

MINUTES
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 23, 2005
REGULAR SESSION

Call to Order

The Board convened in open session at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of Belmont Town Hall. All members were present.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Selectman Brownsberger stated that he will abstain from participating in any reappointment to the Human Rights Commission. He will however participate in any new appointment to this commission, should there be any.

Action by Appointment

Proclamation for Jonathan M. Hatch

The Board of Selectmen recognized resident Jonathan Hatch for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and congratulated him for his efforts towards this achievement.

Discussion of Retirement Issue

Town resident William Strong appeared before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the history of his daughter Christine Strong's health coverage through the Town and to request that her 18-month COBRA coverage be extended by a few months.

Selectman Firenze agreed to meet with Mr. Strong and Harvard Pilgrim's representatives to determine whether Ms. Strong qualifies as a "disabled dependent" and as such whether she is entitled to receive a total of 36 months of COBRA coverage.

The Board moved: to extend Ms. Strong's COBRA coverage for fifteen days during which Selectman Firenze will contact Harvard Pilgrim representatives and clarify Ms. Strong's status and COBRA coverage.

The motion passed (3-0).

Public Hearing on Utility Petition

- *Keyspan Petition for Radcliffe Road*

The Board of Selectmen convened a hearing on the petition of Keyspan to place gas mains in Radcliffe Road. Keyspan representative Harold Cooper appeared in support of his petition.

The Board moved: to approve the Keyspan petition at Radcliffe Road, conditional upon Keyspan respecting specific provisions from the Community Development Office and the Department of Public Works as stated in Mr. Glenn Clancy's memorandum dated May 19, 2005.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Public Works Director re: Solid Waste and Recycling Contract Extension for FY2006

Public Works Director Peter Castanino appeared before the Board of Selectmen to recommend that the Town extend Russell Disposal's contract for FY06.

The Board moved: to extend Russell Disposal's contract for FY06.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Public Works Director re: Extension of Asplundh Contract

Mr. Castanino requested that the Town extend the Tree Service contract with Asplundh Tree Experts Company for Fiscal Year 2006.

The Board moved: to extend Asplundh Tree Experts Company's contract for FY06.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Review of Water Rates

Mr. Castanino presented the Board of Selectmen with the Water Advisory Board's recommendation to increase the customer charge and water rate by six per cent for FY2006.

Mr. Castanino also noted that the Department of Public Works - Water Division will be reviewing all current rates and charges related to water services to develop a long term plan to stabilize rates.

The Board moved: to defer this discussion until new proposed sewer rates are ready for review so that the Board can entertain both discussions at the same time.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of the Belmont Gallery of Art/Cultural Council

Art Gallery Administrator Nan Rogers and Cultural Council Co-Chairs Rebecca Richards and Genevieve Fisher appeared before the Board of Selectmen to request the Board's approval of the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Cultural Council.

Chairman Solomon noted that the MOU has been extensively reviewed by Town Counsel.

The Board moved: to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Cultural Council.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Waverley Fire Station RFP

Town Administrator Thomas Younger informed the Board of Selectmen that Town Counsel is currently reviewing how selection criteria should be used to select a final RFP.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to table the final RFP decision until its next meeting of June 6, 2005.

The Town Administrator will also try to gather additional information about the "skywalk system" referenced in the Davis Design Development Corp. RFP.

Discussion of Disposition of Magsam Property

The Town Administrator updated the Board about the 303 Concord Avenue property inspection results which took place that day. The estimated cost for bringing the property up to code is \$75,000, not including the cost of de-leading efforts.

Residents Sallye Bleiberg and Carolyn Bishop who both signed a petition requesting that the 303 Concord property not be demolished responded to this estimated cost.

The Board moved: to authorize the Town Administrator to proceed with the demolition of the property, upon its acquisition.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Ms. Bishop requested that any historic feature or element in / of the house be salvaged and given out before demolition of the property.

Appointments to Town Boards and Committees

The Board discussed its annual committee and commission appointment process.

The Board started identifying the number of openings for each Board and Commission. The Board will review and update this list at its next meeting on June 6 for further action and appointment.

Chairman Solomon also requested from the Town Administrator a complete list of all current appointees interested in reappointment for the June 6 meeting. Dr. Solomon also requested that all current Board and Commission members who have not met the May 20 deadline be contacted to inform the Selectmen whether they are interested in being reappointed or not. The Board will not consider any current member who has not responded by June 6.

The Board of Selectmen established the following number of vacancies which will require appointment by the Board;

Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee: 3 openings

Belmont Housing Trust: 3 openings

The Board moved: to reappoint Roger Colton to the Belmont Housing Trust

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Belmont Vision 21 Implementation Committee: 3 openings

The Board moved: to approve the Chair's recommendation that this Committee no longer requires an existing Warrant Committee member.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Cable Television Advisory Committee: 1 opening

Conservation Commission: Pending more information

Constable:

The Board moved: to reappoint all existing Constables.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Council on Aging: 4 openings

The Board moved: to reappoint Henry Kazarian, Barbara Miranda, John Bruschi, and Ethel Hamann to the Council on Aging

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Cultural Council: Pending more information

Disability Access Commission:

The Board moved: to reappoint Francis Williams to the Disability Access Commission.

Human Rights Commission:

The Board moved: to reappoint William Rudman to the Human Rights Commission.

The motion passed (2-0), with Selectman Brownsberger abstaining.

Traffic Advisory Committee:

The Board moved: to reappoint Linda Nickens, MaryJo Frisoli, and Peter Curro to the Traffic Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Youth Commission: Pending further information

Zoning Board of Appeals: Pending further information

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Tom Younger provided his weekly report on ongoing town events.

Action by Consent

Approval of Minutes (04/11/05, 04/21/05 and 04/25/05)

The Board moved: to approve all the minutes for the April 11, April 21 and April 25, 2005 meetings.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Writing

Memorandum from Community Development Director re: Belmont Street Corridor RFP Recommendation

The Board moved: to approve the Community Development Director's recommendation to retain BSC Group for Engineering design services for the Trapelo Road / Belmont Street reconstruction project, as documented in his memorandum dated May 19, 2005.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Letter from Belmont Land Trust re: Open Space Plan

The Board moved: to re-form the temporary Open Space Plan Committee which will develop a new open Space plan, as requested by the Belmont Land Trust President Neal Winston in his memorandum dated May 12, 2005; and further to request that the Belmont Land Trust provide the Board of Selectmen with some recommendations for appointment.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Copy of Letter from Resident re: Memorial for Jay Tobin

The Board moved: to authorize the Town Administrator to move forward with Mr. Joseph Tryon's request to plant a tree and erect a plaque in a designated area in Wellington Station to commemorate Mr. Jay Tobin, as requested by Mr. Tryon in his letter to the Board dated May 16, 2005.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Correspondence from Belmont Housing Trust Chair re: Amendment to Bylaws

The Board moved: to approve the Belmont Housing Trust's request to approve an amendment to its bylaws, as documented in Mr. Roger Colton's email dated May 16, 2005.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Letter from Council on Aging Director re: \$10,000 Donation from Resident

The Board of Selectmen discussed a letter from Council on Aging Director Nava Niv-Vogel relative to a \$10,000 donation recently made to the Council on Aging. Such donations usually get deposited in the Town's general funds account and Ms. Niv-Vogel requested that these funds be used solely by the Council on Aging.

The Board asked the Town Administrator to follow up on this request and honor the wish of the donor.

Other

The Board signed three copies of the Belmont Police Superior Officers Association Union contract.

The Board of Selectmen scheduled a special session on Friday, May 27, 2005 at 8:00am for the purpose of approving the Special Town Meeting warrant for June 13, 2005.

The Board adjourned its open session at 10:35 p.m.

Thomas G. Younger
Town Administrator