

Warrant Committee
June 14, 2021 6pm

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: June 28, 2021
TIME: 2:24 PM

Members in Attendance

Warrant Committee: Laurie Slap, Paul Rickter, John Alcock, Jennifer Fallon, Elizabeth Goss, Anne Helgen, Geoffrey Lubien, Robert McLaughlin, Lynn Read, Dan Halston, Mike Crowley, Jack Weis, Elizabeth Dionne

Others in Attendance: Jon Marshall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

I. Discuss/Voted on Motions and Amendments for Town Meeting.

Points Raised during Discussion to Reconsider Article 16

- The resident who filed a motion to reconsider this article claims that there was information that was not presented or available at the time of the original vote. There are several factors that are taken into consideration when reopening discussions and voting on previously voted on motions. If the Warrant Committee believes there is new information to consider then they should vote to reconsider the Article.
- New information was revealed from the consultant close to the end of the Town Meeting discussion regarding the environmental conditions of the tanks. Members discussed whether this information is significant enough to reconsider the Article.
- Ms. Goss had a recent discussion regarding the insurability of the tanks with the local insurance company cited in the Town Meeting discussion. Tanks are in general insurable but the circumstances surrounding Belmont's tank situation make it difficult, and so far unsuccessful, to insure. Insurance companies are hesitant to insure tanks that are going to be removed.
- The argument to reconsider is based on the idea that there was not a complete picture that allowed Town Meeting members to make the best decision possible.
- The town has made multiple efforts to insure the tanks.
- The information around the idea that the tanks are leaking seems very ambiguous. It is normal for the tanks to "drip and drab". This information was brought up right before the vote took place at Town Meeting.
- The town has been pressure testing the tanks to ensure that there are not any significant leaks. The need to have to act immediately is probably overstated. The risk for delaying this motion is minimal.

- The project could be reconfigured to purchase smaller tanks rather than larger tanks after Town Meeting approval. If the town needs to bring this project to next spring the money would not be available until after July 1st. The lead time of acquiring tanks takes months which should be taken into consideration.
- If the project is clearly not going forward then the money would revert to the Capital Budget.

Motion: Ms. Fallon moved unfavorable action, based on lack of new information, to reconsider Article 16, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin (Motion passed, roll-call vote: Alcock, Fallon, Halston, Helgen, McLaughlin, Read, Slap, Weis, Crowley voted yes. Goss, Lubien, Rickter, Dionne voted no.)

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 6/23/21. This will be the wrap up meeting for the Warrant Committee. Mr. Lubien will figure out the logistics of the meeting if it will be in-person.

The Public Safety Subcommittee had several meeting minutes to discuss for approval.

Motion: Mr. Alcock moved to approve the Public Safety Subcommittee meeting minutes from March 18, 2021, April 1, 2021 and April 28, 2021 (Motion passed unanimously: Alcock, Helgen, Doyle, Halston, Read voted yes. Ms. Read abstained from voting on the meeting minutes for 4/1/21.)

VI. Adjournment.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting (Motion passed unanimously).

6:32pm

Submitted by
Katie Luczai