

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019
Special Meeting
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



Present: Nicholas O'Connor, George D. Archible, Gail Gramarossa, Brenda Q. Aldrich

Absent: Ed Boscher

Call to Order: Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Sign Documents:

a) Warrant #1934 was signed in the amount of \$1,857,928.84.

3) Discussion/Action Items: Cook & Company – Vote to Adopt MGL Ch. 32B, Sections 21 – 22: Mr. O'Connor reminded everyone that the Board had tabled the vote on MGL Ch. 32B, Sections 21 & 22 after a lengthy discussion. The Board had entered into it last year but then tabled it to get some readjustments of the benefit plan design. He questioned if the Board had done the research that they wanted to do last week and if they are prepared to vote on it.

Ms. Aldrich moved the Board vote on Ch. 32B, Sections 21 – 22. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible.

Ms. Gramarossa thanked Sue and Jill from Cook & Company for coming back out tonight. She had a general question for them. If this is approved the public employee committee (PEC) has the conversation around with how to deal with the 25% of the savings that are incurred with the plan design changes. The question is if the Board does not approve taking on those sections, the plan has those savings built in she assumes and asked what happens to those savings if we are not adopting the sections? She asked if the Town is incurring these savings and the PEC does not have public conversations about how to deal with any mitigation with that 25% so where do those savings go? Into the general fund, what happens with those potential savings?

Ms. Shillue indicated there will be a savings by modifying the benefit design and the savings comes in the form of reduced premiums. The Town will save money in its budget for health insurance and the employees do see a savings from their percentage of their contribution. Under Sections 21 – 22 you are giving the employee's additional savings of 25% but absent 21 – 22 the Town would just realize their full savings.

Ms. Gramarossa understood there are numerous people in the audience representing the school staff and teaching staff and questioned if there was anyone here representing any of the other unions in town that the Board has not heard from. Mr. Brougham, Town Administrator, confirmed that the process mandated that all union presidents be notified by certified mail and that was done. All of the Town Bargaining Units have been notified. At the last meeting the police dispatcher union representative was present and asked no questions. They have less concern than the folks that are here before you tonight.

Mr. O'Connor reiterated that the motion is on the table to accept Ch. 32B, Sections 21 and 22. He called for the vote. Motion passes 3 – yes, 1- no (Gramarossa).


4) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator


Board approved/endorsed: April 8, 2019

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:




Nicholas O'Connor, Chairman



George D. Archible



Gail Gramarossa 4/8/19



Brenda Q. Aldrich

(Absent)

Ed Boscher