dr. Bouquillon said that, as this had not been budgeted for, it's unlikely that Minuteman could fund this from its budget. He said the \$725K figure was originally over \$1M.

- WC Member Smith noted that this issue could not be "tabled" tonight, as that would be considered "not taking action by May 30." TM, he said, needs to vote tonight. WC Member Epstein reiterated that, once the enrollment study is complete, Belmont would be in a position to reconsider the feasibility study.

- Member Hofmann moved to adjourn the WC at 7:11 pm.

- Submitted by Lisa Gibalerio

- WC Recording Secretary
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