

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 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 #1817 was signed for \$1,528,328.65.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of the September 25, 2017 meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of October 10, 2017. Motion seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 5 – 0.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

- Right of First Refusal – Boshko Belchertown Realty Trust, Lot 6, Pine Street: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Mr. Aponte moved the Board of Selectmen not exercise its right of first refusal for the parcel of land located on Pine Street, Map 276, Lot #107.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

4) Appearances Before the Board:

- 7:33 p.m. Charles Howard, Belchertown's Oldest Citizen – Presentation of Gold Cane: Ms. Aldrich presented the details. The Board is awarding the gold cane which is awarded to the oldest citizen in town. There is quite a list of people who will be 100 next year. Mr. Charles Howard who lives on Jackson Street is the recipient of the Gold Cane this year. He will be 100-years-old on January 23, 2018. He graduated from Belchertown High School in 1936.

Ms. Aldrich presented Mr. Howard the Gold Cane on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the residents of town. She told him that his name will be added to the plaque that is hanging in town hall. He asked if he could keep the cane and was told that it is his.

Mr. Aponte showed the plaque to Mr. Howard that will hang in town hall. The Board took a picture under the town seal with Mr. Howard.

Ms. Aldrich asked if he had any words of wisdom on living to his age. He said to eat a bowl of oatmeal and blueberries every single day of your life!

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Appointment of Full-Time Dispatcher/Clerk: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. In response to the impending retirement of Jean Flores, full time dispatcher, Chief Pronovost is recommending the appointment of a full-time dispatcher. Mr. Aponte moved the Board appoint Lauren Bock to the position of full-time Dispatcher/Clerk, effective November 17, 2017. Ms. Bock is a part-time dispatcher and has all the necessary certifications. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- b. Accept Highway Division Mechanic/Truck Driver Resignation: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. The Board accepted the resignation of Stephen Sikes as Mechanic/Truck Driver from the Department of Public Works, effective October 27, 2017. A letter will be sent to Mr. Sikes thanking him for his service to the Town.
- c. Accept ZBA Associate Member Resignation: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. An associate member, Robert Vigneault, has submitted his resignation and it is

effective immediately. The Board accepted his resignation and a letter will be sent to Mr. Vigneault thanking him for his service to the Town.

- d. Request to Close at Noon – Day Before Thanksgiving: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. This has been a request made by the non-essential town employees for many, many years with no problems. The non-essential town employees are asking to close at noon on the day before Thanksgiving. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board allow the request to close at noon the day before Thanksgiving, with employees using their personnel time. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- e. Award Bid #2018-03, Winter Sand Bid: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Director of Public Works, Mr. Archible moved to award bid #2018-03, Winter Sand bid to Ray Haluch, Inc., 1014 Center Street, Ludlow, MA: \$11.30 per cubic yard delivered or \$9.30 per cubic yard loaded at the pit. Motion seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- f. Award Bid, Patrick Center Demolition: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of the director of public works, Mr. O'Connor moved to award bid, Patrick Center Demolition to Associated Building Wreckers, Inc., 352 Albany Street, Springfield, MA for a total amount of \$56,800 to include demolition of the house as well as the garage and the asphalt. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- g. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

6) **Town Administrator's Report:**

- A week ago Saturday the whole electrical grid was shut down at the Parcel A complex (police station, senior center, IT departments, recreation building to enable the Grantham Group to get a temporary electrical connection on our electrical circuit which also allowed the town time to do some preventative maintenance on all transformers on that site.
- There was a construction meeting held at the police station on Thursday morning. They were updated on the progress of the Grantham project. Also met with the Nunes Company who is working on the project extending Front Street. This was followed with a meeting on-site with the utility company to try and arrange for utility locations and easements.

7) **Review of Weekly Mail:**

#19) Ms. Aldrich congratulated Belchertown's newest Eagle Scout, Aedan Maloney. The Board has a certificate to sign congratulating him on becoming an Eagle Scout. His name will also go on a plaque in town hall.

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

Mr. O'Connor: Mentioned they should get the Patrick Center Reuse Committee up and running again. The membership of the committee may need to be looked at again as some of the members have moved on.

Ms. Aldrich:

- She, Mr. Aponte and Mr. Brougham attended the Council on Aging Assessment Needs survey discussion. It was done by UMass Boston. They received a higher rate of return back on the surveys than was expected. Only 17 residents attended the meeting. It was suggested that holding it at night was not good for the elderly who did not want to be driving at night.
- She thanked the highway department as Howard Street now has two street lights.
- October is National Disabilities Employment month. In the month of October people are recognized who help people with disabilities find jobs. Steve Williams and Max Bock have hired the lawn crew from Community Options to take care of the mulching around town. Steve and Max were both recognized for helping out disabled people.
- The Veterans' Day ceremonies will be held on Veterans' Day, Saturday, November 11th. The ceremony begins on the town common at 9:30 a.m. Also at 11:00 am there will be an additional ceremony at the Belchertown High School.

Mr. Barnett: Mentioned how he and the Treasurer-Collector have been receiving many email regarding the changes in the health insurance program. There are still several school unions that have not signed their contracts. He questioned if the insurance trust should come out and hold a discussion with the school union contract people about the insurance so people understand why the changes are being made. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Aponte were in agreement.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from the *Sentinel* asked how much the Patrick Center bid came in at. Mr. O'Connor provided the information. It was also mentioned that the Patrick Center Reuse Committee would need to look for new members as some of the committee members have moved on. Mr. Hill also questioned how much the town paid for the Patrick Center. Mr. Brougham provided the information.

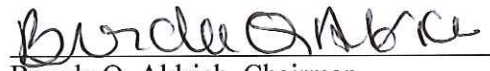
10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

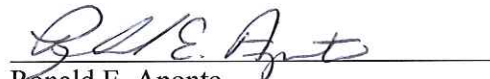
Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

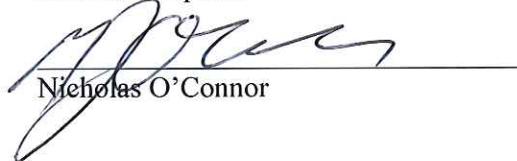
Board approved/endorsed: 11/13/2017

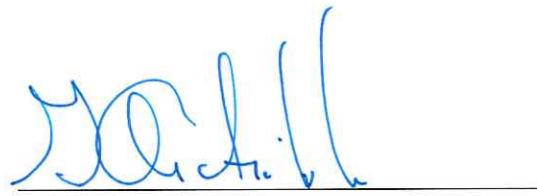
Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

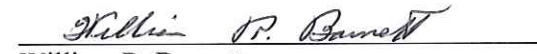
Endorsed by a majority:


Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman


Ronald E. Aponte


Nicholas O'Connor


George D. Archible


William R. Barnett