

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**

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

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

**2) Sign Documents:**

- a) Warrant #1728 was signed for \$3,076,845.26
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept the minutes of December 12, 2016 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 4 – yes, 1 – abstain (Aponte).

**3) Additions to the Agenda:** None.

**4) Appearances Before the Board:** None.

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Discuss Bike Race – April 29, 2017: Mr. Brougham presented the details. This had been on the Board's agenda for their meeting in December. The request for this bike race has been made for many years now by Michael Norton. Fire Chief Bock has indicated that they should be required to have an ambulance detail present when this race occurs due to incidents in prior years with personal injury.

Mr. Brougham has spoken with Chief Bock who indicated that in a prior year there had been multiple participants who had become tangled with their bicycles and had medical situations requiring two ambulances to respond which took all of our EMS personnel out of town for an extended period.

The race begins in the Quabbin Reservoir at the Tower, race out to Route 9 travelling in a westerly direction on Rt. 9 to the intersection of Rts 9 and 202, heading north on Rt 202 eventually crossing into Pelham and return to the Quabbin Reservoir from the Town of Ware side of it. The maximum passage in the Town of Belchertown is short – from the administration area of Rt 9 to 202.

The Chief estimates on who the techs are it would cost anywhere from \$350 to \$400 for a four hour detail. He asked the Board how they wanted to proceed; if Mr. Norton should be told this is a requirement or invite him to come before the Board. He is not aware of what kind of funding is available for this race. Something else to think about is will this become a precedent for other similar events in the future where we have never required EMS details for other races whether they be bicycle races or foot races.

Mr. Barnett believes it's not so much about the money but rather because the Town ambulances are being used so they are not available for other emergencies that may be happening in town at the same time. When the ambulances were called to the scene at a previous race it was not for life threatening injuries, individuals were treated and went on their way but nonetheless two ambulances and personnel responded and were out of service for other calls.

Mr. O'Connor asked for clarification that the money was not to pay for another vehicle to be on call for the race. Mr. Archible clarified that was exactly what the chief is looking for. Mr. Brougham stated it would be a private detail.

Mr. Aponte understands the reason for the request. If the cyclists get tangled up there are multiple injuries requiring possibly multiple ambulances needing to call in the Town. Mr. Archible was in agreement and stated that maybe they could come up with a detail of their own or if at least one of the racers was an EMT they would be covered. Mr. Brougham indicated that the letter submitted by Mr. Norton does state that Central Massachusetts Safety will be present to provide road and medical support.

Ms. Aldrich indicated that she is not happy with this event as it causes backup in traffic as well as the safety concerns that she has.

Mr. Aponte doesn't believe having the private detail will eliminate the problem because if there is a tangle of riders the Town ambulance will still be called as there will be multiple injuries. He feels a compromise could be that they have to have an EMT as part of the support services that follow along with the racers.

Following more discussion Mr. O'Connor moved the Board approve the road race with the additional requirement that a certified paramedic or EMT be part of the road and medical support services that the race provides. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- b. Request to Endorse Proclamation – School Choice Week in Belchertown, January 22 – 28, 2017: No action taken.
- c. Accept Agricultural Commission Member Resignation: Mr. O'Connor presented the detail to the Board. The Board accepted the resignation of Grace Adzima from the Agricultural Commission, effective December 30, 2016. A letter will be sent to Ms. Adzima thanking her for her years of service to the Town.
- d. Accept Auxiliary Police Officer Resignation: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. Officer Francis Henderson III has accepted a full-time position with another agency. A thank you letter will be sent to Officer Henderson for his service to the Town.
- e. Accept Part-Time Police Dispatcher Resignation: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. Kevin R. VanZandt is resigning from the position of part-time dispatcher effective December 23, 2016. A letter will be sent to Mr. VanZandt thanking him for his service to the Town.
- f. Police Chief's Request to Teach: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. Chief Pronovost is requesting to teach an on-line class in criminal law & procedure at Holyoke Community College for the spring semester. He is also requesting to

teach constitutional law at the Western Mass Reserve Police Officer Academy on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Neither one of these classes will interfere with his duties with the Belchertown Police Department.

Mr. Aponte moved the Board of Selectmen approve Chief Pronovost's request to teach the online course at Holyoke Community College spring semester as well as Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Western Mass Reserve Police Officer Academy. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- g. Endorse Council on Aging's Formula Grant Contract: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Each year the Council on Aging receives funds from the State. This grant will be used to fund the Senior Center Aide and Outreach Assistant positions along with partially funding the Med Ride program and Volunteer Recognition event.

Per the recommendation of Mr. Korzenowski, Ms. Aldrich moved the Board authorize the Chairman of the Board to endorse the Council on Aging's Formula Grant Contract in the amount of \$24,100.00. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- h. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

- 6) **Town Administrator's Report:** Mr. Brougham indicated that there have not been a lot of agenda items to discuss. He provided the following updates to the Board:

- The Grantham Group is moving forward with their plans for the assisted living facility. They went before the Planning Board recently with some minor modifications to their plan. They are still looking at a spring ground breaking for the facility.
- In line with that various departments and agencies having been working on trying to establish the footprint of the road extension and placement of infrastructure. They are hoping to have a bid packet out very soon for contractors to review with bids opening in the spring. The road extension and infrastructure is being financed by the Town with the approval of a 1.25 million dollar loan at Town Meeting.
- Mass Development recently put out another bid opportunity for demolition on some of the older buildings on site. As of two weeks ago a contract is in place to demolish the infirmary building and the boys and girls industrial buildings. The infirmary is the largest building left to demolish and the demolition could take three to four months depending on the winter conditions. Once all three of these buildings are down it opens a very significant area of the assisted living and the area of the new infrastructure.
- The owner of the Pride Company met with various department heads last week and announced his intent to permit and break ground on the Pride Plaza, the old parcel E. His plans are complete and has begun to do his submittals with the Planning Board and various town boards and committees. He is hopeful to have all permits in place within eight to ten weeks, breaking ground in the spring with an anticipated opening later this year with a full service gas/diesel plaza, 24 hour a day, seven days a week convenience store. It will be a country-cape style building which is more appealing for Belchertown.

Mr. O'Connor questioned if they would be looking for a liquor license or a beer and wine. He was told that initially the owner had thought about applying for a liquor license but has since decided not to.

- As part of the Pride project the former Easthampton Savings Bank is being sold to a credit union. It will become the corporate office for that credit union. It is the Alden Credit Union.
- Belchertown Motor Sales which is located across from the Police Station is looking to do an addition to their facility. In the four years that they have been in operation they have sold over 250 used automobiles. Their plan is to build a 30 x 60 garage/business center. They will be demolishing the small house and make a substantial improvement at that site.

Mr. O'Connor questioned if the expansion of the car lot will include any fencing. He is concerned about the baseball field that is in close proximity to the used car lot. Mr. Brougham stated that the plans he has seen to date are not complete with the landscaping but he did know that on the front side of the building there is some arborvitae screening. Mr. Brougham stated the business owners have every intention of being good neighbors.

- A second letter has been sent to the Belchertown Day School asking for an update. They have previously been informed that their lease expires on March 31, 2017 which is their exit date from that building. Once we hear back we can begin planning the repurposing of that building. If the Family Center moves there that frees up the building they have used to be sold off along with several other properties that the town has in tax title. This will appropriate more money for the town.
- There has been some talk of the demolition of the former Hawley's complex but he has no details yet. One of the Colvest Development members was in the Planning Board office recently inquiring about what would be required to renovate or remodel that complex.
- He had also been working with the managers at Universal Forest Products who are very interested in expanding two of their product lines in Belchertown. The Conservation Administrator was also there to establish if there was going to be any concerns about further encroachment into the wetlands. They were given an unofficial negative determination. Universal is looking to grow their business by up to 25 employees with a considerable facility expansion. He is staying in touch with Universal and hopes that their expansion comes to fruition.
- Work is taking place at the Aldrich Road cell tower and the cell tower on the May property as well as the solar field on the May property. The solar field will pay the Town of Belchertown in the first year \$70,000.00. Over a 20 year period the town will receive a total of 1.8 million dollars from the cell tower with no reliance on town services.
- Mr. Barnett questioned if there was any news on the proposed Slaughter Facility at NESFI. Ms. Aldrich also questioned it as she has recently seen a letter about it. The meeting has been continued to January 18, 2017. There is no update as of today.
- Last year the Town secured the title to the Patrick Center property and now has bound coverage which was difficult to obtain as it is a vacant building. The

question now becomes what does that property get converted to? There had been concern raised at town meeting about the historic significance of the building. Mr. Brougham will attend the Historic Commission meeting tomorrow night to begin a dialogue about the future of that building. It was confirmed that the building is not within the historic district. There is very limited potential for the building's reuse for town purposes.

7) **Review of Weekly Mail:** Mail reviewed.

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

Mr. Aponte: Mentioned #10 in the mail which is the last drink data from ABCC. Belchertown had zero reported last drinks on the OUI list. He was very pleased to see that as we draw a hard line with our liquor licenses and the standards that we set for them.

Mr. Archible added on that if an individual does get an OUI they are asked where is the last place that the individual was. Even if that last place did not serve the individual that facility is still the last place.

Mr. Barnett: He received a call from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. They are the group that has to do with snakes. There will be four hearings in Belchertown. He is on the Board with Senator Lesser to discuss the feasibility of putting the rattlesnakes at Quabbin Reservoir. The dates for the hearings have not been set yet.

Ms. Aldrich: The Council on Aging and the Recreation Committee did not have meetings in December. She has no new news.

Mr. O'Connor: He met with the Historic District By-Law Commission at their request. They are asking about enforcement. They are questioning if the town wants the historic district as protected as they thought the town wanted when the commission was voted in at town meeting. They have no enforcement mechanism and questioned if the town wants them to continue. The Commission is going to clean-up and republish their standards

Mr. Aponte feels that since the commission was approved through town meeting any changes to the commission would also have to be approved through town meeting.

Mr. O'Connor indicated that he told the commission he would speak to the Board about it. If they shouldn't be taking it seriously then there is no reason for the commission to do the work as it's a bit of a wasted effort. Following further discussion, Mr. O'Connor questioned if it would be beneficial to have the Historic District By-Law Commission to come before the Board. The Board was in agreement.

He also mentioned that the final revenue committee meeting was held. He feels they are comfortable with the difference between level service and level funded as it is estimated today. His goal is to consolidate all the information into a presentation for review by the committee to make any corrections and then present it to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. Mr. Aponte wants the School Committee to be included in the presentation.

Mr. O'Connor questioned if we knew where free cash stands at this point in time. Mr. Brougham stated it has not been certified yet. The town was late getting the submittal in and by the time it went in with the tax rates and DOR gave priority to the tax rate setting.

Mr. O'Connor questioned if he should be reaching out to the Family Center at this point in regards to the Belchertown Day School Building. Mr. Archible indicated he had answers. Jitterbugs is moving into their new building on Stadler Street and the Day School will be moving into the old Jitterbugs building. Jitterbugs will be moving into their new building in February and then the Day School will move. The Family Center should be able to move into the town owned Day School building in March.

Mr. Archible: He received a letter from Lew Louraine about a complaint with Charter. The resident is having trouble with Charter and believes the Town should be able to get Comcast to come to town. Unfortunately it does not work that way. Charter owns the cable lines in town and there can't be two cable companies in town. Charter has a ten year contract with the town.

He also received the news that the cable prices are going up by \$3.00 a month on the average. Again the town does not have any say on programming. Further discussion ensued regarding the cable companies.

\*\*Mr. Brougham asked to confirm that the Family Center will be moving into the Day School building once they have moved out. Mr. O'Connor indicated he felt the Board was in agreement. Ms. Aldrich indicated that she has spoken with Lori Allen from the Family Center and that they are looking forward to moving into the Day School building. The Board discussed it in greater detail.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board support the Family Center in moving from their current location to the Day School property once it is vacated sometime in March of 2017. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. Barnett had some concerns regarding the motion in that it was not specific as to how the Family Center would be moving and if there would be any cost attached to the use of the building.

Mr. Archible confirmed with Mr. Brougham that the Day School has been notified in writing on several occasions regarding the deadline for their lease.

Mr. O'Connor rescinded his motion. He will coordinate a meeting with the Family Center committee.

Mr. Brougham stated that at the end of December the town had received notification from the United States Environmental Protection Agency that the Belchertown Waste Water Treatment Facility will be honored at a Boston based award ceremony on January 25<sup>th</sup> for excellence. The award is being presented to Rollin DeWitt and his staff. It was initiated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The EPA is acknowledging the exceptional work and operation that Rollin and his staff do. It is quite an honor. Just two years ago the Belchertown Water District received the most improved award by the folks who regulate drinking water. He believes this has a lot of significance and the dedication and commitment of both the

employees at the water district and at the waste water treatment facility. It is not something that anyone should take lightly. Board members congratulated the Waste Water Treatment Facility employees.

9) **Questions from the Press:** None.


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

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator


Board approved/endorsed: Jan. 23, 2017

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

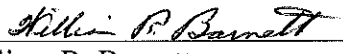
Endorsed by a majority:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George D. Archibole, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald E. Aponte

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas O'Connor

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William R. Barnett