



Actions taken at the Special Town Meeting held August 20, 2018 at the Belchertown High School Veterans' Auditorium

Moderator – Joseph Bernard

Meeting called to order 7:38pm

Registered voters present 355 – (Quorum requires 75)

Town Moderator, Joseph Bernard, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

*(Amended Motions were received by the Town of Belchertown on August 20, 2018 prior to the start of the Special Town Meeting. Moderator conferred with Town Council and decision was made to proceed with amended articles.)*

**Article 1**      *Citizens Petition* - Voted not to reverse the Towns prior authorization to the Board of Selectmen to enter into Real and Personal Property Tax Agreements with Syncarpha Solar, LLC, or its affiliated entity relative to a one hundred and one (101) acre +/- tract of land consisting of six (6) parcels of land located at 38 North Street, Belchertown, MA related to the proposed construction and operation of a commercial Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations(s) with an expected aggregate nameplate capacity of approximately 7.5 MW AC.

After some discussion a motion was made and seconded to move the question. Moderator indicated that he chose not to entertain the motion. Town Council explained that it is the Moderators decision whether or not to allow more discussion or move the question. More discussion ensued.

A second motion was made and seconded to move the question. Again, the Moderator explained that he would not be choosing to entertain the motion and discussion continued.

A third motion was made and seconded to move the question. The Town Council asked to have the motion removed and continue on with process of voting.

Voice vote was called and moderator indicated it was too close to call and called for a hand count.

(Vote – Majority Required – 153-Yes, 162-No    Did not pass)

**Article 2**      *Citizens Petition* - Voted the Town direct the Board of Selectmen to submit to the Planning Board, for its consideration at a public hearing pursuant to MGL ch. 40A, Section 5, a proposal to amend chapter 145-28(B) to add the following thereto: “(3) Under no circumstances shall a special permit be issued hereunder for a solar photovoltaic installation on forested land if the construction of said installation will require land clearing of four (4) acres or more.

Town Council advised articles 2 and 3 are non-binding and advisory only.

After some discussion, motion made and seconded to move the question.  
(Vote on motion to move the question - Majority Required - Majority Yes)

(Vote – Majority Required – Majority Yes)

**Article 3**      *Citizens Petition* - Voted the Town direct the Board of Selectmen to submit to the Planning Board, for its consideration at a public hearing pursuant to MGL ch. 40A, Section 5, a proposal to amend chapter 145-28(B) to add the following thereto: “(4) Under no circumstances shall a special permit be issued hereunder for a commercial solar photovoltaic installation, if there exists, or a permit has been issued or requested for, a commercial solar photovoltaic installation, and any portion of such

preexisting (or previously proposed) installation is sited within a two mile radius of the proposed installation.

Moderator explained this was a non-binding article and simply a referral to the Planning Board.

(Vote – Majority Required – Majority Yes)

Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm

Attest:

Colleen K. Toothill-Berte  
Town Clerk