



**Minutes of the
Town of Belmont
Warrant Committee Remote Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
7:30pm**

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 25, 2024
TIME: 8:51 AM

To view the recording of the meeting, please click [HERE](#).

Call to Order: Mr. Lubien called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Member	Present	Member	Present
Geoffrey Lubien, Chair	Yes	Robert McLaughlin	Yes
Paul Rickter, Vice-Chair	Yes	Melissa Morley	Absent
Conor McEachern, Secretary	Yes	Lynn Peterson Read	Yes
William Anderson	Yes	Matthew Taylor	Yes
Tom Caputo	Yes	Marie Warner	Yes
Fitzie Cowing	Yes	Jack Weis	Yes
Susanne Croy	Yes	Roy Epstein, Ex-officio Designee, Select Board	Yes
Deepak Garg	Yes	Meghan Moriarty, Ex-officio, School Committee	Yes
Anne Helgen	Absent		
Staff			
Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator		Jennifer Hewitt, Assistant Town Administrator & Finance Director	Yes

1. Fiscal Compact Discussion and Vote

Mr. Lubien explained that because of the edits offered last week he is asking the Committee review and hopefully vote to approve the Framework. He explained that he along with Mr. Epstein, Ms. Moriarty, Ms. Garvin, and Dr. Geiser will work together to create an advisory group who will take this framework and create a full compact, which will then be discussed and hopefully endorsed by the committees.

Mr. McLaughlin expressed his concern that this Framework and compact violate the law that states that no public resources can be used to advance a position. There was a discussion of this concern, and if the wording should be modified to avoid this conflict.

Ms. Garvin read the guidance that the Select Board received from Town Counsel when it wanted to make a statement such as this:

“Officials may endorse or vote as a body to endorse a ballot question and may issue statements supporting or opposing a ballot question. However, the distribution of such statements should be restricted to such usual methods as posting on the bulletin board or press release”.

She added that what is *not* allowed is the use of public funds or staff to distribute this type of statement.

There was further discussion of the text of the Framework, the issue of supporting a position, and the proposed working group.

Mr. Lubien outlined some possible next steps, which were discussed. It was decided to incorporate the suggested edits and for the group to meet again on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 in order to consider approval of the document.

2. Liaison Updates:

Select Board: Mr. Epstein reported on a topic that would be discussed at their upcoming meeting.

Town Administrator: Ms. Garvin reported that the Override Impact Calculator is up and running and they are receiving good feedback. Ms. Hewitt offered to try to attend the department head meetings.

Library Building Committee: Mr. McLaughlin reported that the library is not being burned down, but rather a mist is being used to keep the dust down.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment

Mr. McLaughlin moved to adjourn the meeting of the Warrant Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Next Meeting: date/time

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny
Recording Secretary