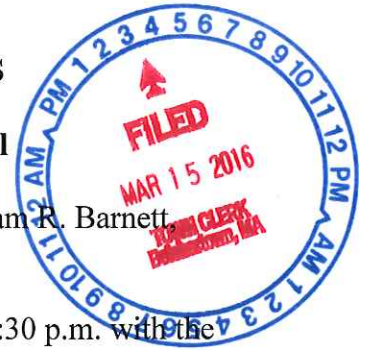


**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

- 1) **Call to Order:** Chairman Aponte called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) **Sign Documents:**
 - a) Warrant #1632 was signed for \$1,263,316.51.
 - b) Routine documents
 - c) Approval of Minutes: Ms. Aldrich moved the Board accept the minutes of January 25, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 1(abstain – Barnett).
- 3) **Additions to the Agenda:**
 - Endorse Primary Warrant: Ms. Aldrich presented the details. Colleen Toothill-Berte has requested the Board to endorse the State Primary Warrant to be held on March 1, 2016. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board endorse the State Primary Warrant. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 4 – 0.
 - Chapter 90 Project Request – Federal Street at Metacomet Street: Mr. Archible presented the details. This is to construct and install stormwater BMP facilities for Arcadia Lake, at the intersection of Metacomet Street and Federal Street, to eliminate untreated stormwater discharges from the roadway to the water body. This project is estimated to cost \$20,132.00.
- 4) **Appearances Before the Board:** None.
- 5) **Discussion/Action Items:**
 - a. Appointments to Council on Aging: Per the recommendation of James Dowling, Council on Aging Chairman, Mr. Aponte moved to appoint Diane Plante to a term to expire June 30, 2018 and Robert Farrington, term to expire June 30, 2017 to the Council on Aging. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 4 – 0.
 - b. Appointment of Assistant Registrar of Voters: Per the recommendation of Colleen Toothill-Berte, Town Clerk, Mr. Barnett moved to appoint Robert J. Hansbury as the Assistant Registrar of Voters, term to expire March 31, 2017. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.
 - c. Disclosure by Municipal Employee of Financial Interest in a Municipal Contract: Mr. Aponte recused himself from this discussion. Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. The Town Clerk is seeking an endorsement of an official disclosure by a municipal employee of financial interest in a municipal contract form. Mrs. Aponte is an employee of the Belchertown School Department and also works as an election worker, a compensated position. Ms. Aldrich moved to authorize the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign the Disclosure by

Municipal Employee of Financial Interest in a Municipal Contract Form. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 3 – 1 (abstain – Aponte).

- d. Accept Fair Committee Member's Resignation: The Board accepted the resignation of Marguerite Brennan from the Fair Committee, effective immediately. A thank you will be sent to Ms. Brennan for her many years of service on the Fair Committee.
- e. Change Meeting Location and Time for Meeting of Monday, February 22, 2016: Ms. Aldrich moved as a result of the Special Town Meeting on February 22, 2016, to move the Board of Selectmen regular meeting to the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium to begin at 6:45 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- f. Call May Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting; Set Warrant Article Deadlines for Both: Ms. Aldrich moved the Board Call the May Special Town for Monday, May 9, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the Annual Town meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. for Monday, May 9, 2016 at the Belchertown High School; and to set the deadline for submission of warrant articles as follows: for the Special Town Meeting 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23rd and for the Annual Town meeting on Wednesday, March, 30, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 4 – 0. Mr. Barnett clarified that if a petition is submitted it will need to be added.

Ms. Aldrich moved to change the regular Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, May 9, 2016 to 6:30 p.m. at the Belchertown High School. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- g. Attending Meetings Remotely: Mr. Aponte presented the details. The Board of Selectmen would need to approve this for all Town Boards and Committee and not selectively choosing which Board could allow it. He has referred to the Kopelman and Paige memorandum that asks for questions and concerns from other agencies that allow attending meetings remotely.

Mr. Barnett feels there are time when it would work attending a meeting remotely. He has no significant objections.

Ms. Aldrich agrees; however, feels that people should not exercise this privilege if they are on vacation.

Mr. Archible feels differently. He believes that if you run for office you have an obligation to attend the meetings.

Mr. Aponte thinks this might be acceptable for people who are working away from home but not while they are on vacation. He also feels this should not apply to executive sessions. Ms. Aldrich was in agreement with that.

Following discussion the Board agreed it should be use only for video conferencing and regular meetings.

Mr. Archible pointed out that Mr. Barnett has gone to meetings on crutches and / or a wheel chair. If you are on a committee you should make yourself available to attend a meeting. Mr. Archible also stated the Board of Selectmen has postponed key votes when one or more Board members were not available.

Richard Fritsch from the School Committee stated two members of that committee travel frequently disallowing them to participate.

The Board discussed potential concerns:

- A 72 hour notice should be given
- No remote voting
- Skype
- No executive session remote participation
- No Special Town Meeting or Annual Town Meeting remote participation
- Possibly limit the number of events any member may remotely participate
- Possibly limit the number of Boards or Committees who may participate remotely.

The Board agreed to discuss this further at their first March meeting.

- h. Endorse Deed Restriction – VanZandt: This discussion will be held at the Board’s first March meeting.
 - i. Review/Discuss Special Town Meeting Motions: The Board reviewed all motions and agreed on what and/or how much to fund and what should be held until the Annual Town Meeting in May.
 - j. Miscellaneous Matters: None.
- 6) **Town Administrator’s Report:** None.
- 7) **Review of Weekly Mail:**
#5) Mr. Aponte mentioned that Pathfinder Regional School Budget Presentation will be held on March 16th at 7:00 p.m.
- 8) **Individual Board Members’ Reports:**
Mr. Archible: Thanked Vincent Viglione, Veterans’ Graves Officer for his work in the cemeteries around Town.

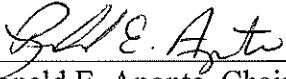
Ms. Aldrich: Lori Allen thanked the DPW for their assistance at the Family Center. She also asked if the Board can arrange a hearing in Belchertown to discuss the proposal to bring timber rattle snakes to Quabbin.
- 9) **Questions from the Press:** The press questioned how much money is being moved to the Stabilization Fund from Free Cash. They were told \$437,000.
- 10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: March 14, 2016

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:


Ronald E. Aponte, Chairman


Brenda Q. Aldrich

George D. Archible


William R. Barnett

(Absent)
Nicholas O'Connor