

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

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

2) Sign Documents:

- a) Warrant #1917 was signed for \$1,653,346.77.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: None.

3) Additions to the Agenda: None.

4) Appearances Before the Board:

- 7:02 p.m. Pole Hearing - #2019-02, Lamson Avenue: Ms. Gramarossa read Pole Hearing #2019-02 notice and opened the hearing.

Diane Clowes from National Grid was present for the hearing. Ms. Clowes commented that it is a new house on Lamson Avenue and this pole will provide them service. Also the spans were long which is why a pole was added. No abutters were present.

Mr. Archible moved to close the pole hearing. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. Archible moved to grant petition #2019-02 on Lamson Avenue. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- 7:05 p.m. Public Hearing – Shree Manki, Inc. d/b/a Checker's General Store & Deli – Change of Issuance/Transfer of Stock/New Stockholder; Change of Manager and Change of Beneficial Interest: Ms. Gramarossa presented details to the Board and opened the public hearing. Attorney John Mooradian from Demakis Law Offices was present for the hearing on behalf of Shree Manki, Inc., d/b/a Checker's General Store & Deli. Sulaykumar was present with Attorney Mooradian. They have three requests for their license. The first request which required the public hearing is the stock transfer. Attorney Mooradian explained the stock transfers. The second request is for a change in officer/director. The change was explained to the Board. The last change is for change of manager to Sulay. He is a U.S. citizen, a Massachusetts resident, TIPS certified. He has been working at the store off and on as an employee and is familiar with how the store works. They do have an id scanner and he is unaware of any alcohol violations.

Mr. Archible questioned why they didn't wait until January 1st to do the changes. He asked the Town Administrator to confirm that there would be a fee for today's changes and then again upon license renewal for January 1, 2019. Mr. Archible commented that he did not have concerns with the changes.

Mr. Gramarossa commented that Sulay has been working at Checkers and questioned if in his previous employment if they sold alcohol and if it was similar to Checker's. She was happy to hear that he is TIPS trained.

Mr. Archible moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. Archible moved to approve Shree Manki, Inc., d/b/a Checker's General Store & Deli liquor license changes as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- 7:35 p.m. Appointment of Sergeant and Pinning Ceremony: **Appointment began at 7:25 p.m.** Ms. Aldrich indicated this is a very special night. She read the letter that Chief Pronovost submitted to the Board regarding the appointment and pinning of the new sergeant in our Police Department.

Chief Pronovost commented that seeing an officer move up through the ranks and be a part of a promotion is one of the better parts of his job as the chief of police. He is very proud, honored and excited to be a part of requesting that Neil Lozier be sworn in as sergeant. The process for one to promote themselves through the ranks is an arduous task. It takes a lot of studying, preparation for both the written exam as well as the interview process. It's about preparing yourself at the beginning of your career demonstrating how you react as a police officer, what you can provide for services to the Town. He reported that the Belchertown Police Department has a fine pool of candidates. Five officers stepped forward to go through the process and he was impressed by all of them.

Many people in town know Officer Lozier. He has done a fine job of doing some needed work in our community. He is always the first one to volunteer for any kind of a community project. He is involved in the DART Program. It is a program that is really helping to save people's lives. He does a good job, is always there when needed, he's a team player.

Ms. Aldrich moved the Board appoint Neil Lozier to the rank of sergeant on the Belchertown Police Department. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Sergeant Lozier was pinned by his wife. Following the pinning, Colleen Toothill-Berte, Town Clerk swore Officer Lozier in as Sergeant Lozier.

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Accept Part-Time Police Officer Resignation: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Officer Edward P. Smith is resigned his position as a Reserve Police Officer, effective September 26, 2018. A letter will be sent to Officer Smith thanking him for his service to the Town.
- b. Appointment of Firefighter/Paramedic: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Fire Chief Bock will be making the appointment of a firefighter/paramedic contingent on a CORI background check, firefighter medical physical and passage of the firefighter physical abilities test (PAT). Ms. Aldrich moved the Board appoint Robert Kauila III to the position of full-time firefighter/paramedic

contingent on his passage of all requirements. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- c. Appointment of Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member: Mr. O'Connor moved to appoint Nolan Smith Fernandez as an associate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- d. Acknowledge Retirement of Social Services Outreach Assistant/SHINE Counselor: Mr. Boscher presented the details to the Board. Phyllis Slate, Outreach Assistant/SHINE Counselor has announced her retirement, effective December 13, 2018. A letter will be sent to Ms. Slate thanking her for her service to the Town and congratulations on the retirement.
- e. Endorse November 6th State Election Warrant: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept and endorse the November 6th State Election Warrant. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 5-0.
- f. Endorse Bond Anticipation Note RE: FY2019 Capital Projects: Mr. O'Connor asked the Town Administrator to present the details to the Board. The Treasure-Collector has solicited quotes on this bond. She is asking the Board to ratify a bond obligation for \$1,500,000 for one year at a rate of 2.45% interest. This is to fund the capital projects that were approved at the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting. The firefighters breathing apparatus has been ordered and delivered. They are receiving training on the new apparatus now. The fire truck for \$550,000 is under contract, the Department of Public Works has their new dump truck on order and they are continuing to address some of the needs of the School Department. There are multiple pages to sign.

Mr. Archible moved to endorse Bond Anticipation Note RE: FY2019 Capital Projects. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- g. Endorse Mass Cultural Council FY19 Council Contract: Ms. Gramarossa presented the details to the Board. Our Cultural Council will receive an allocation of \$6,500 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Ms. Gramarossa moved the chairman of the board endorse the Mass Cultural Council FY19 contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- h. Review Accessory Apartment Application – B. Chianciola, 485 South Washington Street: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. This is an application for an accessory apartment at 485 South Washington Street. Mr. O'Connor commented that the Board of Health comments need to be considered because of the private water and septic. The Board will remand it back to the Planning Board with no action from the Board of Selectmen.
- i. Request to Close: Afternoon before Thanksgiving (11/21); Mornings of Christmas Ever (12/24) and New Year's Eve (12/31): Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. The non-essential group of employees is requesting to close on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 21st, and the mornings of Monday, December 24th and December 31st. These are all half days for the employees. Employees will use their own time for these closings. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board honor this request on behalf of the non-essential town employee group. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

6) Town Administrator's Report:

- Mentioned that the Veterans' Day activities have been placed in the Selectmen's folders.
- Last year the Town applied to be a Community Compact Community and we were the 345th Town in the Commonwealth to obtain that designation. Upon accomplishing that we received \$15,000 for best management practices at the Belchertown Police Department.
- More recently an opportunity arose to apply for a second round of funding and this time we applied for IT funding targeting an electronic permitting system to help all departments more efficiently manage our development. Kevin Hannon, IT Director was notified last week that Belchertown was approved for \$81,000.
- He and a number of other department heads sat in a Mass Development meeting last week with the owners of ARC Point. They are very interested in moving forward with their development plan. They talked about logistics with water, electricity, siting of their facility on Carriage Drive in addition to preliminary work with Belchertown Day School.
- He attended the walk through of Carriage Drive and the progress towards the redevelopment of the Belchertown State School with Mass Development and Senator Lesser last Thursday. We did a complete tour of the work to date. He inquired about how much more demolition money was necessary, how we are progressing towards more business starts. The Senator spent a considerable amount of time at the Belchertown State School last week.

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

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

Mr. Archible: Veterans' Day falls on a Sunday and all Veterans' Day ceremonies will be happening on Sunday at approximately 9:30 a.m. and then 11:00 a.m. at the Belchertown High School.

Ms. Gramarossa:

- On behalf of the Lakes Committee she notified residents that they will be holding a public outreach meeting on Thursday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall. This meeting is for anyone who has an interest in the lakes in Town whether you live on them or not.
- The school's strategic planning process has begun. She is part of the team that will be meeting once a month for the next many months. Residents may receive emails asking for input on where the schools are and where we want them to go moving forward.
- She thanked Senator Lesser for spending a lot of time last week with groups and individuals talking about the issues of substance abuse in the community and the impact it has had on Belchertown.
- Reminder to vote in the upcoming election. Take advantage of early voting.

Ms. Aldrich: Thanked Steve Williams, Director of Public Works. She has been in contact with Gloria Fortunato regarding the holiday lights. He confirmed that Pathfinder will be painting the lights. She has the light pins at Ransaka.

Mr. O'Connor: Thanked Senator Lesser – he attended a round table that the Senator sponsored. It was hosted in Longmeadow. It was a very informative open dialogue.

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

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

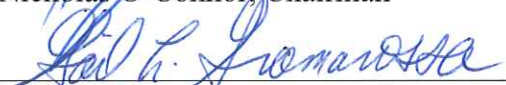
Board approved/endorsed: November 13, 2018

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:




Nicholas O'Connor, Chairman




Gail Gramarossa



Ed Boscher



George D. Archible



Brenda Q. Aldrich