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BELMONT, MA

DATE: September 21, 2023
TIME: 8:59 AM

Minutes of the
Town of Belmont
Warrant Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
7:30pm



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

Call to Order: Mr. Lubien called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. 13 Voting Members.

Member	Present	Member	Present
Geoffrey Lubien, Chair	Yes	Lynn Peterson Read	Absent
Paul Rickter, Vice-Chair	Yes	Laurie Slap	Absent
William Anderson	Yes	Matthew Taylor	Yes
Tom Caputo	Yes	Marie Warner	Yes
Christine Doyle	Remote	Robert McLaughlin	Yes
Anne Helgen	Remote	Jack Weis	Yes
Conor McEachern	Absent	Mark Paolillo, Ex-officio Designee, Select Board	Yes
Robert McLaughlin	Yes	Meghan Moriarty, Ex-officio, School Committee	Yes
Staff		Staff	
Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator	Yes	Jennifer Hewitt, Assistant Town Administrator & Finance Manager	Yes

FY24 Budget Update

Ms. Hewitt reviewed the final Town budget numbers, which are available on the Town website. She then explained how the document is structured, including a section with the Select Board final recommendations.

She then reviewed the individual sections that have changed and the impacts of the changes, including the total Free Cash use.

There were questions and a discussion of Ms. Hewitt's presentation.

Ms. Hewitt reviewed the School Department budget sections, which she and Mr. DiCologero worked on together, that have changed and the impacts of the changes.

There were several clarifying questions asked.

Ms. Hewitt explained that the old rink will not be used next year so those revenues of \$175,000 will not be available. However, there won't be rink expenses of \$243,000 either so the net difference of \$68,000 will go into the Recreation School Year Program area. This will have no net effect on the overall budget.

There were some questions and discussion of Recreation plans and financing.

Ms. Hewitt explained some salary readjustments and realignments within the budget that have occurred in various departments.

She pointed out that the Capital Committee found \$179,029 of turn backs from prior authorizations which was added to Discretionary Capital Funding.

Ms. Hewitt said the Select Board voted to approve the total budget of \$151,026,937 the previous Monday. She hopes to publish the full budget later in the week, which will include the Water & Sewer Budget.

Review of Draft Warrant Committee Report

Mr. Lubien explained the work that he has done to clean up the document and pointed out some items that are still needed.

The Committee then reviewed and discussed each section of the draft. He asked that any edits please be sent to him, not the whole committee.

34 There were some questions and discussion of various sections and what remains to be done. Mr. Lubien also
35 reviewed next steps.

36 **Review Warrant Committee Calendar**

37 Mr. Lubien reviewed the upcoming calendar and what is planned for the meetings:

- 38 • May 17: Discuss & Vote Warrant Committee Report, Discuss ATM Segment B Articles
- 39 • May 18: Final Warrant Committee Report Due to Town Clerk
- 40 • May 24: Review FY23 Q3 School Financials, Final Discussion & Vote on ATM Segment B Articles.
- 41 • May 25: LWV Warrant Briefing Night
- 42 • May 31: ATM Segment B
- 43 • June 5: ATM Segment B
- 44 • June 7: ATM Segment B
- 45 • June 12: ATM Segment B
- 46 • June 14: Discuss & Vote any Reserve Fund Requests, Discuss ATM, Discuss FY25 Budget & Process
- 47 • June 25: Discuss any year-end business or comments, TBD, Last meeting of the spring.

48 Mr. Lubien asked that Subcommittee Chairs share their reports with the Department Heads that they have met
49 with.

50 **Approve minutes (if any), including all outstanding subcommittee or working group minutes.**

51 April 26, 2023:

52 *Ms. Helgen moved to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2023 Warrant Committee meeting. Mr.*
53 *McLaughlin seconded, and the motion passed 12-0-1 by show of hands vote with Mr. Anderson*
54 *abstaining.*

55 **Liaison Reports:**

- 56 A. Select Board: Mr. Paolillo reported on the Water & Sewer Public Forum, saying that the intent is still to
57 vote on May 22.
- 58 B. School Committee: Ms. Moriarty reported that they received about \$181,000 in circuit breaker
59 reimbursement. Ms. Helgen asked if this money would affect what might be received next year. Ms.
60 Moriarty said it is just for this year. Ms. Helgen then asked if there was any progress getting the 14%
61 Special Ed increase partially reimbursed, and Ms. Moriarty said there was nothing definite yet.
- 62 C. Rink Building Committee: Mr. Caputo reported that they are working to get a demolition package
63 together and pursuing a Construction Manager at Risk through the RFP process. There will be a
64 separate bid package prior to demolition for the unusual electrical situation at the site.
- 65 D. Library Building Committee: Mr. McLaughlin reported that 2 contract requests will be issued: one to
66 demolish the existing building and the other to build the new one. This will save time so construction
67 can start in the spring. Mr. Weiss asked about temporary sites for the Library, and Mr. McLaughlin said
68 nothing is firm yet. Ms. Moriarty said there have been some discussions with the schools.

69 There was a discussion of the Library and Rink demolitions happening at the same time, as well as parking
70 and traffic issues will create.

71 **Public Comment** – there was no public comment.

72 **Adjournment**

73 **Motion**: *Mr. McLaughlin moved to adjourn the meeting of the Warrant Committee. Ms. Warner*
74 *seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.*

75
76 **Next Meeting**: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 7:30pm

77 Respectfully submitted by,

78 Susan Peghiny, Recording Secretary
79