

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Brenda Q. Aldrich, Nicholas O'Connor, Ronald E. Aponte, William R. Barnett (Late)

**Absent:** George D. Archible

**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 #1837 was signed for \$521,372.08.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of January 8, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 3 – 0. Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the executive session minutes of January 8, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 3 – 0. Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of February 12, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 3 – 0. Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of a joint budget meeting with the Finance Committee of January 31, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 3 – 0.

**3) Additions to the Agenda: None.**

**4) Appearances Before the Board:**

- 7:33 p.m. Pole Hearing #2018-04, Ware Road: Mr. Aponte read the public hearing notice and opened the pole hearing. Diane Clowes from National Grid was present for the hearing. The pole is for service for a new building at 80 Ware Road. The request was to have the right transformer installed and then run to 80 Ware Road. The location is strategic to the need and field conditions.

Paul Greene, an abutter is concerned the proposed location is directly in front of his house. He questioned if the pole could be moved. Ms. Clowes would have to see about possibly shifting it more towards... right now the pole that is right near the property is attached to the solar farm so she can't add transformers to that pole. The original pole was just about 20 ft. away and what Mr. Greene is asking is if the new pole could be where the old pole tap pole was. She will have to bring the foreman out to see how close they can get to the pole and safely work and if the terrain allow for it. It will be possible for her to get the engineer to come out within the next two weeks and have an answer for the Board at the next meeting.

Hearing no other concerns Mr. Aponte moved to continue the pole hearing to March 26, 2018 at 7:33 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 3 – 0 – 1(Barnett).

- 7:35 p.m. Michael Norton – Bike Race, April 28, 2018: Ms. Aldrich greeted Mr. Norton and asked him for an overview of the race. It is USA Cycling and its cyclist who are trying to become pro-cyclists to get on tours like the Tour de France. They have amateurs all the way up to pros who race this race. He explained the race route. They are on Belchertown roads for probably an hour and a half from when they come into Town to when they exit.

Ms. Aldrich has safety concerns regarding the race as she's been caught in that race driving out on Rt. 202 and it was very dangerous. The Town is concerned about what kind of support we need to give the racers and what kind of reimbursement to the Town is possible.

Chief Bock addressed concerns regarding participants and public safety. As the race begins in Town is where the biggest group of cyclist are as they are all pooled together. They don't really separate until they get into Pelham. We have the biggest group of cyclist and several years ago there was some kind of a collision on Rt. 9. Both of the Town's ambulances were tied up with those crashes. He doesn't feel like the tax payers should have to pay for an outside event. He is requesting a private detail at the applicant's expense. Mr. Norton stated that they are willing to do that in Belchertown. He also informed the Board that they have four EMT's in their vehicles that follow the cyclists and are the first to respond to an accident. These EMT's are the ones that will call the ambulance. They also have a safety committee that talks to the local police as they race through the towns.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board approve the bike race with the EMS conditions. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 - 0.

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Endorse Mader Forest Conservation Restriction: Erica Cross, Conservation Administrator came before the Board with the Conservation Restriction for Mader Forest. She received an email from Town Counsel indicating that they approved it. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board endorse the Mader Forest Conservation Restriction as documented. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 3 - 0 - 1 (Barnett so he can notarize the document).
- b. Temporary Reassignment of Selectman Barnett's Liaison Duties: Following a discussion by the Board it was agreed that Mr. O'Connor will take on the liaison duties for the Finance Committee. The Board agreed to fill in as needed for other liaison duties.
- c. Acknowledge Retirement Notice – Department Assistant II, Treasurer/Collector's Office: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. After nearly 40 years of working for the town, Shirley Dillard is retiring in May. A letter will be sent to Ms. Dillard thanking her for her many years of service to the Town.
- d. Accept School Committee Member Resignation; Vote to Add Vacant Seat to Ballot: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board Myndi Bogdanovich is resigning from the School Committee due to other commitments. A letter will be sent to Ms. Bogdanovich acknowledging her resignation and thanking her for her service to the Town.

Mr. Aponte moved the Board request the Town Clerk add the vacant seat of the remaining one year for Ms. Bogdanovich's seat on the school committee for the May 21, 2018 election. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 - 0.

- e. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

**6) Town Administrator's Report:** Mr. Brougham mentioned the following:

- Sportshaven – It is in tax title and has no license. After many failed attempts he has been working with the Attorney General's office, DEP, Judy Metcalf in the Board of Health and Lisa Banner the Treasurer-Collector and the tax title attorney. There have been multiple appearances before Judge Field in the Hampshire Housing Court. They were there again today for three hours. They are trying to get DEP to lift the boil order that has been in place for many years at Sportshaven. The Tenant's Association has petitioned the court to take over the park and hopefully re-license the park so they can enforce the collect rent and run it responsibly.
- Reminder that the Pathfinder budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday night.
- Over the past few weeks he has met with four different solar developers who are looking at very large solar arrays in Belchertown. One of the developers is talking about 2 - 40 megawatts which is a huge amount of solar on multiple parcels.

- The Council on Aging is operating with an interim director. The search committee for the executive director met last Thursday and interviewed three candidates. They will be interviewing two additional applicants on Friday. The Board will hold final interviews on Friday, March 23, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
- He asked the Board to confirm the Belchertown Day School and the Skate Park Committee will come in on the meeting of Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed their coming in.

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

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

Ms. Aldrich: Tonight is Bill Barnett's last meeting. It's been a pleasure working with him. They haven't always agreed but they've been able to work together. The Board has respect for each other which makes them work well together.

Mr. Barnett: It's been a pleasure working with everyone for all these years. He joked that there comes a time when his wife wonders when they can be married! He will still work with the Council of Governments.

Mr. O'Connor: The first time he met Bill was to be sworn in on the Telecommunication Committee who joked that he wondered why he was getting involved with that committee.

Mr. Aponte: The Town of Belchertown is a better place because he worked here.

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

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:17 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  
Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman

(Absent)  
George D. Archible

Ronald E. Aponte  
Ronald E. Aponte

William R. Barnett  
William R. Barnett

Nicholas O'Connor  
Nicholas O'Connor