

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2018
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**

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

Absent: Ronald E. Aponte

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 #1835 was signed for \$505,582.96.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes:

3) Additions to the Agenda:

- **Appoint Interim Council on Aging Director:** Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Following a discussion with the town administrator she feels that Cynthia Kroll should be appointed to the position of interim director for the Council on Aging, term to expire as soon as a new director is appointed. Ms. Kroll currently serves as the administrative assistant to the executive director as well as overseeing the financial affairs of the senior center. She does cover for the director when he is out of the office and is capable of stepping into these shoes. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board appoint Cynthia Kroll as the Interim Director for the Council on Aging term to expire when a new director is appointed. Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – 0.

4) Appearances Before the Board:

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. **Place on Ballot – Selectman Seat, One Year Term:** Mr. O'Connor presented the details. Selectman Barnett is resigning with one year left on his term. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board place on the Ballot for the Town Election in May, the vacant seat with a one year term to complete Selectman Barnett's term. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- b. **Vote Snow Emergency – Snow and Ice Removal Budget:** Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. There is only \$16,000 remaining in the snow removal budget. Mr. Barnett questioned where the money is coming from. Steve Williams, Director of Public Works indicated the vote tonight is simply to allow deficit spending. Funding sources will be identified prior to town meeting. Mr. Archible moved the Board authorize deficit spending for snow removal. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- c. **Authorize Signatory for MassDEP Compliance Reporting:** Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. A request has been made to authorize the Director of Public Works to be the signatory for MassDEP Compliance Reporting in order to meet necessary contractual and reporting deadlines. Mr. Archible moved the Board authorize Steve Williams as the authorized signatory for MassDEP

Compliance Reporting. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Mr. Williams explained that these are small grants that that he can apply for because we the transfer station participates in these programs. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- d. Authorize Signatory for Green Communities Competitive Grant – 2018: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. The request is asking the Board to authorize the Town Administrator to be the signatory for an \$80,316 grant for HVAC and LED lighting at the Family Center. Mr. Archible moved the Board authorize Gary Brougham, Town Administrator, as the signatory for the Green Communities Competitive Grant. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – 0. Mr. Williams added that if he is successful with this grant it will bring the Town's total to well over \$400,000.
- e. Appointment of Maintenance Laborer: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Mr. Archible moved to appoint Miguel Vazquez to the position of Maintenance Laborer, effective immediately. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- f. Appointment of Member to Board of Registrars: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. Mr. O'Connor moved to re-appoint Nancy Wright as a member of the Board of Registrars, term to expire March 31, 2021. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- g. Appointment of Technical Services Librarian: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Sheila McCormick, Library Director, Ms. Aldrich moved the Board appoint Tegan Mannino as Technical Services Librarian at the Clapp Memorial Library, effective March 5, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- h. Site Plan Application – Fabbo Properties, Inc., 40 Front Street: Mr. Brougham presented the details to the Board. The Town Planner has forwarded a site plan where the owner of the Belchertown Garden Center is requesting to separate the lot from one lot into two lots. There are some complications with the plan as submitted with storm water maintenance, single access point, lot pins and etcetera. There are some differences of opinion as to what may be necessary to make this a complete application and / or compliant to separate this from one lot into two lots. He suggested that the Board of Selectmen remand it back to the Planning Board who is more qualified to assess the amendments that are required to position for a vote to separate the lot. Steve Williams, Director of Public Works was in agreement. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board take no action and refer it back to the Planning Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- i. Right of First Refusal – The Boshko Belchertown Realty Trust, Franklin Street (Map 271, Lot 59 and Map 272, Lot 81.04): Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. The Conservation Commission and Planning Board have recommended the Board of Selectmen not exercise their right of first refusal. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board not exercise their right of first refusal. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- j. Discuss Michael Norton's Bike Race Request for April 28th: Ms. Aldrich presented the details as to the bike race route and time. She has safety concerns regarding this race. Public safety officials were contacted for their input regarding the race. Chief Bock has concerns about the race and staffing of EMT's. Ms. Aldrich feels the Town should be compensated for having EMT's and an ambulance on call in case of any accidents with the racers.

Mr. Archible has spoken with Chief Bock who is concerned about the race. It is dangerous and Rts 9 and 202. With a large group of riders if one goes down usually many go down. Our ambulances cannot support the race. Last year they were asked to have an ambulance and he was told that they did not fulfill all the obligations that were asked of them last year.

Mr. O'Connor would like Mr. Norton and Chief Bock to be present at the next meeting to address these concerns.

- k. Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3: Mr. O'Connor 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. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Roll call vote: Aldrich – yes, O'Connor – yes, Archible – yes, Barnett – yes.
- l. Miscellaneous

6) **Town Administrator's Report:** None.

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

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

Mr. Archible: Asked Mr. Williams if we were back on track with Christopher Heights. Mr. Williams indicated he can't comment on Christopher Heights but he had a progress meeting today regarding Front Street. The contractor is eager to start but has to wait on the weather. The contractor feels it's about six weeks' worth of work to have things wrapped up. Mr. Williams did comment that it is his understanding that Christopher Heights will begin to allow occupants in sometime in June. The electrical service is now into the Christopher Heights site so they are waiting for the Grantham Group to finish their work on their side and then they will have their own permanent power.

Mr. Archible made a decision to close and lock the Skate Park. He was asked by some citizens to go and look at the park. The trash was full. There was an over-abundance of beer bottles and whisky bottles as well as broken glass. He was asked not to say something tonight but he felt obligated to speak out about it. It's can't be condoned and something needs to be done. Until further notice it will remain closed. He contacted all of the Skate Park Committee members regarding the lack of use of helmets, the litter. He wants documentation on an ongoing plan to keep up the Skate Park. The members want the key to clean up but he feels that is not a plan. He feels the Board should have a plan from the Skate Park Committee on how they are going to maintain it and how they are going to enforce wearing helmets. He is asking the Board of Selectmen to institute a rule that if you don't wear a helmet you will not be allowed to use the Skate Park. He is also requesting that the police department patrol the Skate Park once in a while. He hopes the media will cover this story.

Ms. Aldrich has forwarded the pictures that Mr. Archible took of the Skate Park to the Chairman of the Skate Park Committee. They need to meet as a group and come up with a plan. Once they have a plan they will come before the Board of Selectmen. At that point the Board of Selectmen will decide if the Skate Park will be reopened.

Mr. O'Connor stated he has a little experience with this group and this issue. There are people that won't skate if they have to wear a helmet. However, as a Town he feels that there needs to be safeguards in place for those who do use the Skate Park and that means wearing helmets. The CP Committee has given a \$100 thousand to the Skate Park to redo it twice. There are always new parents that come in to energize it; however, there is no real management for the Skate Park. Signs have been taken down requiring the use of helmets. He feels it could be a jewel in town but right now it is a nuisance. Any plan short of a managed situation where it falls under the Recreation Department where they are opening and closing it and life guarding it, making sure that rules are being followed wouldn't be satisfactory. He was in total agreement with Mr. Archible having closed it.

Mr. Brougham added that there has been difficulty with housekeeping. The amount of empty alcohol containers is very concerning. Even if it is being consumed by someone of legal age alcohol is not allowed on town property.

Ms. Aldrich: She met with the Senior Center on Thursday night and they voted to appoint Cynthia Kroll as the interim director. Mr. Brougham added that we have received 48 applications for the COA Director position in the second round of advertising. A majority of the screening committee members met last Friday and selected five of the forty-eight with interviews hopefully scheduled later this week or early next week.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from *The Sentinel* questioned Bill Korzenowski's last day at the Senior Day. The information was provided. He also requested the spelling of the interim director's name. The spelling was provided. He also asked Steve Williams the original amount allocated in the snow budget. Mr. Williams will contact Mr. Hill tomorrow with the accurate information.

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

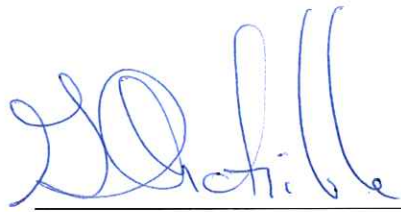
Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: March 26, 2018

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown


Endorsed by a majority:


Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman


George D. Archible

(Absent)
Ronald E. Aponte

William R. Barnett


Nicholas O'Connor