

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 22, 2019
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

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

2) Sign Documents:

- a) Routine documents: Today's warrant is in the amount of \$1,740,461.26.
- b) Approval of Minutes : Ms. Aldrich moved the Board accept the minutes of July 8, 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – yes, 1 – abstain (Turner).

3) Additions to the Agenda:

4) Appearances Before the Board:

- 7:03 p.m. Italo and Maria Falvo – Transfer of License/Change of Corporate Structure of La Trattoria, 37 State Street, Belchertown: Ms. Turner read the public hearing and opened it. Italo and Maria Falvo were present. Ms. Falvo indicated that their bookkeeper has suggested they should add her to their liquor license. Hearing no questions, Ms. Aldrich moved the Board close the hearing. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0. Ms. Turner moved the Board approve the Transfer of License/Change of Corporate Structure of La Trattoria. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- 7:15 p.m. Christopher "CJ" Eldridge, Arcpoint Brewing Company – 5K Race on September 28th: CJ Eldridge came before the Board to discuss the 2nd 5K Arcpoint Brewing Company Race. This year they have linked up with Cold Spring Country Club so the race will be in that area and the after party activities will be at the club house. The run will start at the country club, going down Ludlow Street, Granby Road looping back to the club house. They have already sent the route information to Chief Pronovost for his approval. The Chief doesn't believe that they will need a detail but if one is required it would be on the portion of the race that is on Route 21. They have also spoken with the fire department. If the Board approves their request they will have two EMT's present for the duration of the 5k race. Mr. Boscher commented that they would get a faster approval from the Selectmen if they agree to have the police detail on the portion of Route 21. Mr. Eldridge was in agreement.

Ms. Gramarossa questioned how many runners would be participating in the 5k. She was told that last year they had 120 runners with quite a bit at the last minute. They are hoping for 150 runners this year. He also commented that all proceeds will go to the Pioneer Valley USO. They will have all information regarding the 5k on their website, Facebook, social media once they have the Board's approval.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board approve the request based on Chief Pronovost's review and Mr. Eldridge's commitment to have a police detail on Route 21. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Endorse Police Dispatcher Union Contract: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. The negotiations went very smoothly with this contract. The union has signed their contract. It's ready for the Board of Selectmen to sign. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board endorse the Police Dispatcher Union Contract. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Ms. Gramarossa asked for confirmation on how long the contract is for. Ms. Aldrich responded that it is a three year contract. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- b. Endorse DPW Union Contract: Mr. Boscher presented the details to the Board. The DPW Union has finalized their contract. Mr. Boscher moved the Board endorse the DPW Union Contract. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- c. Endorse Police Contract Amendment: There is an amendment to the police contract that the Board discussed at their last meeting. The police union has voted and signed on their amendment. It is also ready for the Board of Selectmen to sign. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board endorse the Police Contract Amendment. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- d. Belchertown Fire-Rescue – Request for Dispensation to Solicit at Belchertown Fair: Ms. Aldrich presented the details. Chief Bock is asking the Board to allow the Fire Department to solicit for donations in uniform at the Belchertown Fair. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board allow the firefighter's to solicit for donations in uniform at the Belchertown Fair. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- e. Request to Transfer Ownership – Fire-Rescue Department's 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer: Ms. Aldrich presented the details. The fire department has a 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer with 107,000+ miles on it that they want to surplus. The Leverett Fire Department has asked for the truck. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board of Selectmen allow the Belchertown Fire Department to give the Leverett Fire Department the 2005 Trailblazer. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- f. Right of First Removal – Morra, Lot 18, Parcel 272-81.031 Franklin Street: Ms. Turner presented the details to the Board. A residential house is planned for this lot. Both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board have recommended the Town refuse the right of first refusal. Ms. Turner moved in compliance with the recommendation of the Conservation Commission and Planning Board that the Town decline the Right of First Refusal. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- g. ZBA Variance Application – Raj Kumar Shani, 11 Newton Street: Ms. Turner presented the details to the Board. The applicant is requesting a side yard setback to build an attached garage to a single family home. Mr. Brougham provided further information. This home is in Dana Woods which is a "cluster"

development so they are already reduced yard sizes. They are ¼ acre instead of ½ acre. The ZBA has granted some variances in this neighborhood. He feels that it would be good if abutters to this property attend the ZBA hearing. With these reduced side yard setbacks it makes it very difficult for public safety to get around once the yard has been established. Abutters and the home owner's association should be aware of this request so they can send their concerns to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of the process. Ms. Aldrich encouraged the abutters to come out for the ZBA Hearing. Ms. Gramarossa was in agreement. Mr. Boscher asked the town administrator to add some language in the letter back to the ZBA. He wants the letter to the ZBA to include the request for them to pay attention to the abutters, the home owners association and to express the Board of Selectmen's concern about lowering the setback for an already condensed area of town. The Board was in agreement to the language of the letter.

- h. Planning Board Special Permit, Indoor Cultivator Marijuana Establishment – E and J Supply, LLC, 401 Mill Valley Road: Ms. Turner presented the details to the Board. The Planning Board has forwarded the special permit application to cultivate marijuana to the board of Selectmen for their review. The Board of Selectmen has already signed a Community Host Agreement with E & J Supply. There is a public hearing scheduled with the Planning Board for August 13th. Mr. O'Connor reminded the Board that the zoning requires a special permit for the marijuana establishments. This is just another piece of what needs to be done in order to operate. Ms. Gramarossa commented that they are asking for a waiver for a site plan which she does not agree with as it is in our Marijuana Establishment by-law. She believes they are asking for it as the footprint of the building they will occupy is not going to be changed nor is the land around it. She feels if every other marijuana business is going to be asked under that by-law they should also have to do the site plan. The Board was in agreement with Ms. Gramarossa and will note that concern to the Planning Board realizing that the Planning Board makes the final decision. Mr. Brougham believes there is value in having site plan approval but they may not need a full site plan such a elevations and site lighting as there are multiple businesses in that property. Site plans make things very clear especially with multiple businesses located on that property. The Board will have the town administrator write a letter to the Planning Board with their concerns.
- i. Abate/Suspend Sewer Billing Until Further Notice – Desabrais/Ortega, 526 Federal Street: Mr. Boscher presented the details. In the past the Board has not voted favorably for sewer abatements. In this case there is a demolition permit in place and they have gone through the proper steps to request the abatement. The owners are seeking an abatement of two quarters totaling \$419.50. The demolition permit has been in place for the two quarters that they are seeking the abatement on. Mr. Boscher moved the Board approve the abatements for the two quarters and suspend the billing at 536 Federal Street until a certificate of occupancy has been issued. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Ms. Gramarossa mentioned that she must abstain from this vote as she knows the individuals and has a conflict of interest due to some consulting work with one of the partners who work at Baystate. Motion passes 4 – yes, 1 – abstain (Gramarossa).

- j. Miscellaneous Matters: Mr. Boscher mentioned that the Personnel Board met last week and took care of a Personnel Board issue. They changed an employee's rating from technical assistant I to technical assistant II which is why the warrants this week were higher. The personnel board has not been very active in the last few years and maybe the Board of Selectmen should be more involved and see exactly how that board works. Ms. Aldrich attended the personnel board meeting and questioned if the Selectmen can get a copy of the standard rating form the personnel board uses.

6) **Town Administrator's Report:** Mr. Brougham reported the following:

- He was in Hadley Housing Court today with the Sportshaven Tenant's Association, the attorney general's office, DEP, Mass Legal Aid. Progress is being made. The Department of Housing and Community Development is going to fund some of the infrastructure repair and the Tenant's Association has stepped up. They have repaired seven water leaks in the park which has made a significant impression on the water that is being pumped in the park. Lot fee payments to the association have increased to about 95% while a year ago they were at 10%. Things are going in the right direction with still a lot to be done. They go back to housing court on September 16th. The money that will be made available through DHCD will be forwarded through the town through a grant application process. One of the stipulations is that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will be involved as the overseer, construction manager. He went into further detail as to what still needs to be done at Sportshaven.
- During the budget process we spoke about improving the auditorium to be a more suitable meeting space. Bctv and the town committed money towards making improvements. These included acoustical devices on the ceiling, re-installing drapery that was once in there and improving lighting just to name some changes. Improvements are well on their way. He encouraged the Board to look in the auditorium to see what is taking place.
- He spoke with Steve Williams about the electrical problems at Chestnut Hill Community School during the Food Truck event. It was mentioned that Pathfinder has an electrical shop and we may be able to get them to help with that.
- During the budget process money was appropriated for the upgrade of the Munis system and on the 15th the old Munis system was shut down with the intent to get it back up and running by the 18th. The new Munis system is up and running.
- Employees will be doing their time slips electronically. The purchase order is out for that.
- The new senior center van has been ordered.
- Traffic concerns on Michael Sears Road and Allen Street. That discussion will be held on August 12th.
- The community outreach meeting for the 55 Main Street marijuana establishment will be in at the August 12 meeting.

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

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

Ms. Aldrich:

- She met with the personnel board and had some conversations with the chairman of that board. She thanked them for what they do – she appreciates the work that they do.
- She attended the community outreach meeting with the new place that wants to come to town at 55 Main Street.
- Food Truck Event – It was amazing having it at the Chestnut Hill Community School.
- August 6th is Belchertown's National Night Out being held at the police department. It will include police, fire and ems. The event will be held from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.
- Next Thursday concerts on the common begin.

Ms. Gramarossa:

- During the National Night Out the senior center will have all kinds of resources available inside about health and wellness as well as services for older adults.
- She thanked the town administrator, town clerk and others for doing the robo call regarding the heat wave and resources that were available in town.
- She has talked with the senior center and council on aging committee about age friendly communities and dementia friendly communities which is a national movement.
- The solarize program for residents has been approved by the State.

Mr. O'Connor: The Recreation Committee has moved their next meeting to this Wednesday as they have some letters of interest for the couple of vacancies that they have.

Ms. Turner:

- Food Truck Friday at Chestnut Hill Community School – seemed like people really liked it there. There were some electrical issues and she has talked to Steve Williams about them. The group of women who are in charge of the Food Trucks also did a fun run on Sunday so they were very busy.
- The grant that the Cultural Alliance worked on has been sent out.
- There is a new swap shop at the transfer station.

Mr. Boscher:

- As the liaison for DPW he is getting a lot of calls about signs and streets. There have been some complaints about the crosswalks especially near the town common. He has been in contact with Steve Williams; Director of Public Works has agreed to change the painting of the crosswalks.
- He asked if the last Food Truck Friday is also at the CHCS. He was told that it will be.

- 9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from *The Sentinel* questioned the time for the special permit hearing that the planning board is having on August 13th. The Board did not have the time.

Resident, Judith Mann questioned how to get on an agenda. She was told to contact the Town Administrator's Office.

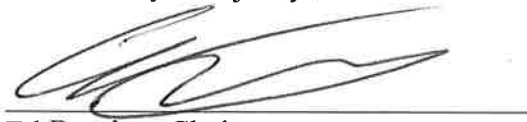
- 10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: 8/12/19

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:



Ed Boscher, Chairman



Brenda Q. Aldrich



Gail Gramarossa



Jen D. Turner



Nicholas O'Connor