

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, June 7, 2010
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in Open Session at 6:34 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. IT Director Dave Petto was also present.

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter executive session to discuss deployment of security devices, and subsequently to return to open session.

Motion passed unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 6:35 PM.

(During executive session, no substantive motions were made.)

The Board returned to open session at 7:12 PM.

Mr. Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer, appeared before the Board to have the Board sign papers on a water bond previously approved by Town Meeting. The interest rate on the bond is 2%. The Board signed the appropriate papers.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were none.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

One Day Liquor License – Theatre First

Ms. Rebecca Hunter appeared before the Board to request a one-day liquor license for Theatre First on June 19, 2010.

The Board moved: To approve the liquor license request for June 19, 2010.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Report from the Sesquicentennial Committee

Ms. Viktoria Haase appeared before the Board to give a report on the Sesquicentennial Committee. The Committee is deciding how to spend its remaining budget and would like to use the funding on something lasting for the town. The Committee would like to have signs created and would appreciate the Board's feedback before proceeding. The Board and Ms. Haase discussed where the signs would be placed and the various types of signs that could be created. The committee has \$25K left and Mr. Younger said that granite would require the least amount of maintenance for the town and would be everlasting. The Board agreed that granite was the best choice. Mr. Younger advised Ms. Haase to contact the Town Administrator's office to begin the process.

Thanking Town Employees for Storm Response

Chair Jones thanked town employees for help in recovering from yesterday's micro-burst storm, which caused many trees to come down as well as power outages across town.

Permanent Audit Committee Update by Ernie Fay

Mr. Ernie Fay, Chair of the Permanent Audit Committee, and committee members, appeared before the Board to provide a Permanent Audit Committee report. Mr. Fay reviewed the names of the members who are currently on the committee. He noted that the town is required to have an audit every three years. Belmont is one of 13 cities and towns that qualifies for a AAA bond rating because of our prudent financial management. As a result, the Wellington School project was bonded at 3.7%, which is an excellent rate. The town audit went smoothly, he said, and the auditors issued an "unqualified opinion" (a high rating). The Light Department audit also went well and the auditors issued an unqualified opinion there as well.

Mr. Fay noted that Mr. Henry Hall, now a resident of Lexington, has resigned from the permanent audit committee, so there is an opening on the committee. He stated that an individual who possesses municipal legal experience and/or a CPA would be preferred.

Board of Assessors Joint Appointment

Members of the Board of Assessors appeared before the Board to discuss the appointing of a new member to the Board of Assessors. Mr. Bob Reardon noted that two well-qualified candidates came forward and met with the Assessors. He said that the Board of Assessors would like to nominate Mr. Martin Millane to the Board. He is a banker and a former Town Meeting member.

The Board moved: To appoint Mr. Martin Millane to the Board of Assessors.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

BYBA Organization Discussion

Ms. Betsy Lipson and Mr. Lee Slap of the Recreation Commission appeared before the Board to discuss the organization of the Belmont Youth basketball Association (BYBA).

Ms. Lipson said the Rec. Commission has in the past assisted the BYBA in its operations, but BYBA now does its own applications online and its registration is completely independent of the Rec. Department.

Selectman Firenze noted that there is a liability issue arising from the group's use of the school gyms. The town has insurance and if BYBA is a part of the Rec. Department, they would be covered under this insurance. The other issue, he said, is that BYBA controls its funds and would potentially lose control if they are a part of the Rec. Department. If BYBA chooses to be on its own, he said, they must cover their own insurance.

Mr. Slap noted that the School Committee asked the Town's insurer if BYBA was covered by town policy? The answer is that as presently structured, this is not considered a Town program and therefore not covered. Ms. Lipson said that to be a Town program, registration would need to flow through the town with all fees going through the town and BYBA would not have control over the money or the program. However, BYBA would receive the town's insurance coverage. Lipson said the Rec. Department's recommendation is for BYBA to become a 501(c)(3) independent organization, run their own budget, set their own fees, and obtain their own insurance.

Mr. Steve Romagna, from the BYBA, noted that the officers of the BYBA program want to keep the program running for kids in a cost-efficient way and are putting together a structure to do so independently of the town. The independent status has challenges with regard to facility access. BYBA strongly desires to maintain the level of access it has had in the past. Chairman Jones said that since the access to facilities is an important issue, perhaps the Board would issue a "Memorandum of Understanding" regarding maintaining gym access and convey its recommendation to the School Committee. The Board agreed to do this..

Oliver Road – Belmont Uplands Discussion

Mr. Gerry Natoli appeared before the Board to discuss the Belmont Uplands as it relates to flooding issues on Oliver Road. This is an ill-conceived project, he said, given the flood impact on Little Pond and Oliver Road. If this project is built, it will be a disaster. Mr. Natoli added that he would like a commitment from this Board that no permits will be issued from Belmont until the appeal(s) process is final.

Building Inspector Glenn Clancy said that he must operate strictly under the law regarding permits and does not have any authority to impose additional requirements. Mr. Natoli said that there is no pipe that can remove the water that flows out from Little Pond since the water comes up through ground.

Mr. Darrel King said that, if this area is developed, the flooding will only get much worse. If the forest gets cut and paved over, we will lose lots of root absorption, thus creating more flooding in the area.

Discussion of Proposed Library Grant

Mr. Matt Lowrie, Library Trustee Chair, and Ms. Maureen Connors, Library Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed Library grant, as there is a new round of grants for building libraries. The state could fund up to 35% of a library re-build, thus saving the town millions of dollars. The deadline for a letter of intent is October 1. Mr. Lowrie noted that the question of the site would need to be addressed and that there is a new study which suggests putting it across the street. Naming the site is necessary for the letter of intent, he said, and asked: are we willing to go in the direction of moving the library across the street? We need to know the impact of moving the library across the street and then do a preliminary assessment to see if this is an appropriate space for a new library with parking. This line of inquiry will satisfy the grant application.

The Board discussed the site issue, including how building a new library across the street impacts the electric light substation, a new police station, the rink, and the high school wing renovation (which is the next project on the list).

Mr. Lowrie will contact the School Committee to discuss this issue with them and Mr. Younger will communicate with Mr. Lowrie regarding the legal ramifications.

Goals and Objectives Discussion

Selectman Firenze noted that he and Mr. Younger have met regarding this topic. He said he would like to discuss the goals and objectives in a different format at the next Board meeting. The list of items is current, he said, but the assignment of who is accountable for what and by when, still needs more work. The document has eight primary objectives. Under each category, there are specific tasks that need to be done, but the accountability and deadline pieces need to be built in and discussed at next Board meeting.

Town Counsel RFP Discussion

Chair Jones asked about the evaluation criteria for a new Town Counsel firm. Mr. Younger replied that the criteria are based on experience, specific areas of municipal law expertise, and references. The RFP would be issued on July 1, he said, and a subcommittee would evaluate the applicants, with 3-5 names then passed on to the Board for their review.

The Board discussed the RFP and its potential timeline.

The Board moved: To move forward with the RFP for general counsel services.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Committee Appointments

Chair Jones said he would like the Board of Selectmen to not do all committee appointments and only appoint to regulatory boards. The other committee members

could be appointed by Mr. Younger. The Board agreed and Selectman Firenze added that there are too many committees and he would like Mr. Younger to come up with a list of potential committees to eliminate.

The Board discussed.

Proposed MBTA Rail Station Consolidation Grant Discussion

Mr. Jay Szklut appeared before the Board to discuss the MBTA Rail Station Consolidation grant. This grant will fund a feasibility study to consolidate the MBTA rail stations in Belmont. The MBTA is requiring a matching amount of \$28,500 from Belmont for this feasibility study. A letter would need to be sent to the MBTA stating that matching funds will be made and then the grant application is due September 1. This study would look at perspective sites, Szklut said, and the benefits of having one site on Pleasant Street could be reviewed.

Chair Jones noted that the budget is very tight, but that this request would be considered.

ACTION BY WRITING

Approval for a Handicap Sign at 9-11 Williston Rd

Mr. Conti noted that this request was investigated and it was found to be reasonable.

The Board moved: To support the handicap sign request.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of BOS Minutes 1/15/10, 1/19/10, 1/25/10, 2/1/10, 2/8/10, and 3/1/10

The Board moved: To approve the minutes specified above.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).
Selectman Paolillo abstained.

Schedule BOS Meetings and Office Hours from 7/1/10 - 12/31/10

The Board will review the dates at a later time.

OTHER

Selectman Firenze noted that some communities are placing a texting ban while driving. How would this be enforced, he asked? Chair Jones said he would inquire with the Police Department for a recommendation on this.

Mr. Younger noted that the DPW will need to request a reserve fund transfer, but at this time the specific numbers are not yet known. Also, the School Committee has requested a transfer of \$67K to cover a budget shortfall regarding special education deficits.

The Board moved: To endorse the DPW request and take no action on the SC request at this time.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 9:50 p.m. to discuss the value of real property. The Board will not return to Open Session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During executive session, no substantive motions were made. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 pm.)