

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

Call to Order: Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Sign Documents:

- a) Warrant #1937 was signed for \$698,240.78.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. Boscher moved the Board accept the minutes of February 11, 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 3 – 0. The Board rescheduled the vote on the minutes of February 19, 2019 as there was not a quorum available tonight to vote on those minutes.

3) Additions to the Agenda: None.

4) Appearances Before the Board: None.

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Acknowledge DPW Employee Retirement Notice: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Terry Chevalier has submitted a notice of his retirement. His last day of work will be March 29, 2019. The Board accepted his resignation and a letter will be sent to Mr. Chevalier congratulating him on his retirement and thanking him for his service to the Town.
- b. Accept Conservation Commission Member's Resignation: Ms. Gramarossa presented the details to the Board. Michael Cavatorta has submitted a letter or resignation from the Conservation Commission. The Board accepted his resignation. A letter will be sent to Mr. Cavatorta thanking him for his service to the Town.
- c. Appointment of Conservation Commission Associate Members: Per the recommendation of the Conservation Commission, Ms. Gramarossa moved to appoint Katerina Korolov and Douglas Beach as an associate member of the Conservation Commission, terms to expire June 30, 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 3 – 0. Ms. Gramarossa amended to the motion to include the appointments of Michael Cavatorta and Mark Brownell as associate members of the Conservation Commission, terms to expire June 30, 2019. Amended motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- d. Appointment of Senior Center Building Custodian: Mr. Boscher presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Jessica Langlois, Director Council on Aging, Mr. Boscher moved to appoint Mariah Diesi to the full-time custodial position at the Senior Center. She has been in the position as a temporary custodian since August 2018. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- e. Award Bid #2019-06 – Fair Bid: Ms. Gramarossa presented the details to the Board. it is time to renew the three year contract. The Fair Committee unanimously voted to accept the bid from Fiesta Shows. The Fair Committee is recommending the Board

of Selectmen award the bid to Fiesta Shows. Per that recommendation, Ms. Gramarossa moved the Board award Bid #2019-06 – Fair Bid to Fiesta Shows for a three year contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. The Fair Committee is in negotiations with Fiesta Shows to try and keep the wrist band and ride coupons as low as they can. Fiesta Shows offered additional wrist bands but the Fair Committee wants to return them and reduce the cost of the wrist bands for everyone. Motion passes 3 – 0.

- f. Endorse Distribution Easement – Berkshire Drive: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. The Department of Public Works is requesting that the Board endorse the distribution notice allowing National Grid the right to install, operate, and properly maintain the lines and equipment upon and/or beneath property located at Berkshire Drive. Mr. Boscher moved the Board authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign and have notarized the Distribution Easement – Berkshire Drive. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- g. Endorse Green Communities Grant: Mr. O'Connor presented the details. Mr. Boscher moved the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the Green Communities grant as presented by Eric Lebeau. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3- 0. Ms. Gramarossa asked Mr. Lebeau to explain what this grant is for so people watching would know. It is to replace the boiler in the high school. Out of the four original boilers in the school two have failed and have been replaced. They want to replace one more because of the energy efficiency of the new boilers. They want to eliminate the need for a fourth boiler with the addition of this new boiler.
- h. Surplus Town Owned Vehicle: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. The Department of Public Works is requesting the Town surplus a vehicle (2003 Ford F250 Pickup). Mr. Boscher moved the Board surplus the vehicle as requested. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- i. Vote Snow Emergency – Snow and Ice Removal Budget: Mr. O'Connor presented the details. As of Monday's warrant the snow removal budget is in deficit by \$39,780. Mr. Boscher moved the Board authorize deficit spending for snow removal for this snow season. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- j. Housekeeping – Disband Committees: Police Chief Search Committee and Police Candidate Review Committee: Mr. O'Connor presented the details. There are some committees still on the books that are no longer necessary. Mr. O'Connor moved to disband the Police Chief Search Committee and the Police Candidate Review Committee. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- k. Review Draft List of Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles: Ms. Gramarossa presented the details to the Board regarding the Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles. The first three articles are from the Town Accountant which are typical of cleaning up fiscal year 2018. The fourth article is about the potential purchase of lots near the Jabish Brook Middle School. Mr. Brougham explained why this article is on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting and not the Annual Town Meeting. The Special Town Meeting makes the funds immediately available for the town to purchase this property; the Annual Town Meeting wouldn't allow the funds to be ready until July 1, 2019. The fifth article is from the Recreation Department it is for raising, appropriating or borrowing a significant amount of money to look at the planning, designing, improving, renovating and/or equipping what is known as the Chestnut Hill Recreation area. Funding for this article is contingent on grant funding as they are looking at the PARC Funding and/or the Small Communities Grant Program along with fundraising.

- Mr. O'Connor moved the Board advance warrant articles 1 – 3 for the Special Town Meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- Mr. O'Connor moved the Board advance warrant article 4. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- Mr. O'Connor moved the Board advance warrant article 5. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 3 – 0.

1. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

6) Town Administrator's Report:

- Pathfinder's Budget Meeting is Wednesday at 7:00 pm.
- There are three labor units up for renewal of their collective bargaining agreements on the town side. Selectman Aldrich and he have met with the Police Dispatcher's one time. There is another session scheduled with them in early April. He and Steve Williams will be meeting with Local 98 for the first time to try and move the contract forward.
- A blemish was discovered on the property on 91 Old Bay Road. The house was foreclosed on. He has been working with the finance company to try and clear up the title. He hopes to have the paperwork to be signed at the Board's meeting on March 25th.
- The Finance Committee will be meeting again on the 19th.
- The Stormwater Committee will be holding a public forum on Thursday evening to try and generate some feedback on the proposed stormwater utility. It will be held in the Selectmen's meeting room beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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

8) Individual Board Members' Reports:

Ms. Gramarossa: Encouraged residents to attend the stormwater meeting if they can. She believes it's important for residents to learn about it. She also encouraged residents to go on the school's website and take the survey regarding the search for a new superintendent. She thanked the Cultural Council for all of their work. Art Walk is coming up and they have some great activities planned.

Mr. Boscher: He thanked Steve Williams for spending a fair amount of time this morning educating him on potholes, on how they get fixed and how they don't get fixed. He wants the residents to know that the DPW is doing the best they can and there is no doubt in his mind they will get to the potholes as the weather progresses. He attended the Finance Committee meeting last week. He's doing his research on the requests from the departments that came in last week.

Mr. O'Connor: Attended the ceremony for the certification of the accreditation of the Police Department. They have achieved the certification status and now they will go for the full accreditation. It was very impressive. There will be more Finance Committee meetings in the next couple of weeks. There are two policies that the Finance Committee is recommending. The Board will vote on those at the March 25th Selectmen meeting.

- 9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from *The Sentinel* asked for confirmation on the years for the Fair contract. He was told that it will run from 2019 through 2021. He also questioned how much the snow and ice removal budget had been raised over the last couple of years. The information was also given to him.

Mr. Brougham informed the Board that there will be a meeting of the committee that was formed to address the Chapter 21 & 22 on the health insurance benefits on Wednesday at 3:00 pm. It will be the first meeting with many subsequent meetings to follow.


- 10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

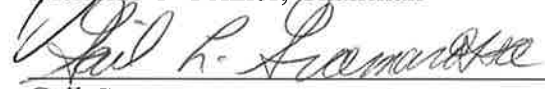
Board approved/endorsed: 11/8/19

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:



Nicholas O'Connor, Chairman



Gail Gramarossa



Ed Boscher

(Absent)
George D. Archible

(absent)
Brenda Q. Aldrich