

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Monday, September 26, 2011  
7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:04 pm by Chair Jones in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Firenze and Paolillo were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Kelli Hebert were present.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

[There were none.]

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

**Annual Permanent Audit Committee Report, Ernest Fay**

Mr. Earnest Fay, Chair of the Permanent Audit Committee, and Mr. Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer, appeared before the Board to discuss the Annual Permanent Audit Committee Report. Mr. Fay began by noting the members of the Audit Committee. The audit is done yearly in Belmont, in part due to assure its Moody's AAA rating. The town, he said, received a "negative outlook" classification – as a result of the federal situation. He said Belmont will be reevaluated in 90 days and he anticipates the AAA rating will remain. He noted that the auditors were pleased with the quality of Belmont's report. Belmont's last audit report was issued in December 2010 and the last bond rating was in February 2010.

Mr. Fay noted that the Light Department was also audited recently and were given an AA- or a "stable" rating by the S & P rating agency. He noted the auditing firm that handled the Light Department. Selectman Paolillo wondered if money could be saved by going out to bid on the Light Department's auditing firm.

The Board then discussed the different rating agencies: Moody's and S & P. Selectman Paolillo said he would like to see the Light Department be rated AAA as the town is. The Board discussed that the rating agencies may rate utility companies differently than towns are rated.

**ACTION BY WRITING**

**Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust Interim Loan**

Mr. Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer, remained before the Board to request the Board's support on the Massachusetts Water Pollution Trust Interim Loan. Mr. Carman noted that three years ago the town was awarded (with Town Meeting approval) a loan of \$11.6M. The \$11.6M has been focused around three water abatement projects: the Winn Brook area, the Wellington Brook, and the town's Pumping Station. This interim loan is to bond \$1.5M, which is a part of the original \$11.6M.

He requested that the Board first approve the loan and then sign the interim loan for \$1.5M. He will return in January to request the Board to sign the permanent loan.

The Board discussed some of the existing debt service and loan commitments facing Belmont.

*The Board moved:* To approve the Water Pollution Trust Interim Loan from the Mass. Water Abatement Trust.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board members signed the interim loan.

### **Capital Budget Update**

Mr. Younger updated the Board on various Capital Budget projects that are underway and/or completed. Projects noted include the tennis court resurfacing at the PQ Park as well as Police and Fire equipment upgrades. He then reviewed the funds spent on various pavement management projects throughout town. The Board discussed the specifics of some of the Community Development capital project appropriations and the amounts of money spent.

Under Building Services, Mr. Younger reviewed the Town Hall projects: the brick wall re-pointing (which is being done in concert with the school building envelop work), attic insulation, and stained glass windows. He then reviewed the water, sewer, and other school projects, which are outside of the capital budget.

He reminded the listening audience that this information is available on the town's website.

Selectman Firenze requested to see the Wellington Building budget numbers prior to the next meeting with the WBC in October. He noted that he has been waiting several weeks to receive this information.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- He noted the first and second place winners in a Drivers' Safety contest.

- Two spaces in Belmont Center (behind the fire station) will be available for zipcars. An agreement should be signed next week. Zipcar will pay the town \$3,600 per year and this revenue will go into the general fund. Selectman Firenze noted that there are still many parking issues throughout town that are not yet resolved, e.g., parking in front of the Lion's Club, on Belmont Street, on Trapelo Road, etc. Mr. Younger noted that the smartmeters are moving forward in front of the Lion's Club and this was at the Board's request.
- Three individuals have expressed interest in being appointed to the Bike Path Committee.
- An ALS meeting with Watertown will take place next week.

## **Committee Appointments and Vote**

### ***Historic District Commission (HDC)***

Chair Jones noted that he has received emails from Mr. Michael Smith regarding the HDC appointments. Mr. Paul Bell, HDC Co-Chair, spoke from the audience saying that he would like to see the following individuals appointed to serve on the HDC: Mr. Michael Smith, Mr. Ed Bing, Mr. Peter Gunness, and Ms. Terry McCarthy from the Board of Realtors.

*The Board moved:* To re-appoint Mr. Peter Gunness as a permanent member to the HDC.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* To re-appoint Mr. Michael Smith as a permanent member to the HDC.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* To re-appoint Ms. Terry McCarthy as permanent member to the HDC.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

*The Board moved:* To appoint Mr. Ed Bing as an alternate member to the HDC.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### ***Board of Registrars Appointment – Democratic Registrar***

*The Board moved:* To appoint Mr. Bob McGaw as the Democratic Registrar.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### ***Conservation Commission (ConCom)***

Chair Jones said there has been some confusion over the ConCom associate member appointments. He read a section of the statute to provide some relevant history. The statute seemed to imply that volunteer members were not appointed by the Board of

Selectmen. However, Chair Jones noted that the volunteers have served an important role in closely following ConCom's actions. It is appropriate for volunteers to move forward with appointments. Chair Jones said that he would like to make those appointments tonight.

Ms. Miriam Weil spoke regarding the ConCom appointments. She said that the longstanding volunteers should be appointed, as they possess the information base, the training, and the history. She said they don't need to be called "associates" but they should be at the top of the list for appointments. Chair Jones said he would like to make a distinction between the voting members and the volunteers. Selectman Firenze said the non-voting members should not be at the ConCom table and that he would like to see "new blood" on the committee. Selectman Paolillo said that ConCom is using a "feeder" system and that this helps the future membership, but he concurred with Selectman Firenze those new members would invigorate the commission.

The Board discussed what to call the "members in training." Selectman Firenze said that the Board should appoint these members.

*The Board moved:* To re-appoint Mr. James Roth, Ms. Margaret Velie, and Ms. Miriam Weil to ConCom.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board agreed to call the volunteer members "associates." The Board will appoint another ConCom member at a later date.

### **Town Administrator's Report (continued)**

- The Trapelo Road (TIP) project is now at the top of the state's list. Chair Jones thanked all involved, especially Representative Brownsberger and Mr. Younger.

Mr. Younger suggested at this time that the Board vote on the Earmark Funding.

### **ACTION BY CONSENT**

#### **Approval of Federal Earmark Funding – Trapelo Rd/Belmont St**

*The Board moved:* To approve the \$329K Federal Earmark Funding for Trapelo Road/Belmont Street.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **Town Administrator's Report (continued)**

- The Winn Brook sewer issues are being reviewed.
  - The Library Trustees would like to move forward with the state grant, but the softball field issue has not been resolved.

**ACTION BY WRITING (continued)**

**New Common Victualler's License – Gen Sushi, 61 Concord Avenue**

*The Board moved:* To approve the license request as noted above (pending the occupancy permit).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**OTHER**

Chair Jones reviewed his schedule for the upcoming weeks, noting that family matters and work obligations will challenge his schedule.

**Selectman Firenze Other:**

- Grove Street scoreboard – He inquired: when will the Board decide on this issue? (The Board briefly discussed, and it was noted that perhaps at the October 17 Board meeting this issue will be raised.)

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.

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Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator