

MINUTES
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 6, 2005
SPECIAL SESSION

Call to Order

The Board convened in open session at 1:10 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of Belmont Town Hall. All members were present.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Board's goals for FY06. This was a continuation of the Board's discussion begun on May 13, 2005.

Prior to the meeting, Town Administrator Tom Younger had circulated to the Board an outline of goals as discussed at the previous meeting. Selectman Firenze suggested adding to this draft list affordable housing and raising additional revenue from fees on certain transactions and activities to create a fund for the Town's purchase of existing housing units for conversion to affordable ones. He is especially interested in a policy of charging people for their use of town-owned land which abuts their property, on the theory that they enjoy personal use of the property without the burden of paying taxes on it.

Selectman Brownsberger talked about organizing the overall goals of the Board into three broad categories: Consensus building between the Board and other Town boards on the long-term financial plans for the Town; FY06 as a year of creative cost-controlling; and implementation of critical major projects.

The Board of Selectmen also discussed its interest in better coordinated budgeting activity with real effort made to achieve consistency across departments in the development of budgets. The Board sees the goal of creating a better working relationship between the school and town departments in the budget process as a high priority this year. This extends to more and better coordination in the area of building services between the Town and the schools.

The Board of Selectmen then discussed the process for hiring a new Town Planner to replace Mr. Tim Higgins. The Board is considering whether to create a search committee as was done to find a new Town Administrator and Municipal Light Board Manager. The Board is still mulling over the best approach for filling this critically important position in the Office of Community Development.

Selectman Firenze updated the Board on the Woodfall Road discussions with Belmont Country Club representatives. Selectman Firenze hopes that the proposal to sell the town-owned land will soon be far enough along for Community Development Director Glenn Clancy and Town Administrator Younger to make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

The Board then touched on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and O'Neil Properties and the payment that O'Neil is required to make pursuant to the MOU.

Selectman Brownsberger talked about the need for the Town to clean-up Clay Pit Pond of both groundwater and sewerage contamination.

Chairman Solomon reported to his fellow Selectmen that he would be meeting with Police Chief O'Malley to discuss police training.

The Board next talked broadly about committee appointments, and more specifically about the Historic District Commission, both its membership make-up and the authority with which it is invested by state law and by the Board of Selectmen.

The Board agreed that Mr. Younger should revise his goals and objectives outline based on what was discussed at today's meeting. It is possible that the Board will simply accept his reworked outline and not spend any more meeting time discussing it.

The Board of Selectmen adjourned its special session at 3:53 p.m..

Thomas G. Younger
Town Administrator