

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



**Present:** Nicholas O'Connor, George D. Archible, Gail Gramarossa  
**Absent:** 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 #1923 was signed for \$866,946.49.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes:

**3) Additions to the Agenda:**

- Request to Surplus K-9 Kennel Unit and Allow Funds to Go to Belchertown Animal Control Gift Fund: Mr. Archible moved the Board allow the request to surplus the old K-9 kennel unit and to allow any funds made by the sale to go to the Belchertown Animal Control Gift Fund. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- Request for Signatory – Standard Contract – Belchertown Splash Park: Mr. Brougham presented the details. This contract is for the money that Senator Lesser was able to obtain in the budget for the splash park in the amount of \$75,000. The Recreation Department Director is working up some documents to submit for reimbursement. The Board of Selectmen needs to vote to endorse the standard contract in order for the State to sign off on it.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board sign off on the contract which grants the Town access to the funds that have been earmarked for the splash park with Town Administrator Brougham to be an additional signatory in his absence. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0.

**4) Appearances Before the Board:**

- 7:02 p.m. Pole Hearing #2019-04, South Washington Street: Ms. Gramarossa read the public hearing notice and opened the hearing. Diane Clowes from National Grid was present for the hearing. The purpose is to relocate one jointly owned pole to provide service to Lot 2, South Washington Street. There were no comments or concerns from the public.

Mr. Archible moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3 – 0. Mr. Archible moved to grant petition #2019-04. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3 – 0.

- 7:10 p.m. Peter Bonneau and Lynn Park, Swift River Sportsman's Club – Change of Manager: Both Mr. Bonneau and Ms. Park were present for the hearing. Ms. Park will be the new manager for the Swift River Sportsman's Club as the current manager cannot do it any longer due to his work commitments. Mr.

Archible questioned Ms. Parker if she is TIPS certified. She indicated that she is certified. She has bartended in another restaurant.

Mr. Archible moved to approve the change of manager to Lynn Park, effective January 1, 2019. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 2 – yes, 1 – abstain (O'Connor –he's a member of the club).

- 7:30 p.m. Tax Classification Hearing with Board of Assessors: Tom Barry, Vice-Chair of the Board of Assessor's and Don Minney, Clerk of the Board of Assessors were present as was Jay Whelihan, Director of Assessment. Mr. Barry indicated that in a regular meeting of the Board of Assessors a motion was made to recommend keeping a single tax rate for the coming year. It did not make a difference if they tried to shift the rate towards business.

Mr. Whelihan took over the presentation and indicated this is the last step in budget process. Evaluations have been approved, the appropriations have all been set and the last part is to set the tax rate. The State has estimated their State aide and Free Cash has been certified. The Board of Selectmen needs decide whether to shift the tax burden between residential and commercial tax payers. They need to decide whether it will be one rate for the entire town or a mixed rate with residential and commercial tax rates. The Board of Assessor's has voted that the Board of Selectmen not shift the rate and adopt a factor of one which is one rate for the whole town. Mr. Whelihan went through the process of how they come up with the rates.

He presented statistical information with comparison to other community data. The proposed FY19 rate with a residential factor of one for Belchertown is \$18.32.

Mr. Archible moved to set a single tax rate with a residential factor of one as the FY19 rate at \$18.32. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3 – 0.

Steve Hill from *The Sentinel* asked Mr. Whelihan for clarification on rates. Mr. Whelihan provided the information.

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Vote to Renew Liquor Licenses: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board renew all existing liquor licenses for calendar year 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0. Mr. Archible will not sign the VFW licenses.
- b. Waive Hearing for Class III License Renewal: Town Administrator Brougham presented the details to the Board. A Class III license requires a hearing before the Board unless the Board waives it. The Board has waived the hearing in the past as there have been no complaints regarding Westover Auto Salvage. Mr. Archible moved the Board waive the hearing for Class III license renewal for Westover Auto Salvage known as P&T Enterprises. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- c. Begin Endorsing 2019 Licenses: Mr. Brougham confirmed this is for all licenses not just liquor licenses. The Board had no concerns for most licenses except for those who have taxes in arrears. Mr. Brougham confirmed that those licenses are

not in the folder for the Board's signature. The Board will begin signing the licenses tonight.

- d. Re-Appointment Deputy Tax Collector: Per the request of Lisa Banner, Treasurer-Collector, Mr. O'Connor moved to re-appoint Arthur P. Jones to the position of Deputy Tax Collector for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- e. Appointment of Part-Time Police Officer: Mr. Brougham indicated that he had spoken to Chief Pronovost regarding this appointment. The intent is not to have this officer work patrols but would allow retired Sgt. Panto to work details if he chose to do so. Mr. O'Connor moved to appoint retired Sgt. William Panto to the position of part-time police officer, effective December 15, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- f. Accept Police Dispatcher Resignation: The Board acknowledged the resignation of Trudy Oppenheimer as a police dispatcher. A letter will be sent to Ms. Oppenheimer thanking her for her service to the Town.
- g. Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 2, 3 and 6: Ms. Gramarossa moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 2, 3 and 6 and not to reconvene in open meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Roll call vote: O'Connor – yes, Archible – yes, Gramarossa – yes.
- h. Miscellaneous Matters

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

- We've talked about the storm water mandate a number of times in the past year. We are at the point with the storm water committee's work to come before the Board of Selectmen right after the first of the year to make a presentation about how the storm water program is going to blossom in Belchertown. We will move towards some public forums of user groups that might be impacted by the implementation of the storm water program. We will also discuss a storm water bylaw or authority that will be presented at town meeting. This program will result in a surcharge on taxes. The Town has tried to get a waiver out of the program; we've joined 27 or 28 communities in litigation challenging the EPA's authority in implementing some of the criteria.
- There will be a presentation on December 17<sup>th</sup> of the new Mass Solarized Program.
- Chief Pronovost has been moving hard and fast to try and get the Belchertown Police Department accredited. This week they are having their walk through with the review Board. The Department believes it is in a really good position for this review. It is possible that in the next couple of months the Belchertown Police Department will be fully accredited.

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

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

Mr. Archible: He had a lengthy email from residents on Pepper Ridge which is off of Springfield Road. Pepper Ridge is not an accepted town road. The developer has not kept his word maintaining it. The road is not finished, trees and brush are growing over the sidewalks, and the detention ponds don't have fences around them. A resident of Pepper Ridge wants the Board of Selectmen to do something unfortunately

this needs to go back to the Planning Board for them to take care of. The developer needs to meet with the Planning Board.

Mr. Archible moved the Board have the Town Administrator write a letter to the Planning Board to get this taken care of. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 3 – 0.

Ms. Gramarossa:

- She expressed her thanks to the Town Common Lighting Committee and the Winter Light Night Committee as well as the Cultural Council for the lighting event on November 24<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful event with hundreds of people in attendance. The Common looks beautiful.
- Reminded residents and groups that the deadline for applications for the Community Preservation Committee is coming up. The deadline is December 14, 2018. This is for historic preservation, recreation and housing.

Mr. O'Connor: He also thanked everyone who was involved with the lighting event. There were 800 candles lit on the Town Common.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Mr. Hill from *The Sentinel* questioned if there was any idea as to when work might begin on the splash park. He was told probably not until spring of 2019.

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.


Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: January 14, 2019

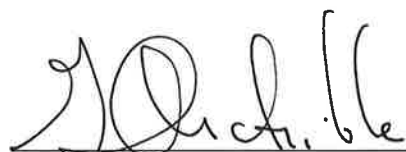
Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas O'Connor, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gail Gramarossa

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Absent)  
Ed Boscher

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George D. Archible

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Absent)  
Brenda Q. Aldrich