



**Minutes of the
Town of Belmont
REGULAR SESSION
of the
SELECT BOARD
June 3, 2024**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: July 9, 2024
TIME: 3:12 PM

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

Approved by Select Board:
Friday, June 28, 2024

I. Call to Order: Mr. Epstein called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Select Board Members	Present	Town Staff Attending	
Roy Epstein, Chair	Yes	Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator	Yes
Elizabeth Dionne, Vice-Chair	Yes	Jennifer Hewitt, ATA/Finance Director	Yes
Matthew Taylor, Member	Yes	Dave Blazon, Director of Facilities	Yes

II. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS. Chair Epstein made the following announcements:

- Belmont Farmers Market Opening June 6, 2024.

III. ACTION BY CONSENT: Proclamation in Honor of Dr. Peter Holland

It was decided to approve the Proclamation in this meeting and then read it at Town Meeting.

A Motion was made to approve the Proclamation in Honor of Dr. Peter Holland. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Peter B. Holland was born in Louisville, Kentucky into a family of six, all embracing a love of family, faith, education and baseball, values guiding his life. He majored in and taught physics, later becoming principal, at a challenging Baltimore high school. In 1980 Peter pursued a doctorate at Harvard's School of Education where he met and married Bea Mah, becoming a father to two young daughters. He and Bea cherished family, friends, cooking, gardening, camping, traveling, coaching and the Red Sox.

WHEREAS: Peter became an assistant superintendent in Lynnfield, Massachusetts, also becoming a valued mentor for superintendent interns, a role he continued for decades. In 1988 he came to Belmont as its superintendent, serving for 20 years. Upon retirement the high school library was renamed the Peter B. Holland Library "with gratitude for his clarity, compassion and humor in guiding the district for 20 years with an unswerving focus on the best interests of the students."

WHEREAS: Peter believed that good, equitable schools make a difference. As a teacher and an administrator, he focused on what was best for students: what kinds of people they would become. Seen as highly intelligent, curious, generous and, above all, kind, he worked collegially with the School Committee and administrators, regularly visiting classrooms to meet teachers and students, attending student events, and emphasizing rigorous teacher evaluation and hiring talented staff. An active METCO supporter, he proposed that the School Committee meet with parents in Boston to describe their children's programs and to listen to concerns. He saw the schools as a resource for the entire community, encouraging teachers to run workshops not only to help parents understand their child's curriculum but for all citizens to learn.

WHEREAS: Peter introduced or supported a number of district innovations: long range planning, staff development, increased advanced placement classes, greater student community service, eighth grade algebra, and expanded fine and performing arts. Memorably, during the 1995 school strike he kept schools open and after the July Chenery fire that year, arranged for

43 the successful move and housing of the entire middle school student population at the
44 high school for the September start of school.

45 WHEREAS: While Peter worked to bring Belmont schools to a new level, personally frugal, he was
46 sensitive to financial pressures on the town and taxpayers. He contained costs by
47 supporting the regionalization of school services: housing the LABBB Collaborative to
48 provide regional special needs services and joining EDCO to obtain regional staff
49 development and purchasing programs. In addition, he supported Belmont's Foundation
50 for Education, attending meetings and even offering administrative staff dinners for auction
51 and fun. Eminently approachable with a warm sense of humor and facility with numbers,
52 he instilled confidence working with town officials and explaining budgetary issues to Town
53 Meeting.

54 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Select Board of the Town of Belmont joins with the
55 Town in recognizing the hard work, commitment, talent and dedication that Dr. Peter B Holland showed
56 to this community and to its schools. Dr. Holland's tireless efforts to transform the quality of our town's
57 education and build bridges between school administrators, teachers, parents, town officials and its
58 citizens serves as an inspiration to all who have followed.

59 THE SELECT BOARD

60 **Discussion and Vote to Update FY2025 Rates for Lifeline Customers**

61 Mr. Hewitt explained that the Lifeline water and sewer rates the Board approved in April were stated
62 incorrectly, and this action is to correct that error. The fixed charge was too high, but the volumetric charge was
63 too low although she said it appears that there will be no impact on customers.

64 She highlighted that the overall increase in Water revenue is 3%, but the rate itself is increasing by 4% due to
65 an adjustment that needed to be implemented. She explained that the municipal (wholesale) rate covers the
66 cost of MWRA services only, not the maintenance of the system. This maintenance cost had not been factored
67 into the model which is why there was an adjustment. This adjustment will not happen again.

68 Mr. Blazon said these rates would come into effect on August 1st.

69 *A Motion was made to approve the proposed FY2025 Lifeline charges as follows:*

- 70 ○ *Water Volumetric Charges per Ccf Lifeline Rate 5.04*
- 71 ○ *Water Minimum Monthly Charges Lifeline Rate 4.41*
- 72 ○ *Sewer Volumetric Charges per Ccf Lifeline Rate 10.58*
- 73 ○ *Minimum Monthly Charges Lifeline Rate 4.14*

74 *The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

75 **Discussion and Possible Vote to Award the Following Facilities Contracts:**

76 **a. FY2025 HVAC Services to Ambient Temperature Control (ATCO) of Newburyport, MA**

77 Mr. Blazon explained that ATCO is the current HVAC maintenance company and spoke about the benefits
78 of using this company. This is their third and final renewal, and the work will go out to bid for FY26.

79 *A Motion was made to award the FY2025 Contract for HVAC Services to Ambient Temperature Control*
80 *(ATCO) of Newburyport, MA in the amount of \$396,997. The motion was seconded and passed*
81 *unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

82
83 **b. FY2024 Facility Condition Assessment Contract to Gordian of Boston, MA**

84 Mr. Blazon explained that the assessment is part of the work they have done with the Comprehensive
85 Capital Budget Committee. He outlined some of the benefits of using Gordian and pointed out that
86 Lexington, MA uses them and are very happy with their services. Mr. Blazon then explained the scope of the
87 assessment, which was discussed. He then explained how the report would be structured and what would
88 be included.

89 Ms. Hewitt said that the goal is to get a comprehensive list of all the assets in Town to help prioritize needed
90 work and funds.

91 *A Motion was made to award the FY2024 Facility Condition Assessment Contract to Gordian of Boston,*
92 *MA in the amount of \$123,262. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

93 **Discussion and Possible Vote on Request for One-Day Liquor License (All Alcohol) from the Holy**
94 **Cross Armenian Catholic Church, 200 Lexington Street, Belmont, for a Fundraising Event on June 9,**
95 **2024 from 7:00 – 11:00 PM**

96 Mr. Epstein asked if the fees for these licenses are satisfactory. Ms. Garvin said she believes they are capped
97 under the statute, but she will check.

98 *A Motion was made to grant the approval for a one-day liquor license permit (All Alcohol) to Reverend*
99 *Fr. Ghazar Bedrossian of the Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church, 200 Lexington Street, Belmont, on*
100 *Sunday, June 9, 2024 from 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM for a fundraising event conditional upon satisfying the*
101 *concerns raised by the Fire Chief. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

102 **Discussion and Possible Vote on Articles and Possible Amendments for the 2024 Annual Town**
103 **Meeting – Segment B**

104 Ms. Garvin said no amendments have been received for Annual Town Meeting, however there was a
105 suggestion to draft a statement about not offering hybrid meeting option that will likely be a topic at the
106 meeting.

107 Ms. Dionne explained that she has been receiving a lot of feedback about this but that it's impossible to switch
108 back to a hybrid meeting at this time due to staffing issues in the IT Department. .

109 Ms. Garvin said this might also be an issue for Fall Town Meeting.

110 Ms. Dionne pointed out that the Town Moderator will probably be new in the spring, and a hybrid meeting then
111 might also be an issue. She also spoke about unkind comments that some staff have been receiving because
112 of this issue.

113 There was a discussion of the problems of doing a hybrid meeting, and how to proceed.

114 Ms. Dionne drafted a statement about this issue, and the Board discussed whether it should be sent from her
115 alone or from the entire Board, and if there should be a policy on this type of communication. Ms. Dionne will
116 send her statement to Town Meeting members.

117 **Discussion and Vote on Special Town Meeting Articles**

118 Article 2: Ratify Select Board approval of Revised Transportation Plan for McLean Development. An
119 amendment for this article has been received and Mr. Epstein explained why, as a motion to postpone
120 indefinitely, it would be more efficient to hold a discussion on the amendment at the the June 5, 2024 meeting.
121 There was a discussion of how to proceed, and Yolanta Eckert commented that she thought more public input
122 was needed on the revised TMMA.

123 Article 3: Supplemental Budget Request for Municipal Skating Rink Project. There was no discussion of this
124 article.

125 **Other Business Not Anticipated by the Chair: None**

126 **Committee & Liaison Reports: None**

127 **Recess**

128 *A Motion was made to recess the Select Board to Town Meeting. The motion was seconded and*
129 *passed unanimously by 3-0 vote. The Board went into recess at 6:04pm.*

130 Respectfully submitted by,

131 Susan Peghiny, Recording Secretary
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