

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, June 21, 2010
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:03 pm by Chair Jones in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Firenze and Paolillo were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were none.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Belmont Center Roads Discussion

Mr. Glenn Clancy, Town Engineer, and members of the Planning Board, led by Ms. Jenny Fallon, appeared before the Board to discuss preliminary steps toward improving the roads in Belmont Center. Mr. Clancy distributed a map of the Center which highlights its major roads. Clancy noted that, while putting together a preliminary plan to address Belmont Center, he would like to begin the process by having a meeting of neighbors, business owners, commuters, etc. to scope out a concept plan and then begin to create a design plan, and then finally, a construction plan. He mentioned that the Town's traffic consultant (BSC Group) has performed well to date and there may not be a need to issue an RFP for consulting on this project. Ms. Fallon noted several issues for consideration that would impact this project, including: parking, open space, potential increase of residential space, traffic flow issues, street crossing, parking lot access, bicycles, bike path, and commuter rail station upgrades.

As a short-term measure, Mr. Clancy requested funding to make temporary improvements to the surface of Leonard Street to bridge the gap until the more comprehensive improvement project begins. Selectman Firenze advocated for this as well as an upgrade to the street lights and lighting fixtures on Leonard Street. The Board discussed and agreed that these would be good first steps to move on.

A business owner representing the Belmont Center Business Association noted that the two short-term steps of re-paving and upgrading the lighting would have the most significant benefits for the center from the business community's perspective.

\$28,500 for Feasibility Study for Consolidation of the Commuter Rail Stations

Mr. Szklut noted that there are funds available to the town from the state as a result of the Our Lady of Mercy development. He recommended that the Board should seek to allocate \$28,500 of these funds for the Town's matching portion of the MBTA feasibility study at the fall Town Meeting.

The Board moved: That the Board will submit a Warrant Article at the fall Town Meeting to appropriate \$28,500 as matching funds for a Feasibility Study for the Consolidation of the Belmont Commuter Rail Stations.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

National Grid Petition -- Dalton Rd.

Mr. Dennis Regan, from National Grid, appeared before the Board to discuss the Dalton Road Petition.

The Board moved: To accept the petition requested by National Grid, with the provision that National Grid follow the appropriate road-opening process with full road restoration.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Proposed Cell Tower Expansion in Belmont

Mr. Daniel Klasnik of Verizon, appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed Cell Tower Expansion in Belmont. Verizon wireless together with other carriers has a proposal for a tower near Route 2 (at exit 59). The Board discussed the appeal, alternative sites, zoning permits, and the Department of Transportation's jurisdiction.

Mr. Klasnik reviewed the proposal, and noted the lack of cell coverage in this area.

A resident in the audience asked the Board: what is your objection to this? Belmont's cell reception is terrible throughout town, she said, and the proposed site is near Rt. 2. Selectman Firenze replied that a cell tower will look horrible at the entrance to Belmont.

Mr. Conti pointed out that the Zoning Board and not the Selectmen will have jurisdiction over this proposal.

New Common Victualler's License -- Golden Garden

Mr. Yuan Yan, of Golden Garden, appeared before the Board to request a New Common Victualler's license for Golden Garden, 63 Concord Ave. (former Osaka site). Mr. Younger stated that all the paperwork was in order.

The Board moved: To support the license request for Golden Garden.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Water/Sewer Rates

Chair Jones noted that DPW Director Castanino has recommended slight adjustments to the Water/Sewer rates based on feedback from a public hearing held last Thursday evening. Lifeline Service residents had been slated to receive a 25% reduction, but it is proposed to increase that reduction to 30% which is the discount given by the Light Department. A service charge will be applied to the Lifeline rate, as well. These adjustments were agreed to at the recent hearing. Chair Jones noted that septic discharge rates need to be included in the report and the report was adjusted accordingly. These changes are small and will not have much impact. Overall, irrigation meter users will feel the biggest increase at 15%. Average household rates are rising at 7% this year as opposed to 5%, and Lifeline customers will see almost no increase. Chair Jones recommended that the rate changes should be explained in the first water/sewer bill. He noted that under the rate structure two-family homes with a single meter may begin to see higher rates because of usage levels in subsequent years, and that the issue would be revisited annually.

The Board moved: To accept the revised water and sewer rates as outlined in the addendum to the report of the Water/Sewer Rate Study.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Minuteman Resolution

Chair Jones noted that the revised vote from the Minuteman School Committee regarding a feasibility study arrived to the Board today. He reviewed the letter. Selectman Paolillo clarified that the first phase of the feasibility study pertains to studying enrollment. The member towns would all have to agree to continue further with the feasibility study, after the initial enrollment portion of the study is complete. The general concern is that the Town did not want to support the Feasibility Study without the enrollment needs considered fully. The Board reviewed the letter from Minuteman and noted that the language was, in places, obtuse.

Selectman Paolillo will confer with the Minuteman Study group, the Warrant Committee education subcommittee, and Belmont's representative on the Minuteman School Committee, Mr. Joseph Scali regarding this resolution. He will report back to the Board.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of FY11 Insurance Contract

Mr. Conti noted that the town's insurance coverage went out to bid via the RFP process. The consultant's recommendation is to continue with MIA for Worker's Compensation and to use Deland, Gibson for the other coverages. The town expects to save \$27K. Some of this savings could be applied to expanded coverage for the town. For example, it was advised that Belmont increase its Umbrella liability to \$2M and increase the

Buildings and Contents coverage to \$100M. Each change would cost \$5K, (which would reduce the total savings to \$17K).

Mr. Paul Neeson, from Deland and Gibson, noted that the high school was a building of concern; extensive damage to the building might justify the \$100M coverage.

The Board moved: To accept the insurance coverage recommendations outlined above.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Proclamations Policy

Mr. Conti noted that the number of requests for proclamations had increased in the spring (many with inadequate advance time notice), and presented a policy outlining the appropriate circumstances for issuing a Proclamation. Selectman Paolillo offered two potential adjustments to the Proclamation policy. Selectman Firenze asked whether the Board wanted a Proclamation policy at all or should each request be left up to the Board's judgment.

The Board discussed, and opted to think about the Proclamation policy before taking any action.

The School Committee has asked the Board to issue Proclamations for three retiring School personnel administrators: Ms. Julie Silverman, Mr. Dennis Fitzpatrick, and Dr. Gerry Missal. Selectman Firenze asked: why not honor retiring teachers, why just administrators? Chair Jones replied that the SC asked the Board to sign a Proclamation for these individuals and not retiring teachers. The Board signed the Proclamations.

ACTION BY WRITING

New License -- Livery Service

Mr. Bedros Papzian appeared before the Board to request a license for his Livery Service.

The Board moved: To approve the request by Pete's Livery Service.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Petition to Legislation -- Assessing Office

The Board moved: To request the assistance of the Town's state legislators in filing both pieces of legislation voted at Town Meeting - to change the tax billing schedule and to expand the number of liquor licenses.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Police Department -- Acceptance of Gift from Mr. Carl F. Barron

The Board moved: To accept the gift from Mr. Carl F. Barron of \$2,500 to the Belmont police Department.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Barron's gift, together with an earlier \$2,500 gift, will establish an award for outstanding achievement by a member of the department. The interest earned by the funds will pay for the award.

ACTION BY CONSENT (continued)

Approval of BOS Minutes 1/4/10, 1/21/10, 5/3/10, 5/7/10, 5/17/10, 5/25/10

The Board moved: To approve the above noted minutes.
The motion passed unanimously (i.e., 2-0 for 1/4/10 and 1/21/10 [Selectman Paolillo abstained, as these preceded his tenure], and 3-0 for the other dates).

Committee Appointments

Belmont Housing Trust

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Judith Feins, Ms. Anne Silverman, and Mr. Jonathan Jacoby to the Belmont Housing Trust.
The motion passed (2-0). Selectman Firenze abstained.

Belmont Media Center (BMC)

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Jonathan Green to the BMC Board of Directors.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Vision 21 Implementation Committee

Selectman Firenze wondered whether this committee should continue. Chair Jones decided he would meet with Dr. Solomon to discuss this committee's charge.

Conservation Committee (Con Com)

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Jeffery North to the Conservation Commission.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Younger noted that the applicants could be interviewed at a future Board meeting. Selectman Firenze noted that the structure of the Con Com is intimidating to residents. Chair Jones noted that this committee deals with intricate laws and legislation.

Constable

The Board moved: To reappoint Mr. Richard Picceri, Mr. William Chemelli, Mr. John Ehler to Constable.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Council on Aging (COA)

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Dan Leclerc to the COA.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Penny Schafer to the COA.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To reappoint Mr. Joel Semuels to the COA.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Tomi Olson to the COA.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Susan Giordano to the COA.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Planning Board

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Joe DeStefano and to reappoint Mr. Andy Rojas to the Planning Board.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Younger will contact Ms. Carla Moynihan regarding her non-reappointment to the Planning Board and to ask if she is interested in a ZBA appointment. The Board clarified that it had no concerns regarding Ms. Moynihan, but simply wanted to make the Board a bit more professionally diverse.

Municipal Light Department Advisory Board

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Patty Diorio to the BMLD Advisory Board.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Chris Henry to the ZBA.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Carla Moynihan to the ZBA, if she is interested in serving.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Historic District Commission (HDC)

The Board moved: To reappoint Mr. Joseph Cornish, Ms. Lisa Harrington (alternate), Ms. Arleyn Levee, and Ms. Lauren Meier to the HDC.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- The updated list of Selectmen's goals and objectives is complete. It now outlines responsibility levels, due dates, status, and next steps. This report will be submitted to the Board about twice a month, and changes will be highlighted. Chair Jones will review the document and provide input.
- The Health Trust balance is over \$4M and has been improving every month. The Board will revisit the Trust frequently.
- The Town's health insurance consultant, Cook and Co. will review the GIC program and compare to Belmont's rates. Cook and Co. will also compare the HMO to the PPO. Mr. Younger noted that entering the GIC involves collective bargaining.
- The Well Project is going well at the fields.
- The Mass. Department of Transportation is meeting about the duplicate utility poles. Selectman Firenze advised the town to take a strong stand against this.

OTHER

- Selectman Firenze raised the schedule of Board meetings for September. (The Board will review the dates.)
 - The RFP for Town Counsel services is moving forward.

The Board discussed the room rental policy and procedure at the Beech Street Center.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (continued)

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 9:49 pm to discuss collective bargaining and negotiations with non-union employees. The Board will not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and passed 2-1 [Jones, Paolillo aye, Firenze nay]. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 pm.)

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administra