

MINUTES
Page 1 of 5
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 9, 2005
REGULAR SESSION

Call to Order

The Board convened in open session at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of Belmont Town Hall. All members were present.

The Board moved: to enter an executive session for a joint session with the School Committee; and further that the Board of Selectmen shall return to open session at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen returned to open session at approximately 7:00 p.m..

Questions from Town Residents

Resident Arthur Wolfson expressed his concern over the cutting of many trees on Pleasant Street which he says is ahead of schedule, according to the MassHighway contract for the roadway's reconstruction project.

Town Administrator Tom Younger will contact the MassHighway local office to inquire about the tree cutting schedule.

Action by Appointment

Discussion of Liquor License Application – Stone Hearth Pizza

Stone Hearth Pizza Manager Christopher Robbins appeared before the Board to request approval of his new wine and beer license application for his new business located at 57 Leonard Street. A previous hearing was held on April 11, 2005 but it was not duly advertised as required by the state.

The Board moved: to approve the new wine and beer license for Stone Hearth Pizza, located at 57 Leonard Street.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Police Department Promotional Exams Approval

Police Chief O'Malley appeared before the Board of Selectmen to request the Chairman's approval of two annual promotional exams in October 2005.

The Board moved: to authorize the Chairman to approve promotional exams in October 2005.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chief O'Malley also requested the Chairman's authorization for the transfer of a third officer out of the department.

The Board moved: to authorize its Chairman to sign off on a third officer transfer.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board also moved: to appoint one more patrol officers on the civil service list (two had already been approved on January 10, 2005).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Public Works Director re: Request to Fill Vacancies

Public Works Director Peter Castanino appeared before the Board to request the filling of two vacancies.

The Board moved: to approve the Public Works Director's request to fill two positions which are funded in the FY05 and the FY06 budget, one Highway Operations Manager and one mason position, as documented in Mr. Castanino's memorandum dated April 25, 2005.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Belmont Center Planning Group

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and discussed the latest draft proposal for a planning process for Belmont Center as written by Dr. Solomon. The Board discussed including a stipulation that the planning group will be expected to present some action recommendations before the Board of Selectmen by September 1.

The Board moved: to approve the final draft with the recommended changes.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board also discussed an appointment process for the planning group. The Board agreed to research qualified candidates for appointment as soon as possible for another discussion next Monday night.

Discussion of Senior Planner Position

The Board discussed a recent announcement by Senior Planner Tim Higgins to resign effective June 6, 2005.

The Board discussed which process should be used to replace Mr. Higgins' position. The Board stressed the importance of focusing on two main qualities the new Senior Planner should exhibit: He/she should demonstrate a superior experience with public process and he/she should have a very broad planning vision.

The Board of Selectmen noted the various accomplishments of Mr. Higgins during his tenure as Senior Planner for the Town.

Town Administrator Tom Younger said that he intends to spend time understanding how the Office of Community Development works both internally as an office and structurally before making some recommendations to the Board. Mr. Younger expects to have some recommendations ready for the Board within one to two weeks from today.

Discussion of FY06 Budget

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and discussed the Warrant Committee's budget for FY06.

The Board moved: to endorse the Warrant Committee's budget.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen briefly discussed the three capital building projects for FY06: The funding of the Magsam house, the funding of a new accounting software, and the reconstruction of the ice skating rink. Town Administrator recommended that a position be created to manage and operate the ice skating rink. The Board of Selectmen supported this idea.

Action by Consent

Approval of Minutes (03/28/05 and 04/04/05)

The Board moved: to approve all the minutes for the March 28 and the April 4, 2005 meetings.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Writing

Correspondence from Conservation Commission re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a recommendation from the Conservation Commission to appoint a new Open Space and Recreation Plan committee to revise the existing plan which is due to expire in January 2006. The Board will seek some suggestions from the Conservation Commission on this issue.

Correspondence from Residents re: Parking on Channing Road

The Board of Selectmen discussed a request from Channing Road residents Stephanie and Tim King to revisit a complaint about all-day parking on Channing Road.

The Town Administrator will follow up on this inquiry with the Police Department.

Other

The Board moved: to approve a request from the First Unitarian Church for the planting of two trees on the public green near the Church.

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

The Board discussed the three Request for Proposals received for the Waverley Square Fire Station / Butler School Building project from the following firms: Urbanica, Davis Design and Metro Boston Builders.

A representative from Urbanica Design and Development was in attendance.

The Town Administrator will provide his recommendation of a final RFP at his earliest convenience.

The Board of Selectmen encouraged the general public to review copies of these RFP's which are available both in the Community Development Office and in the Selectmen's Office.

The Town Administrator presented his Weekly Report which includes quick updates on various ongoing issues across town.

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing bargaining with non-union personnel; and further that the Board of Selectmen shall not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen adjourned its open session at 9:00pm.

Thomas G. Younger
Town Administrator