

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017
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 #1815 was signed for \$447,804.37.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of September 11, 2017. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

- Appoint Part-Time Police Officer: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Chief Pronovost, Mr. Aponte moved to appoint Marissa Smith, from auxiliary police officer to part-time police officer, effective October 6, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

4) Appearances Before the Board:

- 7:33 p.m. Pole Hearing #2018-02, Old Amherst Road: Mr. Aponte read the public hearing notice and opened the pole hearing. Mindy Clowes from National Grid was present for the hearing. The purpose of the pole placement is to provide service to house #141 Old Amherst Road, Belchertown. The director of public works has no concerns regarding the pole placement. There were no comments or concerns from the public.

Hearing no comments, Mr. Archible moved to close pole hearing #2018-02. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Mr. O'Connor moved to grant petition #2018-02. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Award Bid #2018-01 – Constantino Lot Forest Management Project Forestry Services: Steve Williams, Director of Public Works presented the details to the board. DPW is working to continue targeting their forestry project. One bid was received from Anderson Timber Harvesting which is the same group that did last year's forestry project. This project is more of a corrective cutting where we are trying to "reset" the clock on this property. They will go in and really cull out the timber that needs to be removed in order to get some good regeneration. He asked that the Board award this bid to Anderson Timber Harvesting with a bid of \$23,220.00.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board award Bid #2018-01 to Anderson Timber Harvesting in the amount of \$23,220.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- b. Award Bid #2018-02 – Jabish Brook Lot Forest Management Project Forestry Services: Steve Williams presented the details to the Board. This is the property that was swapped the Mill Valley Golf Course years ago. They needed some town property to enlarge their course from nine to eighteen holes and in return the town received a larger portion of property from them. This is also a corrective cutting, opening it up to allow some regeneration. Anderson Timber Harvesting is also the high bidder for this project with their bid coming in at \$16,533.65. He is recommending the board award bid #2018-02 to Anderson Timber Harvesting.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board award Bid #2018-02 to Anderson Timber Harvesting in the amount of \$16,533.65. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- c. Appointment of Heavy Equipment Operator: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Mr. Archible moved to appoint Ron Ritter to the position of Heavy Equipment Operator I to Ron Ritter who has worked for DPW in the past, start date to be determined by the DPW Director. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- d. Set Winter Parking Ban: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Mr. Archible moved the Board set the Winter Parking Ban effective November 1, 2017 through April 1, 2018 as recommended by the Director of Public Works. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- e. Request to Close for Annual Holiday Luncheon: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. Mr. Barnett moved to allow the non-essential town departments/offices to close for an employee holiday luncheon on Friday, December 15, 2017 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- f. Appointment of Planning Board Member: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. With the resignation of a Planning Board member there is a joint appointment made with the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen. The Planning Board is recommending the appointment of Mark Spiro which would be good until the next election in May 2018. Mr. Barnett moved the Board appoint Mark Spiro to the Planning Board, term to expire at the next town election in May 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5- 0.
- g. Executive Session – MGL C. 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3: Mr. Aponte moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3 and not to reconvene in open meeting. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Roll call vote: Aldrich – yes, O'Connor – yes, Aponte – yes, Archible – yes, Barnett – yes.
- h. Miscellaneous Matters:

6) Town Administrator's Report:

- The Family Center has moved out of the former Franklin School. There is one essential piece of radio equipment in that building that the town is working with

Verizon to relocate to a cell tower in the south end. The ad has gone into the central registry and will be going into the *Sentinel* in the next couple of weeks.

- The bid is out for the Patrick Center so that project is also moving forward.
- There is a special event planned for Thursday with Lt. Governor Polito coming to Belchertown to announce a big grant for Belchertown for further infrastructure and road development at the former State School site. The grant will cover the cost of the road from Front Street to Jackson Street and will also include infrastructure.

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

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

Mr. Archible:

- Cordelia Beaver who was recently going to be awarded the gold cane passed away before she could receive it. Charles Howard would be next in line to receive the gold cane. Mr. Brougham will invite Mr. Howard to the next board meeting for presentation of the gold cane. He will also arrange to have a pin presented to Mrs. Beaver's family.
- He lost track of who is responsible for the Skate Park. He's been there at least twice a week and all the signage is gone. Mr. O'Connor indicated that when he was liaison to the recreation department they tried to work with the Skate Park Committee to see about the recreation department policing the skate park but it never went anywhere. He was there several weeks ago and there were 25 kids with only two wearing helmet. He indicated that technically they are covered by the recreation laws of the state. Technically it is unenforceable and without some type of oversight it is really unenforceable unless the rec. department is empowered to supervise it. It will be brought up again with the new recreation department director. Mr. Brougham will also contact the committee.

Mr. Aponte:

- Also mentioned the Mass Works grant that will be presented to the town on Thursday.
- The senior needs assessment will also take place on Thursday evening.
- Last week he and Selectman Archible attended a Board of Assessors meeting to discuss the Belchertown Day School and the tax pilot agreement. The Board of Assessors feels it is rather premature as the Board of Assessors has not granted a tax exempt status upon Belchertown Day School. He has touched base with the Day School's negotiation team and advised them to get in touch with the Director of Assessments.
- He attended a Narcan training which was sponsored by the Belchertown Opioid Awareness Task Force. It was very educational. He was very surprised by the amount of overdoses that happen in Belchertown and the amount of Narcan that is utilized within town. He also mentioned the Good Samaritan law that protects someone from who tries to help an overdose victim.

Mr. O'Connor:

- Last year there was \$100,000 earmarked for STEM funding for the schools and that money has not been received yet. He contacted Senator Lesser's office to work through the details. They were not awarded the grant so the \$100,000 for the STEM

program that we thought we had didn't happen. There was some misunderstanding around it being a competitive process. There is another grant opportunity in February.

- He saw an article on Mass Live about the scariest places to go in Massachusetts and they highlighted the Belchertown State School. He cautions all citizens that there is no trespassing on the grounds.

Ms. Aldrich:

- Thursday night the UMass Gerontology department will be at the high school at 6:30 to go over the community forum need assessment on the senior center.
- The book sale is going on at the Clapp Memorial Library
- The Belchertown Police Department was awarded a grant for domestic violence in the amount of \$242,537 which will help ensure the safety for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. It is a very important grant and it is wonderful that the town was awarded this grant.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from the *Gazette* asked for the last name of the person appointed to the Planning Board. The name and spelling was provided. He questioned who the member was that resigned. The name and spelling was given to him.

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

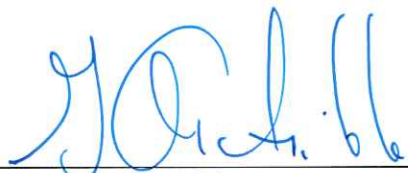
Board approved/endorsed: Oct. 23, 2017

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:


Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman


Ronald E. Aponte


George D. Archible

William R. Barnett

Nicholas O'Connor