

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, July 12, 2010
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 pm by Chair Jones in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Paolillo was present; Selectman Firenze was not. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Verizon Petitions D10-23 and D10-24 (withdrawn)

Chair Jones stated that since the Verizon petitions were withdrawn, he was going to contact Verizon regarding the lack of phone service at his home, which is also a cell phone "dead zone". He dialed the service number and noted that a machine will pick up. He noted that if one hits zero 0 several times, an actual person will pick up. He eventually communicated with a Verizon representative and requested a repair person. It is unclear whether the issue was resolved.

Planning Board Schedule Discussion

Ms. Jenny Fallon, Chair of the Planning Board, appeared before the Board to discuss the Planning Board schedule. Chair Jones noted that the Board rescinded the appointment of an individual to the Planning Board due to a conflict of interest as a result of his property ownership. The discussion concerned whether the position could remain unfilled for a time. Ms. Fallon noted that it was better to have full Planning Board membership due to voting quorum issues. Selectman Paolillo said that interviewing all candidates (at a Board meeting), prior to making an appointment, would have been a better process than the one the Board recently engaged in. Ms. Fallon and the Board discussed issues relating to appointments, term of service, and continuity of service.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Discussion

Mr. Martin Pillsbury and Mr. James Freas from MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) appeared before the Board to discuss the Town's proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Pillsbury noted that this plan is part of FEMA's overall plan. He noted that

FEMA would provide grant funding to a city/town in a disaster, but only if a Hazardous Mitigation Plan is in place. This plan focuses on natural hazards only: flooding, hurricanes, storms, etc. This is a pre-disaster plan and would help prevent loss of life and loss to property. It asks what actions are being taken now and what actions can be taken in the future?

Mr. Freas reviewed the risk identification and assessment steps, as well as areas in Belmont that were vulnerable to flooding. He reviewed existing mitigation measures that Belmont is engaged in and noted future areas to examine more thoroughly, including Clay Pit Pond, the Trapelo Road culvert, and the need to purchase additional brush fire fighting equipment. Adoption of the plan requires the state to approve it, then the Board of Selection would need to approve as well. Once the plan is approved, Belmont becomes eligible for the FEMA grants.

The Board discussed the grant eligibility component as well as the implementation of the mitigation plan.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- The Human Resource Consolidation group is meeting later this month.
 - The Mass. Highway Department is meeting regarding Trapelo Road and Belmont Car Wash's request for a dedicated left turn into the car wash.
 - The Underwood Pool June 2010 revenues were \$65K, which is up approximately \$19K from last year. The Board discussed how to plan fiscally for a potential catastrophic pool failure.
 - Recreation Department revenue totals for 2010 were \$690K, which exceeded the previous high in 2008.
 - Regarding MBTA poles on Trapelo Rd. and Belmont St., the MBTA raised the idea of taking the lines down and replacing trolley service with bus service, at the Town's option.
 - Home rule legislation regarding quarterly tax billing and alcohol license expansion, approved at Town Meeting, have been filed by Representative Brownsberger.
 - A study by DPW shows there are 52 public trash barrels in town. Mr. Castanino noted that 20 barrels are underused and could be removed saving \$3000 per year on the cost of having to empty them.

Belmont Religious Council – 2nd Annual “Belmont Serves”

Mr. Doug John and Mr. John Robotham, from the Belmont Religious Council, appeared before the Board to discuss the 2nd annual “Belmont Serves” event. Mr. John said that last year's event was successful and that he hoped for the Board's support for this year's event. He noted that indoor projects are nice to have lined up in case the weather is rainy. Mr. Robotham reviewed the work that was done last year. He noted that over 300 people volunteered for the event. He asked if the Board could be an official co-sponsor this year.

The Board moved: To co-sponsor the Belmont Serves event.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ICLEI – Milestone Achievement Award to Town of Belmont

Chair Jones noted that the Town of Belmont received a ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA “Milestone Achievement” Award. He noted what Belmont had accomplished to receive the award including the Climate Action Plan.

Committee Appointments

Chair Jones discussed the Vision 21 Committee and Selectman Firenze’s concern’s regarding the lack of a Board-directed charge to this group. Chair Jones said that the goals should be brought back to the Board and that has not happened thus far. He said he would be willing to support the committee if the Board had more oversight. Vision 21 Chair Tim Bowman said they needed additional appointments and in fact have two members to appoint: Ms. Jane Fineberg Kaplan and Mr. Michael Sattler.

The Board moved: To appoint Ms. Jane Fineberg Kaplan and Mr. Michael Sattler to the Vision 21 Committee.
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Ms. Jennifer Page stated that the Vision Committee has in fact met with the Board in the past, and she noted that the projects that the Vision 21 Committee undertake are evolving in nature. She asked: At what point in the Vision 21 process would the Board like to hear from members? Selectman Paolillo suggested that the Board of Selectman have a Vision 21 liaison to meet with the committee periodically.

Mr. Bowman noted that the Vision Committee intends to keep the Board up to date.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Approval of BOS Minutes 6/21/10

The Board moved: To approve the minutes noted above (6/21/10).
The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Birch St & Cherry St Signage

Mr. Conti explained that Sergeant Shea had contacted him because residents of these streets were concerned that during rush hour traffic people were cutting through, not realizing that the streets are “dead end” streets.

The Board moved: To approve the installation of two “dead end” signs on these two streets.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

ACTION BY WRITING

Committee Appointments – Belmont Education Scholarship Committee

Mr. Younger noted that there are two members who would like to be reappointed to the Belmont Education Scholarship Committee: Ms. Leslie Aitken and Ms. DeLynn Walker.

The Board moved: To re-appoint Ms. Leslie Aitken and Ms. DeLynn Walker to the Belmont Education Scholarship Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

OTHER

- Minuteman has agreed to have an enrollment study as a first phase to the feasibility study. Selectman Paolillo said the Town has received what it asked for from Minuteman. He suggested that the Board meet with the Minuteman Study Group.
- The Division of Local Services (DLS) from the state Department of Revenue (DOR) has offered to conduct a Financial Management Review study at no cost to Belmont. It is not clear what this would entail or whether it would duplicate the audits the Town already does.
- The Town of Amherst has formed a group (comprised of finance members, School department members, Town Administrator) to coordinate a better budget process. Selectman Paolillo said he will look to understand this process further and see if it could benefit Belmont.

Executive Session

At 8:27 p.m. the Board moved: To enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue (not relating to a specific individual), and to not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (2-0).

(During executive session, no substantive motions were made. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm.)