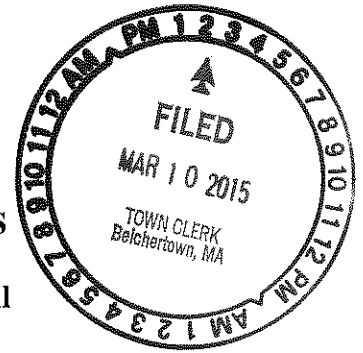


**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



**Present:** Brenda Q. Aldrich, Ronald E. Aponte, George D. Archible, William R. Barnett

**Absent:** Kenneth E. Elstein

1) **Call to Order:** Chairman Aldrich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) **Sign Documents:**

- a) Warrant #1521 was signed for \$2,048,286.42.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of August 25, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 4 – 0. Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of September 8, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 4 – 0. Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of October 20, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 4 – 0.

3) **Additions to the Agenda:**

4) **Appearances Before the Board:**

- 7:35 p.m. Board of Assessors – Classification Hearing: Jay Whelihan, Director of Assessments spoke on behalf of the Board of Assessors. He presented the values for 2015, discussed the FY15 recap, discussed budget planning documents. He reviewed the FY14 and FY15 average values. If approved the average increase will be about \$140 year at \$17.89 / thousand.

He reviewed tax rates in comparable communities. The slides were reviewed showing various intervals based on shift by percent to business. Mr. Whelihan feels Belchertown does not have enough business to split the rate.

The Board of Assessors is recommending a tax rate utilizing a factor of one. Mr. Barnett moved the Board endorse FY15 tax rate utilizing a factor of one. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0

Ms. Aldrich questioned why the residents of Pine Valley Plantation are not billed directly as opposed to the present method of sending a bulk bill to Pine Valley.

Mr. Dion feels Pine Valley is doing the Assessors' work. He wants to be billed directly. It was agreed that this should be discussed at a Board of Assessors meeting. At that time the Assessors should decide how to bill Pine Valley residents.

5) **Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Endorse PVPC Invoice #23 – FY Regional Community Assistance Program: Mr. Aponte moved the Board endorse PVPC #23 for services rendered to administer FY12 Belchertown Regional Community Assistance Program in the amount of \$2,365.67. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- b. Environment Massachusetts – Support Letter for Solar Energy in Massachusetts: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. Environment Massachusetts is asking for letters of support to make solar energy a key element of Massachusetts energy future. Mr. Barnett moved the Board send a letter of support for Solar Energy in Massachusetts to the Governor Elect Charlie Baker. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – yes, 1 – no (Aponte).
- c. Vote to Waive Hearing for Class III License: Mr. Aponte presented the details; Mass General Law requires a hearing for Class III licenses. He indicated that the Board has waived this hearing as allowed by Mass General Law. Mr. Aponte moved the Board waive the hearing requirement. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- d. Appointment of Assistant Animal Control Officer: Per the recommendation of Anna Fenton, Animal Control Officer, Mr. Archible moved to appoint Lawrence Belbin to the position of Assistant Animal Control Officer effective immediately, term to expire April 30, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- e. Appointment of Senior Center Day Care Program Assistant: Per the recommendation of Bill Korzenowski, Senior Center Director, Mr. Aponte moved to appoint Karel Larson to the position of Supportive Day Care Assistant effective December 1<sup>st</sup>. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- f. Begin Endorsing 2015 Licenses: Mr. Barnett provided a brief overview regarding the annual licenses for 2015. The Board agreed to begin endorsing the licenses.
- g. Review Site Plan Application for Sumner Heating Company, 1066 Federal Street: Following a discussion, Mr. Archible moved the Board recommend the Planning Board proceed with the site plan review as the request is consistent with prior approvals. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- h. Review Draft of Special Town Meeting Motions: The Board reviewed the Draft Motions for the Special Town Meeting.
- i. Vote to Meet Prior to Special Town Meeting: Mr. Aponte moved the Board hold a brief meeting prior to the Special Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- j. Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 7: Mr. Aponte moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 7 and not to reconvene in open meeting. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Roll call vote: Aldrich – yes, Aponte – yes, Archible – yes, Barnett – yes.
- k. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

6) **Town Administrator's Report:** Mr. Brougham stated that Pelham Auto, one of the town's license holders's, is seeking an expansion from the current limit of ten cars to 20 vehicles. There have been no problems with this license holder and questioned the Board if they want to hold a public hearing to discuss the requested increase. Mr. Barnett feels if they are doubling their size a hearing should be held. All Board members were in agreement that a public hearing should be held.

Mr. Brougham reminded the Board that tomorrow night is the public hearing at 7:30 for the amended zoning for the former Belchertown State School, the business neighborhood center. The Planning Board will be conducting that hearing.

He asked that everyone who can attend Town Meeting, please do so. We need 75 residents to get these few articles taken care of and there are a couple that are critical to the ongoing development of the former Belchertown State School grounds.

He will also make sure the Chairman of the Finance Committee is aware of the decisions the Board made regarding Special Town Meeting.

7) **Review of Weekly Mail:** Mail reviewed, no discussion held.

8) **Individual Board Members' Reports:**

Mr. Barnett: Thanked those that attended the Hampshire Council of Governments Legislative summit. The League of Women's voters were also in attendance.

Mr. Aponte: Congratulated the Boys High School soccer team on a successful season.

Ms. Aldrich: Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

9) **Questions from the Press:** None.

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: March 9, 2015

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

Brenda Q. Aldrich  
Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman

Ronald E. Aponte  
Ronald E. Aponte

(absent)  
Kenneth E. Elstein

William R. Barnett  
William R. Barnett

George D. Archible