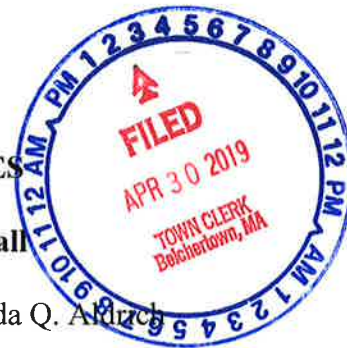


**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

**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 # 1939 was signed for \$1,585,236.51
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: None.

**3) Additions to the Agenda:**

**4) Appearances Before the Board:**

- 7:05 p.m. Stormwater Committee – Update: Steve Williams, Director of Public Works came in to update the Board regarding the Stormwater Committee. Also present for the Committee were Doug Albertson (Town Planner) and Erica Cross (Conservation Administrator). They were able to hold two public questions and answer sessions. They had some really good questions asked by the public. They presented the three options to the public; using existing taxation which ultimately would result in cuts from other services; an override or a dedicated tax; or the third option of the utility. The utility appeared to be the preferred method overall. Most people felt the utility was accountable and equitable. The one big question was whether to go with the resident equivalent unit rate which is a little over 4,000 sq. ft. of impervious area or we go with a flat rate which is a 1,000 sq. ft. of impervious area.

There have been many conversations within the Stormwater Committee trying to determine what the best approach is. The pros outweigh the cons to go with a 1,000 sq. ft. impervious area, the flat rate. It was the recommendation previously of the Stormwater Committee. The Stormwater Committee is formally recommending the Board of Selectmen adopt the concept of moving forward with the utility with the flat rate. The next step is to finalize the by-law if the Board agrees with it.

Mr. Albertson agreed that the Committee felt it was a more equitable way of doing it. It gives residents a chance to gauge how much they would have to pay into the utility depending on how much impervious area they have. Erica Cross feels it incentivizes new development or old development that 1,000 sq. ft. is more reasonable. She also thinks that while there was some mixed feedback about potential ERU because it would simplify things that when people also understood the GIS data was going to be valuable in other ways she felt the feedback did tend towards the flat rate was well.

Mr. Williams commented if the Board is going to move forward we will need to develop a by-law. The by-law will create the utility, it will empower the Board of Selectmen to set rates and adopt regulations on how those rates will be set. Many of the questions were what he considered fine details – temporary structures like a green house, undeveloped property with maybe a logging road – will those things be considered impervious and included in the billing system or not. These items can be looked at later as they are minor areas of concern. We have already identified 50 million sq. ft. of impervious area in Belchertown. The Committee has a draft by-law prepared. The Stormwater Committee will be meeting on Wednesday to go over any final changes to the bylaw. They hope to get it back to the Board of Selectmen in two weeks and to schedule a public hearing if that is the Board's choice.

Lew Louraine from *BCTV* commented that the questions and answer sessions were taped and are being played over and over again on *BCTV* this week and next.

The Conservation Commission web page on the town site will have the pdf of the presentation. Everything can be found on the web page.

Ms. Gramarossa has had some residents conflate this utility and managing stormwater with whether or not it's only the people who are on town water and sewer who are going to end up needing to be thinking about what this utility and however the Board sets the rate what that means for them. We need to be clear that it's not just for those on town water and sewer. Mr. Williams is aware of what is being said and thinks it may be because they have used the water utility as an example stating that they stormwater utility will be similar. The Stormwater Committee is going to try and get a lot of press about this and will try to address the confusion prior to the annual town meeting. They are trying to put together a short presentation for town meeting as well. Mr. Brougham commented that the wastewater treatment plant is owned and operated by the town and the water district is not. The water district was established by a legislative vote and there is no overlap between the water district and the town setting rates for stormwater.

There is a credit policy that is part of the regulations and will come later. There are provisions in the bylaw for a credit system. With the 1,000 sq. ft. rate for residential it will be very difficult for people to change that. It would apply more to businesses and commercial property. The flat rate allows the smaller homes with the smaller footprints to pay less.

Mr. Williams asked the Board for their approval so they can get going on the bylaw as there is about six weeks before town meeting. Town counsel has to review it, a public hearing needs to be scheduled and there needs to be time to get it to the Selectmen's office to have it on the warrant and the motions. Mr. O'Connor asked the Board if they had questions or concerns with the Stormwater Committee moving forward. Hearing none, it was agreed the Board supported the Stormwater Committee moving forward.

\* Prior to the next appearance Mr. Brougham informed the Board that as of this afternoon, we no longer need a new server to improve the website. Kevin Hannon, IT Director has purchased one with available funds

- 7:25 p.m. Anthony Parrinello, Evergreen Strategies: Mr. Parrinello came before the Board and gave an overview of his plan. His establishment will be at 39 Federal Street. He has been dealing with medical marijuana and legal marijuana for five years in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He presented his background of where he has worked and the process to him beginning his own business as well as the various business dealings he's working on currently. He believes he has a good working team. He thinks that Belchertown is a nice spot to open his business. He doesn't believe that he will have the lines that some of the other towns have had but he believes he will have good business there. He met our Chief of Police and will give his home phone number to him in case of any problems.

Ms. Gramarossa appreciates that he is doing the non-profit, charitable contributions knowing that the State has a difference of opinion as to what the State and Local level can ask. She appreciated that he talked about adult use only and is concerned that this is a 21 year-old and older product. She questioned if there had ever been any compliance problems with his other retail locations. What things has he done to ensure it's an adult only product? Mr. Parrinello responded that they try to educate people so that they are responsible. They make them aware of the serious responsibility that they take on when they purchase the product. They have comments posted on their website and in their literature. They have multiple identification check points before the customer can get into the retail location as well as at the point of sale all of which is entered into the State system and tracked very closely. There are cameras everywhere. No-one under the age of 21 can even enter the premise.

Ms. Gramarossa also mentioned that if an adult is buying the product and has young children at home they should get a lock box. Maybe he can collaborate with the pharmacies in town to get lock boxes. Mr. Parrinello also mentioned that pets are a risk if they get into the product.

Ms. Gramarossa understands that the novelty of the store will eventually wear off but Northampton is still having traffic issues with the marijuana store that recently opened. She wants to know if his store should become popular, should we start to see real traffic congestion if he is open to dealing with that immediately. Mr. Parrinello stated that regulations require them to have a crowd control plan and a parking plan. There are many steps that they can take including virtual appointments so there isn't an onslaught of customers showing up. They can't operate legally in the State until the police department has signed off.

Ms. Gramarossa also mentioned the recovery support service in that same plaza and is hoping that his business and the alcohol retail business is sensitive to the fact that there will be traffic for those who are in recovery. It is one of the groups that he has agreed to provide support to and that is appreciated.

Mr. Brougham commented that Mr. Parrinello came to the Town a year ago looking to set up his business. It's been a long process mostly in part because we wanted a proper Marijuana Host Agreement and frequent changes from the Cannabis Control

Commission (CCC). Mr. Parrinello has been very patient with all of those changes and remained agreeable to most every change including suggestions by Chief Pronovost on security and website surveillance. The site that is being discussed is compliant with local zoning and the Town's Marijuana bylaw. Town Counsel has approved the agreement. This agreement is somewhat different than the original agreement the Board approved because of changes made by the Cannabis Control Commission but Town Counsel has approved it. Mr. Parrinello has agreed the 3% taxation where he could have said no. He has also agreed to do the charitable donations even though the CCC has said we can't make him do it. He asked the town for a list and chose DART, BOAT and SOAAR to donate to which are all local organizations. He will be donating not less than \$8,000 to DART, \$6,000 for BOAT and \$6,000 to SOAAR.

Mr. Archible moved the Board approve the Community Host Agreement. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- 7:35 p.m. Lt. Pacunas and Officer Robert Mann: Lt. Pacunas and Officer Mann came before the Board to talk about Hometown Hero- Military Tribute Banners. Ray Janke, Veterans' Agent was also present for the discussion.

Lt. Pacunas indicated that about a year ago Officer Mann was appointed to the position of Veterans' Affairs Liaison. If a call for service comes in for a veteran he is the go to officer. He is assigned the case and does the follow-ups. He works with Ray Janke, Veterans' Agent to make sure the veteran is getting the services they may need.

About six to eight months ago they came across the Military Tribute Banner. The company will do the advertisement for the town free of charge

Officer Mann stated that Easthampton is the only other town in Massachusetts that is doing this. He spoke with the coordinator of the program and reviewed the costs. The banners themselves cost \$101.50. If orders are in prior to April they can deviate on the cost. There is a sponsorship rate for a family to buy the banner at a cost of \$175 which covers the cost of the brackets. The brackets are reusable to hang on telephone poles or light poles depending on what choice we end up going with. He is working with Steve Williams on that part of it. The additional money they are working with Mr. Janke in regards to donations or even sponsoring a family that cannot afford a banner at this time. It costs the town no money. We need a minimum of four banners it will cover the brackets that will be needed and are reusable. The banners are a thick material and are guaranteed to last for the time they are hanging. The company will replace the banner at no cost if something happens to it. The banners will be Belchertown residents or family in Belchertown residents.

Mr. Archible commented that these banners will be up from Memorial Day through Veterans' Day. When the banner comes down it goes to the family that purchased it. They have looked at hanging the banners on South Main, Main, Park and North Main Streets as those streets have a lot of foot traffic and they would be seen

especially when we have our ceremonies. If necessary State Street as well as the new public way that is being developed by the State School.

Mr. Archible moved the Board approve the concept including the use of the town seal. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 4 – 0.

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Recognize National Telecommunicators Week in Belchertown (April 14 – 20, 2019): Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. David Squires, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police submitted a letter to the Board asking that the Board recognize National Telecommunicator's Week, April 14, 2019 – April 20, 2019. There will be an open house at the Police Department on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and all are invited to attend. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board recognize National Telecommunicator's Week. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- b. Appointment of Member to the Board of Registrars: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Gerald Grasso, Chairman of the Belchertown Republican Town Committee, Mr. O'Connor moved to appoint Mary-Catherine Knight, Richard Barry and William Huber as members to the Board of Registrars. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- c. Appointment of Cultural Council Member: Ms. Gramarossa presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Jen Turner, Chairman, Cultural Council, Ms. Gramarossa moved to appoint Gretchen Duhaimé to the Cultural Council, term to expire June 30, 2021. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 - 0.
- d. Appointment of Member to Planning Board: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Lou Faasen resigned from the Planning Board and Alice Knittel, the Alternate Voting Member, would like to be appointed to his seat. If the Board of Selectmen votes to appoint her to the Planning Board the Planning Board will vote for her appointment at their next meeting. Mr. O'Connor moved to appoint Alice Knittel to the vacant Planning Board seat with the understanding that this will only be until the May 2019 election as this is an elected seat. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- e. Appointment of Member to Town Common Lighting Committee: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Gloria Fortunato, Mr. Archible moved to appoint Drew Gatesman to the Town Common Lighting Committee, term to expire June 30, 2020. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- f. Transfer of Liquor License F & J Tan Family Food Management, LLC d/b/a Wong Garden to WU FU, LLC d/b/a WU FU, 147 North Main Street: The Board agreed with the hearing date of the liquor license on April 8, 2019.
- g. Review Accessory Apartment Special Permit Application – 41 Maplecrest Drive: The Board will remand this back to the Planning Board for their review.
- h. Review Special Permit and Site Plan Application – CF Development MA, LLC, 357 Daniel Shays Highway: Mr. Brougham presented the details to the Board. This is a solar project on property owned by the Shattuck family. It is a larger installation. The plan has been before the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. They recently re-submitted a nicely done set of plans. It's a great location that is back from the road on unproductive farm land. There will be very little tree cutting, and great orientation of solar development. It is a good project.

The Planning Board will be holding a public hearing on April 9<sup>th</sup> for the special permit. She heard good comments in both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission meetings. This is an ideal site for solar projects.

- i. Review Draft Social Media Policy: Mr. O'Connor commented that no action would be taken on this policy this evening. He wanted to update the Board this evening. Mr. Brougham distributed the policy to all department heads to receive feedback. He feels that they received some good comments and wants to put them all together and then review the policy. Most of the comments had to do with language. The Chief of Police signed off on it but also commented that the police department has a social media policy already in effect. He wants to take some of the best practices from the police department and build it into the town's side. A large number of the comments were not policy related but procedure related. This policy does not mean departments have to engage in social media rather it sets policy if they decide they are going to.
- j. Executive Session, MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 2, 3 and 6: Ms. Gramarossa moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 2, 3 and 6 and not to reconvene in open meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Roll call vote: O'Connor – yes, Archible – yes, Gramarossa – yes, Aldrich - yes.
- k. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

- 6) **Town Administrator's Report:** We have been working diligently to get the employee committee off the ground for the health insurance copayment amendments. We had a meeting last week and identified the committee. There is a meeting tomorrow to begin talking about the actual give back to the employees will be. It's hard to believe that something so straightforward has become so complicated when you involve the State and many attorneys.

He's also been meeting with the Finance Committee and various members of the Board who have been available. The budget is looking very difficult. There is another budget meeting on Wednesday night with the plan for him and the town accountant to have some recommendation for that discussion. We are still working with preliminary State numbers.

- 7) **Review of Weekly Mail:**

#11) John Rakouskas – request for solar speed limit signs on Bay Road. Mr. Archible commented that Mr. Rakouskas wants the town to purchase two of these signs for the area of Bay Road and Stebbins Street where the speed limit is 20 mph. About a year ago he and Steve Williams attended a Pioneer Valley Planning Commission meeting and asked for someone to come out and check out this area. We have done everything they have asked us to do and then some. He went to the police department for an accident report in the area in the past year. There has only been one accident. The PVPC study claims this area does not warrant the solar speed limit signs. The police department has placed their portable speed limit sign up as often as possible. Chief Pronovost also says the area does not warrant these signs.

Steve Williams also commented that we were able to get an independent review from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission with a four year accident history at the

intersection. There were 14 accidents in that time period. The report came out in June 2018 (that date is important) and recommended one additional speed reduced sign, chevrons in the east bound lane with little arrows that indicate there is a curve coming both of which were completed. Oversized speed limit signs were installed so that they were clearly visible. The message back to the complainant is that we have had the problem looked at, we reviewed the report and made changes that are working. The June date that he mentioned earlier is important because since these changes were implemented to now there have been zero accidents. There is not a great backing to install a \$10,000 option at one location. Mr. Williams questioned who would respond back to Mr. Rakouskas. It was decided Mr. Williams will draft a letter and send it to the town administrator for his office to have the Board endorse it.

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

Ms. Aldrich: Thoughts are prayers being sent to Bill Barnett's family. It was a pleasure serving with him on the Board. She learned a lot from him.

Aimee Henderson's last day with *The Sentinel* is on Friday. She thanked her for everything she's done for *The Sentinel*. They have had a couple of run-ins but very much respect each other for the jobs they do. She will be missed.

She thanked the Recreation Department for all they do. We have been fair with our recreation sports teams.

She met with the new aquatics director who is a delight. She has some great ideas for the splash park and the town beach.

Ms. Gramarossa: Echoed Ms. Aldrich's thoughts on wishing Aimee the best on her future endeavors and condolences to Bill Barnett's family. She had the opportunity to go to one of the services. The Shriners and the Masons were there in force. He was an amazing public servant.

She is serving on the superintendents search committee – the preliminary group looking at applicants. Preliminary interviews will be held and recommendations made to the School Committee for them to do their interviews.

There will be an April 10<sup>th</sup> information meeting regarding the Solarize Project that the Board endorsed with Jim Barry. She wants to use the town robo call system to let people know about this meeting along with the *Sentinel*. She was told the town clerk's office has access to making robo calls.

Mr. O'Connor: He reached out to the Recreation Director and the DPW Director because we have re-engaged with the Patrick Center Reuse Committee. Kyle has gotten the drawings that he was waiting on. We have money allocated for the disc golf. We have money allocated for the tennis courts from the State. We have a warrant article on town meeting for \$1.5 million for that area. There will need to be additional Patrick Center Reuse Committee meetings.

Mr. Brougham passed out a proposed master plan for the Patrick Center area. It was provided today to the office at 3:00 p.m.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from *The Sentinel* asked about the Municipal Host Agreement. The Board answered his questions.


10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

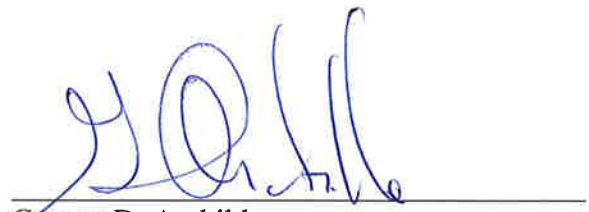
Board approved/endorsed: April 29, 2019

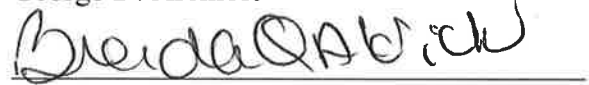
Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas O'Connor, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gail Gramarossa

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George D. Archible

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Q. Aldrich

(Absent)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Boscher