

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

Call to Order: Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Sign Documents:

- a) Warrant # 1944 was signed for \$1,227,257.32.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Ms. Gramarossa moved the Board accept the minutes of March 25, 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – yes, 1 – abstain (Boscher).

3) Additions to the Agenda:

4) Appearances Before the Board:

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Endorse Town Administrator's Contract: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Mr. Archible moved the Board endorse the Town Administrator's contract for two years with the option for an additional year. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- b. Endorse Chief of Police's Contract: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board endorse the Chief of Police's contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- c. Accept Police Dispatcher Resignation: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board regarding the resignation of Colin Rogers as a Dispatcher with the Belchertown Police Department. The Board accepted his resignation, effective immediately. A letter will be sent to Mr. Rogers acknowledging his resignation and thanking him for his service to the town.
- d. Appointment of Seasonal Laborer(s): Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Director of Public Works, Mr. Archible moved to appoint Andrew Johnston, Patrick Bachand, Daniel Roney and David Clegg, Jr. to the position of seasonal laborer, effective immediately; and to transfer Ronald Ritter to the DPW Transfer Station laborer position also effective immediately. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- e. Order of Taking for Easement(s) – Maple Street/State Street (Route 202/Route 21): Steve Williams, Director of Public Works presented the details to the Board. Town Counsel has prepared an order of taking for the Maple and State Streets reconstruction project. It is one of the final steps before this project can go out to bid which is expected to happen this fall. This will secure all the rights to the property within project limits necessary for the reconstruction. There are temporary easements which will last for a period of five years or the duration of

the project along with some permanent easements for utilities, drainage and some grading work that we need to maintain for perpetuity.

All easements and properties have been appraised with 51 easements in total and 33 separate property owners. We have a liability of \$43,750 which he had authorized through the Chapter 90 program for compensation. Once the Board endorses this form it will allow town counsel to begin finalizing the legal steps in order to make sure these are all legal and reported. Once that occurs the town will get a certificate of title from town counsel and will be able to supply to massDOT for their files for the bidding process. All property was appraised by an initial appraiser and then again by a second appraiser to make sure they were all accurate.

Mr. Archible moved the Board endorse the Order of Taking for Easements – Maple Street/State Street. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- f. Adopt a Highway Program: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. The Board received a letter from Richard Kelleher, President, Pine Valley Plantation about Pine Valley becoming part of the Adopt a Highway Program. Pine Valley Plantation resident, Gretchen Van Emburgh has been gathering trash that has accumulated on sections of Springfield Road and Chauncey Walker Street. Steve Williams commented it is refreshing to see the residents of Pine Valley taking care of that area. He is looking forward to continuing that relationship. We just had earth day and there were a lot of residents who took part in it cleaning up the roadways with trash bags provided by the DPW. He mentioned that his department also works with the Hampshire County Sheriff's office for their work release program to get them to come out and pick up trash on the sides of the road. We have already adopted the highway but this is really just to recognize the people who are cleaning up the roads. He will put a sign up that officially shows that Pine Valley has adopted the highway.

Mr. Archible moved the Board Adopt the Highway program for Pine Valley Plantation. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- g. Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 2 and 3: Ms. Gramarossa moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 2, and 3 and not to reconvene in open meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Roll call vote: O'Connor – yes, Archible – yes, Gramarossa – yes, Aldrich – yes, Boscher - yes.
- h. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

- 6) **Town Administrator's Report:** We have placed an article on the warrant for forgiving the back taxes at Sportshaven. He and Judy Metcalf, Director of the Quabbin Health District, were back at housing court today for Sportshaven. The presented to associate counsel what the town is intending to do and if we get the support of the town at the annual town meeting then we can follow up with the community development block grant as we have been told there is money to rebuild the infrastructure at Sportshaven. The town will have to be the applicant and oversee all of the work and administration of the grant.

Hopefully the annual town meeting warrant will be posted this weekend. The warrant articles are almost complete.

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

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

Ms. Gramarossa: The application for the Mass Solarize Program is almost completed. Mr. Archible signed the required letter on behalf of the Board. They are hoping to submit the application tomorrow and hopefully will know more from the State in a few weeks as to whether or not we are successful in getting the grant.

Ms. Aldrich: The Cultural Council Arts weekend with the Arts Walk started this past Saturday. She took a cupcake decorating class which was wonderful. There are still activities going on this week.

Mr. O'Connor: They are meeting with the Patrick Center Re-Use Committee after this. They are preparing a warrant article for advancing what the plan is going to look like. He spoke with the *Sentinel* today to get information out to the residents prior to town meeting. There is a lot of support for it. Ms. Aldrich will be meeting with the Recreation Department on Wednesday to talk about the Skate Park issues.

9) **Questions from the Press:**


10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator


Board approved/endorsed: May 28, 2019

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:



Nicholas O'Connor, Chairman




Gail Gramarossa



Ed Boscher

George D. Archible



Brenda Q. Aldrich