

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
FINANCIAL TASK FORCE
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Friday, April 25, 2014
8:00 AM**

2014 JUN - 4 PM 1:50
RECEIVED

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Financial Task Force (FTF) was called to order in open session at 8:05 a.m. by Selectman Paolillo in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Town Administrator David Kale and Assistant Town Administrator Marshall were present.

FTF Members Present: Mr. Justin Amico, Mr. James Conroy, Ms. Anne Marie Mahoney, Mr. James Williams, Mr. Andrew Levin, Dr. Kingston, Ms. Graham, Ms. Anne Helgren, and Mr. Angelo Firenze

Members Absent: Mr. Charles Laverty, Mr. Daniel Dargon, Mr. Charles Clark, Mr. Paul Lisanke, Mr. Tony DiCologero, Ms. Laurie Slap, Mr. Floyd Carman and Mr. James Tzouvelis

Selectman Paolillo reviewed the agenda, noting that the subcommittees have been meeting. He noted that during the Annual Town Meeting the FTF would present a report and timeline would be presented, as well.

Report by Sub-Committee Chairs

Education – Supplemental Revenue Report

Dr. Kingston stated that the Supplemental Revenue (non-taxpayer revenue) subcommittee has submitted its report, but that the School Committee will be reviewing the report. He highlighted that supplemental resources included entitlement grants and discretionary grants as well as generous funding from the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE). He said the PTO and PTA groups raise money to support the curriculum within their schools. User fees for activities are supplemental sources of funds for sports and music. Supplemental funding sources, he said, have risen from 8% to 12%.

There are four recommendations, coming out of the Supplemental Revenue report:

- Establishment of Naming Rights bylaw
- Seek private funds for renovation of the Harris Field box office
- Hire a consultant for corporate fundraiser/grant identification for the schools
- tweak the user fees so that they are "more compassionate"

Dr. Kingston said that, once the School Committee has reviewed the report, and then the data, facts, and figures will be released. The concept of a Naming Rights bylaw was discussed. The idea of hiring a professional grant writer to uncover various grants and private funding was discussed. Ms. Helgren raised the issue of an endowment fund (or dedicated fund), which would

be funded from donations from successful alumni of BHS. She said Brookline High School has an endowment fund and other local high schools also charge a fee for program participation. Dr. Kingston said that several organizations do use BHS and are charged a fee for use of the building.

Revenue Opportunities

Mr. Kale said that the group has met and has gathered data regarding the fees town-wide. He said a report will be issued soon and will include information on the PILOT programs and on parking revenue opportunities.

Capital Budget Projects

Ms. Mahoney said that the Capital Projects subcommittee has met and is looking to update the Police and DPW feasibility studies and reviewing the incinerator site, the Belmont Center project, and parking issues across town as potential capital projects including costs and timeline for development. Mr. Firenze noted that there is a town-owned barn (near the public gardens, across from McLean) that could be used for a function hall space. Selectman Paolillo said that capital projects and maintenance issues remain an ongoing challenge for the town. Ms. Mahoney added that the Butler School, Winn Brook School, and Burbank School will eventually need to be renovated as they are getting older and issues are arising. Selectman Paolillo added that, with enrollment increasing, a new elementary school will need to be discussed at some point in the near future – although space for a new school remains unclear.

Financial Projections – Town Government

Mr. Kale said that interviews are being conducted with the DPW and Community Development, regarding how the departments are running. He said meetings have been held with Arlington and Winchester to see what they are doing and how they are handling some of the same challenges Belmont is facing. Mr. Firenze added that Marblehead is a community similar to Belmont and, as such, should be evaluated as well.

FTF Timeline

Mr. Kale reviewed the FTF timeline, noting that the schedule and the charge of the Task Force has been ambitious. Selectman Paolillo will provide an initial report to Town Meeting (TM) in May. A final report will be ready for the Fall TM. The information collected has been useful, but it needs to be put into an executive summary format. Recommendations will need to be assessed and all of this will require that the report occur in the fall (as opposed to August).

Ms. Mahoney suggested that the May report raise awareness of the FTFs charge without offering conclusions.

Schedule Follow-Up Meetings

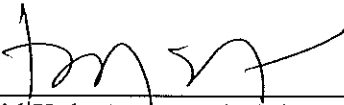
Mr. Kale noted that the FTF is slated to meet on the last Friday of each month at 8:00 a.m.

Next FTF meeting: Friday, May 30 at 8:00 a.m.
Friday, June 27
Friday, July 25

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of March 28, 2014 were approved.

The FTF moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 a.m.



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator