

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



Present: Brenda Q. Aldrich, Nicholas O'Connor, Ronald E. Aponte, George D. Archible, William R. Barnett

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

2) Sign Documents:

- a) Warrant #1828 was signed for \$2,983,056.92.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: None.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

- Animal Control Advisory Board Member: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. She has temporarily moved out of Belchertown and believes that she must resign from the ACAB. Following a discussion, Mr. Archible moved to decline her resignation and allow Nicole Miner to stay on the ACAB. Motion was withdrawn. Mr. Brougham will resolve the issue with Ms. Miner.
- Agricultural Commission Member Resignation: Ms. Susan Gay has resigned as an Agricultural Commission member, effective immediately. A letter will be sent to Ms. Gay thanking her for her service to the Town.
- Endorse Council on Aging Formula Grant: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. The Grant is for \$23,377. Mr. Aponte moved the Board authorize the Chairman of the Board to endorse the Council on Aging Formula Grant. Motion Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

4) Appearances Before the Board:

- 8:00 p.m. LeeAnne Connolly, Conservation Administrator – Accept Mader Town Forest Land Grant: Ms. Connolly had the contracts for endorsement and indicated she only needs the signature of the Chairman of the Board. Mr. O'Connor moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Chairman of the Board endorse the signatory authorization document, one contract agreement and two project agreements. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Ms. Aldrich told Ms. Connolly that she will be missed when she retires next month and thanked her for everything she's done for the Town. Ms. Connolly plans on remaining active with Kestrel Trust, the Lakes Committee and maybe eventually getting on the Conservation Commission.

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Acknowledge Clapp Memorial Library Employee Notice of Retirement: Ms. Aldrich presented the details. Nancy Bronner, after working for many years at the

Clapp Memorial Library retired effective December 31, 2017. A letter will be sent to Ms. Bronner thanking her for her many years of service to the Town.

- b. Accept Part-Time Police Dispatcher Resignation: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. Stephanie Cusson, police dispatcher is resigning effective January 31, 2018. A letter will be sent to Ms. Cusson thanking her for her service to the Town.
- c. Accept WWTP Laborer Resignation: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Jaime Williams resigned as the Wastewater Treatment Plant Laborer, effective January 19, 2018. He will be going back to school as a full-time student. A letter will be sent to Mr. Williams thanking him for his service to the Town.
- d. Appointment of Members to the Skate Park Committee: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of the Skate Park Committee, Ms. Aldrich moved to appoint Drew Gatesman, term to expire June 30, 2020 and Sarah Edwards, term to expire June 30, 2018 to the Skate Park Committee. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- e. Appointment of Council on Aging Executive Director Screening Committee: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. She and Mr. Brougham had discussed the committee membership. The committee will consist of three members of the Council on Aging – Maura Guzik, Donna Bozogolos and Robert Farrington; Gary Brougham, Town Administrator; Chief Pronovost; Ray Janke, Veterans' Agent and Steve Williams, Director of Public Works.

Mr. Brougham indicated that the current director will be leaving on February 28th. If everything falls into place the second round of interviews could happen soon enough so that the Board could interview and appoint the new Executive Director on January 22nd to allow for overlapping of the old and new director.

Mr. Archible moved the Board appoint the seven search committee members for the Executive Director to the Council on Aging. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- f. Right of First Refusal – Stewart, 86 Amherst Road (Map 226, Lot 22): Mr. Brougham presented the details to the Board. The property owners are looking to refinance their land and are therefore looking to pay the penalty and remove the lien. Mr. Aponte moved the Board not exercise their right of first refusal. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- g. Set Deadlines for Submission of Articles for the Special and Annual Town Meetings in May: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. Mr. Barnett moved the Board approve the deadline to submit warrant articles for the special town meeting as 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. Barnett moved the Board approve the deadline to submit the warrant articles for the annual town meeting as 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- h. Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 3 and 6: Mr. Aponte moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 3 and 6 and not to reconvene in open meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Roll call vote: Aldrich – yes, O'Connor – yes, Aponte – yes, Archible – yes, Barnett – yes.
- i. Miscellaneous Matters:

- 6) **Town Administrator's Report:** Mr. Brougham reported on the following:
- As mentioned by Mr. Louraine late this afternoon there was a fire alarm resulting from a broken sprinkler system in the Freedom Center. There is considerable damage throughout the building. BCTV took the brunt of the water cascading down through the ceiling. Maintenance is there trying to dry the building out.
 - Prior to that alarm there was one at the high school where there was a broken sprinkler pipe in the main entry. He heard that the school custodians did a great job trying to dam the water to keep it close to the broken pipe. With this severe cold more broken pipes are possible in any of the other town buildings.
 - There have been a couple of winter storms and the timing of the storm and temperatures are critical in clearing the roads. The storm that occurred last week came at a bad time. The temperatures were cold so it was a light and fluffy snow but a bad time of the day. Maintenance worked around the clock clearing the roads. Everyone did a great job. Mr. Aponte questioned if the losses from the broken pipes were insurable. He was told that the insurance company has been called.
- 7) **Review of Weekly Mail:** Mail reviewed.
- 8) **Individual Board Members' Reports:**
- Mr. Archible: Mentioned the Board had received a letter of complaint from a Belchertown resident, Brian Burns. In five years there have been five accidents on Rt. 21. One of the accidents had a fire that burned the road. He is looking for some help to see what can be done to stop these accidents. Mr. Archible will get together with Steve Williams, DPW Director to discuss the concerns. Mr. Aponte suggested talking to Chief Pronovost or his assistant to pull the records for accident reports on Rt. 21. Mr. Archible will do that.
- Mr. Aponte: Cudos to the Department of Public Works. Not only did we have the extreme cold temperatures this weekend but there was also the snow storm on Thursday. There was also the storm event on Christmas and the DPW workers were out working on Christmas. He thanked the employees for their hard work.
- Mr. O'Connor: School Finance Budget Subcommittee meeting. They are working on their FY19 budget forecast.
- Mr. Barnett: Cudos to the DPW workers as well as the contractors who helped with snow removal. He doesn't think there's another town that does as well as we do.
- Ms. Aldrich: Repeated the thanks to DPW workers.
- 9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from *The Sentinel* questioned the dates for closing the warrants. The information was given to Mr. Hill. He also asked for a copy of the list for the Search Committee for the Executive Director for the Council on Aging. The information was given to him. Lew Louraine from *BCTV* announced there was a flood at the station. BCTV is off air and they are uncertain how long that will be. They have people coming in tomorrow to check things out. They are letting

equipment dry out to see what can be saved. The flooding occurred in the equipment room and the office area but the water went throughout the whole area.

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: March 12, 2018

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:



Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman

George D. Archible



Ronald E. Aponte

William R. Barnett



Nicholas O'Connor