

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, June 11, 2012
8:00 AM**

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CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 8:10 am by Chair Paolillo in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Jones and Rojas were present. Interim Town Administrator Kellie Hebert was present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Permanent Town Administrator (TA) position deliberation

Chair Paolillo noted that this meeting would be taped and shown at a later time. He then noted that the TA vote was delayed for one week in order to allow time for the candidates' references to be reviewed. He said that the references were excellent. He thanked the Collins Center for their assistance in the search. Selectman Jones then moved the following:

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Peter Morin as the new Town Administrator.

Discussion:

Selectman Jones summarized the highlights of Mr. Morin's professional experience. He noted that his experience in Braintree is vast and relevant to Belmont. He said that his professional experience at the state level will be useful.

Selectman Rojas agreed that this will be a difficult decision, noting that both candidates are excellent. He said that Mr. Kale's experience is more budget focused and that Mr. Morin has a lot of general government experience.

Chair Paolillo said that the budget is the single most important issue facing Belmont and that Mr. Kale has significant budget skills as well as school budget experience. He added that the relationship with Cambridge could be helpful for Belmont. He said that the community needs a strong budget leader. He said he keeps coming back to Mr. Kale for his experience with the budget.

Selectman Jones noted that Belmont did not advertise for a budget director, it advertised for a TA, one that could be a leader and visionary for Belmont. Jones continued: It will take Mr. Kale

time to grow into the town leadership role. Belmont needs a leader now to make changes and transform the town. Leadership trumps budgeting, he offered, as this is a diverse town with diverse issues.

Selectman Rojas said that he respects Mr. Kale's budget experience in Cambridge as it is larger and in depth and it also maintains a Aaa bond rating. He said that Mr. Kale's references speak highly of his leadership skills. He added that both candidates, in fact, received glowing references on leadership skills.

Selectman Jones noted that Mr. Morin does indeed have extensive budget experience and that he turned the budget process around in Braintree. He added that the Town Treasurer is a financial officer in town and that there is no need to duplicate that skill set. Selectman Jones said that the budget comprises about 25 percent of the position. He said the TAs job is broader than budget. Selectman Rojas added that Town Meeting spends a significant amount of time discussing the budget. Chair Paolillo said he keeps coming back to the financial experience of Mr. Kale. He has broad business knowledge and he will step in and show leadership.

Selectman Jones said the department heads support Mr. Morin and that Belmont needs a leader and a strong administrator. He said it will be disappointing to a lot of people if the Board goes with a budget person.

Selectman Rojas asked for Ms. Hebert's opinion on the matter. Ms. Hebert said both are excellent candidates, are well qualified and highly respected in their communities. The decision is a difficult one since both candidates will bring different strengths to the position. The town needs to identify its priorities, determine a vision going forward, and the Board should consider who would be the best person to help the Town to do this successfully.

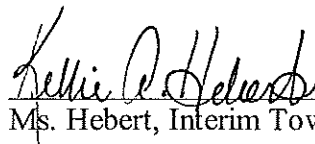
The board continued to discuss the TA candidates.

The motion did not pass (1-2). Selectman Jones voted in favor of the motion. Chair Paolillo and Selectman Rojas voted against the motion.

The Board moved: To offer Mr. Kale the position of Town Administrator.

The motion passed (2-1). Chair Paolillo and Selectman Rojas voted for the motion. Selectman Jones voted against the motion.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm.



Ms. Hebert, Interim Town Administrator