



Office of Board of Selectmen

143 Main Street, P.O. Box 310, Belmont, New Hampshire 03220-0310
Telephone: (603) 267-8300 Fax: (603) 267-8327

Selectmen's Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Belmont Mill, Tioga Meeting Room

Present were Chairman Ruth Mooney, Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman Claude Patten, Jr., TA Jeanne Beaudin, Assistant TA Alicia Jipson, DPW Director Craig Clairmont, General Assistance Director Donna Cilley, Fire Chief Mike Newhall, Kyle Dodge, Kevin Sturgeon, Ron Mitchell, Albert Akerstrom, Steve Akerstrom, B&G Supervisor Patrick Golden, Sharon Ciampi, Police Chief Mark Lewandoski, TC/TC Cynthia Deroy, Hillary Ciampi, and Jessica Ellis- Hopkins.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Claude Patten, Jr. moved the minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2022 as written; seconded by Selectman Jon Pike, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Swearing in of Town Officials- Town Clerk Tax Collector Cynthia Deroy swore in newly elected officials for the following positions: Jon Pike for Selectman, Ron Mitchell and Albert Akerstrom for Budget Committee, Jessica Ellis- Hopkins and Hillary Ciampi-Horn for Library Trustees, and Kyle Dodge for Cemetery trustee.

Organization of the Board and Committees- Selectman Patten moved to appoint Ruth Mooney as Chairman, seconded by Selectman Pike, and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Patten moved to appoint Jon Pike to serve as Vice Chairman, seconded by Selectman Mooney, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board agreed to the following assignment of Boards, Commissions and Committees; Planning Board – Selectman Pike; Budget Committee – Chairman Mooney; Heritage Commission- Selectman Patten; Conservation Commission – Chairman Mooney.

Public Hearing

Chairman Mooney opened the Public Hearing at 10:04 In accordance with RSA 31:95-b to accept a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the GOFERR Locality Equipment Matching Program for the purposes of purchasing (2) rescue boats for the Belmont Fire Department. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the grant in the amount of \$50,000 as voted on by the voters, also giving Chairman Mooney the authority to sign appropriate documents; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously. Selectman Mooney opened the floor for discussion, there being none closed the Public Hearing at 10:05.

MS232 Statement of Appropriations- TA Beaudin stated that the new budgets as voted on have been entered in by the Finance Director. All members of the Board signed the official document, then TA Beaudin will upload to DRA website.

Police Department New Hire- Police Chief Lewandoski announced that the department has hired Brendan Sica. He is an uncertified officer, but Chief feels he will be a welcome addition to our department. If agreed upon today, he will sign a 3-year contract with Belmont and be sworn in tomorrow. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the hiring of Brendan Sica to the Belmont Police Department; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Hall Flower Bed- Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden addressed the Board stating that the foundation that the flower bed in front of Town Hall sits on has failed and the bed is now leaning towards the street. It has come away from the building about 4 inches. Option 1 is to do nothing and leave it. Option 2 to replace it at a cost of \$3,000. We could also remove and replace with a bench. Ron Mitchell added that he helped build that many years ago. The reason why the planter is there is to cover up old stairs and the mess that was left behind, removing it will expose a mess that is harder to cover up. The box will not fall down. Ron suggested that you could repaint it. Selectman Mooney suggested that we leave it for now and keep an eye on it.

Public Hearing

Chairman Mooney opened the Public Hearing at 10:19 In accordance with RSA 31:95-e to accept a donation of 6 Motorola Radios with accessory equipment from the Gary Sinise Foundation; value of the donation is \$28,777.45. TA Beaudin noted that the grantor will pay directly to the vendor. The money will not come into the town. The foundation pays directly to Motorola. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the donation from the Gary Sinise Foundation; with a value of \$28,777.45; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously. Selectman Mooney opened the floor for discussion, there being none closed the Public Hearing at 10:29.

Park and Rec Budget- TA Beaudin stated that the members of the committee submitted a budget to us just prior to Town Meeting. They did not include funding for the lifeguards. We have placed additional funds to cover the hiring of lifeguards. They submitted information in regard to a job posting. We reviewed that info and made additional changes that needed to be there. They had recommended a starting wage of \$24.00 an hour, but to make it fit in the wage scale it came out to \$23.54. There was not enough money to make it full time this year and as the program grows, we expect it to be a full-time position. Donna Cilley asked as far as committees who appoints committees? TA Beaudin responded that at this time I would consider them an ad hawk committee. They are not a formal committee they don't have any authority or powers. They are just able to provide ideas and assistance. If the board wishes to

make them a formal committee they can. TA Beaudin suggested that they leave it as is and allow for this groups input.

Conservation Commission Appointment- Denise Navia has submitted her request for reappointment. Her term ends March 31, 2022, and her new appointment would run through March 31, 2025. Selectman Patten motioned to appoint Denise Navia to the Conservation Commission for a term ending on March 31, 2025; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Other New Business

Application for New Construction Exemption- Ed Crawford is intending to construct a boat storage facility on tax map 224-014. The application is currently moving through the Planning Board. This will fall under the New Construction Tax Relief Program. It will relieve 50% of any new assessment for a period of 5 years. Relief not to include the cost of the land just any buildings. If approved the relief won't start until 2023 as the construction won't start until later this year and won't be picked up for value until 2023. This is the 2nd approved application being used in town. Selectman Pike motioned to accept and approve the application for New Construction Tax Relief; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

WRBP Appointment- TA Beaudin stated that she is currently serving as the Town of Belmont representative on the WRBP. TA Beaudin is requesting that the Board assign Alicia Jipson to serve as the representative upon her retirement on June 1st. TA Beaudin will act as the alternate with voting rights. The Board voted unanimously to grant that appointment.

Meals and Room Tax- TA Beaudin noted that last week the Governor spoke of temporarily suspending the Meals & Room tax. We received an email from NHMA raising concern with this as Cities and Town's across the state receive a large amount of revenue from this. Suspension of that without knowing if the State will make up those funds is a concern. Last year the Town of Belmont received \$500,000 in revenue. If we see or hear more about that we will want to respond against it. Yes, it is a great idea and we see the need but it will have a significant impact if the funding is not there as it would increase taxes.

Old Business

DES Funding Letter- TA Beaudin commented that the warrant article failed at town meeting for the Iron & Manganese Treatment Facility. It did not receive the required 3/5 vote. We now have to send a letter to NHDES declining the funds. TA Beaudin did speak to Rick in regard to other upcoming grants and other funds. He did recommend that we do go forward. There are grants coming back in 2022. In addition, we discussed getting the preliminary engineering done on the proposed facility, so that should there be 100% grant funding available in case we were selected. We want to show that we are shovel ready. It will not have to go to town meeting if we receive 100% grant funding. We will apply for funding yet again for all grants and options that are available for us. TA Beaudin prepared the letter for DES, expressing that we wish to bring it back to the voters in 2023. Selectman Mooney signed the letter.

Operating Budget- TA Beaudin commented that the operating budget passed at Town Meeting, we have gone out and sought leasing companies for the police cruisers leases and for the street light

project. Franklin Savings Bank came back at 2.1% term of 3 years. Bancorp came in at 3.0% which is the company that we have used in the past. TA Beaudin recommends that we keep it local and move forward with FSB, and will reach back out to FSB to inquire about leasing of DPW new truck once it comes. Selectman Pike asked if we should consider FSB for all banking. TA Beaudin responded that we currently use Northway Bank as they have no fees. Pike added that FSB may offer deposit pickup. TA Beaudin responded that we can look into it and see if they have fees and the deposit pickup.

Aaron Roberts Skate Park- TA Beaudin commented that at the last meeting we asked this group if they had anyone in the survey world who could look at that spot by the FD, we have not heard back. In the meantime, TA Beaudin has reached out to the Parks n Rec program, they are having grant funding running now. If we want to move forward the town would need to apply for that now. If we move forward with using the FD site, we would not want to encumber in perpetuity that piece as we would want to leave that open to the future use of the town. TA Beaudin is seeking input from the Board, if they wish to put forward a pre-application? If we place the application, we have the ability to withdraw. Selectman Pike expressed that he feels we are running before we start to walk. We don't have a director hired yet and he feels the director should be the one to take care of this. TA Beaudin responded that she believes they will. It is 2 separate entities. You have the skate park committee trying to raise funds. Then the director will oversee it. If we don't put in this application in for this group then they won't get it. This grant would help them pay to build it. Selectman Mooney expressed that when she spoke to the Chairman of the school board, they had not heard of this committee and of their request to use school property, as was told to us by Mr. Tursi. Selectman Pike added that we were told by the school board that they would never give up any land. The school board has since told them they never got that information. TA Beaudin responded that if the grant were to go forward it does encumber that piece of land that it is on. They would do a subdivision on paper, and subdivided that piece in perpetuity for the purposes of recreation. Ron Mitchell spoke saying that we haven't had a good history with the skate parks in general. We spent a lot of money on them last time. It was in a residential area. The neighborhoods began to complain about it. It was behind the PD before and we had issues. Being behind the PD didn't stop the issues.

Selectman Mooney stated that she had been contacted by a few people who are interested in running for selectmen and they inquired about having to be present at meetings. TA Beaudin responded that as it stands currently you have to have a quorum of the Board present for your meetings. If there is a legitimate reason for them to be absent, and as long as there is a quorum present you can have your meeting. Selectman Mooney was also asked about use of electronic signing of the manifests. Will there be a way for them to electronically sign? TA Beaudin responded that we currently have a subscription through adobe which is an electronic signature option. They could also come in after hours. Not all of the paperwork can be scanned except for the signature pages. Donna Cilley asked if an individual is zooming into the meeting, how does that work with non-public. TA Beaudin responded that you would have to end all recordings, and make sure you end for the public. They will have to declare that they are alone and that no one is present with them.

Non-Public

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 11:16 a.m.; roll call was taken and those present and voting were Jon Pike, Ruth Mooney and Claude Patten. Also present were TA Beaudin and ATA Jipson.

Chairman Mooney closed the non-public session at 11:34 a.m.

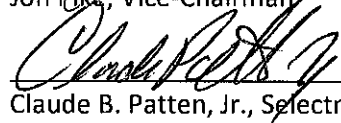
The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.



Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman



Jon Pike, Vice-Chairman



Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman