

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Ed Boscher, Jen D. Turner, Brenda Q. Aldrich, Nicholas O'Connor

**Absent:** Gail Gramarossa

**Call to Order:** Chairman Boscher called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2) Sign Documents:**

- a) Warrant #2032 was signed for \$1,278,602.84 bringing the fiscal year to date total to \$43,584,559.68.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: None.

**3) Additions to the Agenda:** None.

**4) Appearances Before the Board:**

- 7:17 p.m. Solarize Belchertown: Doug Albertson, Town Planner and Jim Barry were present for this appearance. Frank Byrne the resident solar coach was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a report. Mr. Albertson read the report to the Board. He updated the board with a list of the volunteers working on the Solarize Belchertown. The report also provided information as to how they chose the solar installer. The more homes that go solar the lower the cost of the program. The program has reached the highest tier (tier 5) which guarantees the lowest price of \$2.29 Kwh. There are 25 residents who have committed to installing solar on their homes. The final meet the installer is this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at town hall. If you can't attend the meeting a phone call to Northeast installer at 247-6045 can be made at no cost, no obligation.

Mr. Barry noted that one of the reasons this program was created was that many residents had been inundated with solar programs. This program was created by the State to help educate residents on how solar really works. The more people that sign up the cheaper it is to install. He explained the incentives that are available to residents. There is also a 20% discount on the hardware.

Steve Hill a reporter for *The Sentinel* asked about the 20% discount. Mr. Barry explained that in Massachusetts currently the price of solar is about \$3 Kwh and this program is offering \$2.29 Kwh. Mr. Hill has been working with Northeast Solar and remarked that he is very comfortable working with them. He is doing his financing through a home equity loan.

Mr. Barry reminded the board that the next meet the installer is Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at town hall.

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Review ZBA Special Permit and Variance Application – Belchertown Water District, Park Street Water Storage Tank: Mr. Boscher commented that the ZBA is asking for board for any comments that they may have on this application. Mr. Boscher had no additional comments from the last meeting which was about the loss of parking spaces. There were no additional comments from the Board.

Mr. Boscher commented to the town administrator that when the letter gets sent back to the ZBA he should note that the Board's greatest concern was the loss of parking spaces and they should address any circumstances that they can to mitigate the loss of parking.

Mr. Boscher commented that he has spoken with the director of public works about Park Street. In the past there have been conversations of making it a one way street. Mr. Williams suggested that there may be a chance to get some of those DLTA funds and any chance that they can get funding to improve the area will come in handy even if we don't do a project now. The board was in agreement that Mr. Williams should look into the DLTA funds and asked the town administrator to follow-up with Mr. Williams on that process.

- b. Accept Van Driver Retirement: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Senior Center van driver Ralph Rose has submitted his letter of retirement effective January 31, 2020. A letter will be sent to Mr. Rose acknowledging his retirement and thanking him for his service to the town.
- c. Accept Police Dispatcher Resignation: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Alexander Smidy has submitted his resignation effective February 1, 2020. A letter will be sent to Mr. Smidy acknowledging his resignation and thanking him for his service to the town.
- d. Appointment of Democratic Seat Member on Board of Registrars: Mr. Boscher presented the details to the Board. Kenneth Elstein, Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee has submitted the names of Carla Dell'Olio, Edwina Cruise and Terry Nagle that the committee nominated to serve on the Democratic seat on the Board of Registrars. The committee recommended that Carla Dell'Olio be re-appointed.

Mr. Boscher moved the Board re-appoint Carla Dell'Olio to the Democratic seat on the Board of Registrars, term to expire on March 31, 2023. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- e. Right of First Refusal – Boudreau, Rural Street (Map 241, Lot 23.4; 2 Acres): Mr. Brougham presented the details to the Board. This property owner is looking to remove and additional acre of land to build a home for himself. He is not selling the property and the remainder of the property will remain in chapter 61. Both the planning board and the conservation commission have recommended the town not exercise its right of first refusal.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board not exercise its right of first refusal for Boudreau on Rural Street (map 241, lot 23.4; 2 acres). Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Mr. Boscher remarked this is a unique circumstance as there is no purchase and sale agreement. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- f. Miscellaneous Matters:

6) **Town Administrator's Report:**

- Reminded the board that there are two meetings with the finance committee and the board of selectmen to begin the budget process. The first meeting is tomorrow night and then another meeting on Thursday evening. He reminded the board of the departments that are scheduled to come in.
- There was a productive discussion Friday afternoon regarding Sportshaven with the various agencies that are involved. This was to further discuss the next steps in moving forward. We are also scheduling the first meeting for the Tax Abatement Committee for next Monday. The taxes cannot be formally waived until the transfer of title. Counsel for the current owners is probating the estate of Bill Drozden who was the last owner of Sportshaven.
- Last Tuesday he attended the planning board meeting. After considerable discussion the planning board approved the special permit for Evergreen Strategies to potentially locate on the corner of George Hannum Road and Route 9 next to Florence Savings Bank. If allowed by the Cannabis Control Commission it will likely be the fourth quarter before they start to provide any revenue to the town.
- The larger grower at Mill Valley Road is going before the planning board on February 11<sup>th</sup> to begin their special permit process.

7) **Review of Weekly Mail:** No discussion held.

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

Ms. Aldrich: It was a quiet week. There is an event happening at the library on Saturday. It is their annual chocolate/wine night from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Mr. O'Connor:

- Tomorrow night the recreation director will come before the board to present his budget but he will also be before the CP committee regarding several applications that he has submitted for community preservation grants so he is excusing himself to go and speak on behalf of those applications. He did receive a question from the CP committee regarding his endorsement of disc golf and whether it was an endorsement of the board or his endorsement as a member. He questioned if the board should provide guidance to the CP committee. Ms. Aldrich thinks the board should have discussion prior to providing support. Ms. Turner commented that the CP committee is in place to make the decisions – they were appointed to do that work. She is of the mindset that we let them do their work. The board agreed to leave the process as it is.
- The board received a letter this week indicating it is time to start considering the contract negotiations for Charter. He was uncomfortable with the fact that two of the members on the Technology Advisory Board were negotiating the contract that their salaries were paid by. The Board will need to identify the process and decide who will act on behalf of the town.

It will be added to a future agenda after the budget process – sometime in April. BCTV positions will also be added to the succession plan.

Mr. Boscher:

- At last weeks meeting the board talked about the performance review and if anyone was wondering why it was missing from tonight's meeting it's because he and the town administrator spoke about it and agreed that all five board members should be present for that discussion. It will be added to next week's meeting.
- He has been talking with Mr. Williams at the DPW about their budget. Their budget will be level service with no requests for additional positions. Their capital requests will be on a separate paper.

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

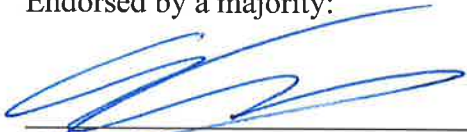
10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

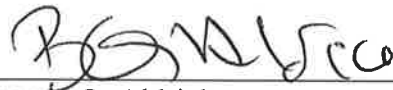
Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: 2/10/20

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown


Endorsed by a majority:

  
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Ed Boscher, Chairman

  
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Brenda Q. Aldrich

(absent)  
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Gail Gramarossa

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jen D. Turner

  
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Nicholas O'Connor