

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BHS CONFERENCE ROOM
Monday, May 9, 2011
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 6:09 pm by Chair Jones in the Conference Room at the Belmont High School. Selectmen Firenze and Paolillo were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger was present.

Macy's Proclamation for 70 Years in Belmont

The Board moved: To approve the Proclamation.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Ms. Rose Mead, a representative from Macy's, was present to give the history of Macy's in Belmont. The Board then discussed Macy's request to use an antique fire truck at the Macy's celebration. Mr. Younger will speak with Chief Frizzell about this issue.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Channing Road, Dean Street, and Chilton Road Reconstruction – Discussion and Vote

Mr. Glenn Clancy, Town Engineer, appeared before the Board to discuss the pavement restoration plan for the roads noted above. He noted that there are other roads that are in more dire need of road work repair. He noted that overlay could happen (instead of trench patch repair) for \$60K more than what was originally budgeted. He reviewed the fiscal status of several projects, e.g., Wellington watershed brook and the Winn Brook sewer back up mitigation project. He requested that the remaining stimulus money (from savings found elsewhere) be used for additional road work on New Castle, Stattler, Elliot, and Lorimer.

The Board moved: To approve the \$60K for road reconstruction plan as outlined by Mr. Clancy.

The Board briefly discussed.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

FY12 Budget and Town Meeting Discussion and Possible Vote on Warrant Articles

HR Director Diane Crimmins, Town Clerk Ellen Cushman O'Brien, and Town Treasurer Floyd Carman appeared before the Board to discuss **Article 5: Salaries of Town Elected Officials**.

Chair Jones noted that an amendment has been submitted for Article 5. Chair Jones explained that this issue goes back 15 years. He said the most recent issue had arisen when the new Town Clerk came into office a year ago. The WC concluded that \$60K should be the starting salary and the WC proposed a 4% raise for this year. Chair Jones said a professional analysis is required to see what the salary should be and what the position actually is. The WC is trying to be consistent and is trying to use empirical data as this issue goes before TM. Selectman Paolillo said that the Board of Selectmen should make the salary recommendation. The Board discussed the pay scale for elected officials. Mr. Carman said that the process has been arbitrary. He said equity is needed with the peer group of Town Treasurers and Town Clerks. Selectman Firenze said that the WC should set the salary for elected officials. Mr. Carman said that the Board of Selectmen needs to make sure that a process is place. Ms. Cushman O'Brien said that the WC can make a recommendation to TM, but that the Board establishes a consistent process whereby the jobs are classified fairly. Ms. Crimmins said the WC didn't send a subcommittee in to speak with her this year. Selectman Paolillo said again that the Board should have the authority to recommend to TM what the salary of the elected officials should be. Ms. Crimmins reviewed the raises and COLA ranges over the years. She gave a rationale for the \$72K salary number. Selectman Firenze said that there is a problem with that, as well as the fact that the spread keeps getting wider and wider each year. He said a new classification study is needed. The Board discussed the many issues related to this topic.

Selectman Firenze said the salary should be \$60K plus 2%. He said that elected officials should be given the same raise percentage as the rest of the department heads.

The Board moved: To approve the amendment to article 5.
The motion was defeated (1-2).

The Board moved: To approve Article 5.
The motion passed (2-1).

The Board moved: To reconsider the amendment to Article 5.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: For unfavorable action on the amendment to Article 5.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Accountant Search Committee Discussion and Possible Vote

The Board moved: To approve the formation of the Town Accountant search committee as suggested by Mr. Younger.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Park Signs – Discussion and Vote

Mr. Younger noted that the Park Signs refer to the non-smoking signs to be posted on fences.

The Board moved: To approve the park signs.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Day Parking Fees – Discussion and Vote

Chair Jones reviewed that the Belmont Business Association would like to not collect parking fees on Town Day.

The Board moved: To approve the waiving of Belmont Center parking fees in conjunction with Town Day for May 21, 2011.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Bid Award for This Year’s Water Main Project – Discussion and Possible Vote

Mr. Peter Castanino, DPW Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the water main project. Mr. Castanino noted that Francis, Creeley, and Goden Streets were due to have the water main replaced and the bid has come in at \$1.8M. He requested that Sardoni Trucking be awarded the bid.

The Board moved: To approve the bid award for this year’s water main project.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Recreation Budget – Discussion and Vote

Mr. Younger explained that personnel were hired to increase summer programs back in July and that he was not notified of this. He said he would need to lay off staff if this transfer was not authorized. Selectman Firenze clarified that they had the money in another account.

The Board moved: To approve the transfer of \$12,391 from Recreation Department Expenses to the Salaries account.

The Board briefly discussed.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of ZipCar Proposal for Belmont

This topic was postponed.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator