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**BELMONT WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FINAL**

MAY 29, 2013, 5:30 P.M.

BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Present: Chair Lynch; Members Allison, Baghdady, Bruschi, Dash, Epstein, Gammill, Grob, Helgen, Libenson, Manjikian, McLaughlin, Millane, Sarno, BOS Representative Jones

Members Absent: BOS Chair Paolillo, SC Rep. Slap

The meeting was called to order at 5:47 pm by Chair Lynch.

Chair Lynch stated that the WC needed to vote on Article 16 before Town Meeting at 7:00. He noted that the WC will also need to meet on June 3rd before TM to discuss and vote on the Demolition Delay and Revolving Account articles.

Mr. Lynch reminded the WC that the League of Women Voters/WC Warrant Briefing is tomorrow evening from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Beech Street Center.

Discussion and Vote on Warrant Articles for May 29th Special Town Meeting (STM)

Article 16: Authorization to Transfer Property (Belmont Municipal Light Department)

Selectmen Jones began the discussion of Article 16. The WC discussed issues relating to the article.

Member Allison raised a question about knowing what it is actually like to partner with NSTAR, suggesting that this is a fairly unknown factor. This was discussed. Member Bruschi said that the MBTA may be upset that Belmont is selling the easement to NSTAR. Member McLaughlin noted that the MBTA made money from the deal and placed no restrictions on the sale.

Member Libenson asked how this would impact selling the light station down the line. Member Epstein said that NSTAR would be the only likely buyer. Member Manjikian said that the asset is worth more in parts, than the whole. He said that this is a small project for NSTAR and they are doing it to better the asset.

Member Epstein re-framed the issue: NSTAR will contribute \$30M to obtain the cost of the transmission. He asked what happens if TM does not support the article – do we revert back to Plan A. Selectman Jones stated that not going forward may cost Belmont money and time. He said that if that happens, he would hope that NSTAR will give Belmont more time.

Member Libenson said that the town is choosing to sell the sub-asset at cost. He asked how the price of the \$30M was determined. Selectman Jones said it was a cost reimbursement deal. The price, it was stated, is the cost.

Member Sarno asked about the operational/managerial control that is lost in selling this to NSTAR. Selectman Jones said that in dealing with the ISO, Belmont is benefiting, as the line will now run into Belmont.

Member Manjikian said that Belmont ratepayers pay more for electricity than it costs from NSTAR. The rate increase was discussed. It was stated that there will be an increase, but not the big 14% jump that had been anticipated.

Chair Lynch suggested at 6:42 p.m. that the WC pause for a few minutes to sign in to TM.

*Member McLaughlin renewed his motion from last Wednesday's (5/23) meeting:
Favorable action on Article 16.*

The WC briefly discussed. Several members expressed their support for the motion. Some expressed that the WC has not had sufficient time to analyze the financial impact of this project.

The motion passed with 12 in favor, no members opposed, with 3 abstentions.

Adjournment

The WC meeting moved to Town Meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Gibalerio
WC Recording Secretary