

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

Call to Order: Chairman Aldrich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to the start of the meeting Ms. Aldrich announced that the Board of Selectmen would not be discussing signs in the Town Common Parking Lot. It has been forwarded to Town Counsel for an opinion.

2) Sign Documents:

- a) Warrant # 1841 was signed for \$585,942.01
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of March 26, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

4) Appearances Before the Board:

- 7:35 p.m. Public Hearing – Laying Out Front Street as a Public Way: Mr. Aponte read the public hearing notice and opened the hearing. Steve Williams, Director of Public Works spoke about the petition, the intent and benefits of the project. He also gave an overview of the steps to be taken.

Mr. Aponte emphasized this is an important step to expand and support additional development on the former Belchertown State School site. There were no questions from the public. Mr. Aponte moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – 0.

Mr. Aponte moved the Board of Selectmen vote its intention to lay out “Front Street” as a public way, all as shown on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Belchertown, MA prepared for the Town of Belchertown” dated March 2, 2018 prepared by Sherman & Frydryk, LLC and recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 241 Page 77. The plan is available for viewing at the Town Clerk’s Office and was forwarded to the Planning for its comments and recommendations pursuant to G.L. c. 41, §§81G and 81I. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – 0.

Mr. O'Connor moved to withdraw the motion. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.

Mr. Aponte moved the Board of Selectmen vote its intention to lay out “Front Street” as a public way, all as shown on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Belchertown, MA prepared for the Town of Belchertown” dated March 2, 2018 prepared by Sherman & Frydryk, LLC and recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 241 Page 77. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- 7:45 p.m. Pole Hearing #2018-05 – West Street: Mr. Aponte read the public hearing notice and opened Pole Hearing #2018-05 – West Street. Diane Clowes from

National Grid spoke on behalf of the petitioner. The pole placement is to provide service to 228 West Street. The Department of Public works has approved the location. There were no concerns or comments from the public. Mr. O'Connor moved to close the hearing. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 - 0.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board grant petition #2018-05. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 - 0.

- 7:48 p.m. Pole Hearing #2018-06 – Sheffield Drive: Mr. Aponte read the public hearing notice and opened Pole Hearing #2018-06. Diane Clowes spoke on behalf of the petitioner. The pole placement is to provide service at 186 Sheffield Drive. The Department of Public Works approved the pole location. There were no concerns or comments from the public. Mr. O'Connor moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 - 0.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board grant petition #2018-06. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 - 0.

- 7:55 p.m. Gloria Fortunato – Lighting: Ms. Fortunato came before the Board. She and several residents have been meeting recently to discuss and meet with lighting consultants to fabricate a plan to accomplish the holiday light upgrade. She presented different scenarios to the Board from just changing out the light bulbs on the current holiday structures to buying all new ones. The group will be doing fundraising for this project.

Mr. Brougham feels it would be appropriate for the Board to name an official Holiday Day Lighting Committee to enable members to be insured under the Town's umbrella policy like other Town Committees and Boards. Both he and Steve Williams are very supportive of the idea.

Mr. Aponte moved the Board form and authorize a five member Holiday Lighting Committee. Ms. Aldrich questioned if it should be a Holiday Lighting Committee or just a Town Common Lighting Committee? Mr. Aponte amended the motion to, the Board of Selectmen authorize and create a five member Town Common Lighting Committee. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 - 0.

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Appointment of Veteran's Service Agent: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Mr. Archible moved to re-appoint Ray Janke as the Veterans' Service Agent, term to expire April 30, 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 - 0.
- b. Appointment of Animal Control Officer and Assistants: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. Mr. Aponte moved to re-appoint Anna Fenton as Animal Control Officer, term to expire April 30, 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 - 0.

Mr. Aponte moved to re-appoint Animal Control Assistants, Janet Lipscomb, Wendella LeSage and Jessica LaBonte, terms to expire April 30, 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 - 0.

- c. Accept Skate Park Committee Member's Resignation: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. The Board accepted the resignation of Dunstan McNutt from the Skate Park Committee. A letter will be sent thanking him for his service.
- d. Review ZBA Special Permit Petition – Maxwell Scoon, Jr., 671 Bay Road: Gary Brougham, Town Administrator, presented the details to the Board. The owner of the property is seeking a special permit and/or designation of his home to be officially

recognized as a duplex. The Assessor's office recognizes this property as a duplex. The owner is asking for an official designation from the Town for this property as duplex. He recommended the Board of Selectmen send the application back to the ZBA with comments that they pay attention to comments/concerns from all board/committees and/or the public. Mr. Archible moved the Board remand the application to the ZBA for their consideration. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- e. Review Article List for Annual Town Meeting: The Board reviewed all articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Following discussion on all articles, Mr. O'Connor moved the Board approve all presented articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- f. Award #2018-05, Tree Bid: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Director of Public Works, Mr. Archible moved the Board award Tree Bid #2018-05 to Asplundh Tree in the following amounts:
 - o Tree Trimming - \$189.70
 - o Tree Removal - \$189.70
 - o w/ Log Loader - \$305.20
 - o Emergency Work - \$262.86
 - o w/ Log Loader - \$414.93

Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- g. Award #2018-06, Town Owned Equipment/Vehicles Bid: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board regarding the sale of Town owned equipment/vehicles. Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Mr. Archible moved to award bid #2018-06 as requested. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- h. Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 2 and 3: The Board agreed to not hold the executive session.
- i. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

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

- Mass Development opened bids last night for the development of Carriage Drive. There were three responsible low bids. He expects that Mass Development will be making an award on the Carriage Drive project utilizing the \$3 million Mass Works grant that the Town received last year. They are hopeful to have this project underway in May.
- He read a news article in *The Republican* last week regarding a forum at the Quabbin Visitor's Center that the Town had no knowledge of. One of the Commissioners of DCR has proposed to restrict further access to the Quabbin for fishing, hunting and hiking. He is concerned that the Town received no notification. He did receive information from Jim Russell who indicated that legislators were present who quickly talked sense into DCR and the proposal was withdrawn. He is concerned that the surrounding communities were not notified.

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

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

Mr. Archible: With the resignation of Mr. McNutt the Skate Park Committee will need another person to volunteer. He attended the tour of Christopher Heights. The rooms are small. Mr. Aponte indicated he had spoken with Walter he was told the rooms are small almost on purpose because they don't want people staying in their rooms. They want them to come out and socialize.

He and Steve Williams attended the MPO meeting for Maple and State Street reconstruction project. It is a \$407 million project. Mr. Williams explained that 75% of the funding will

come from the federal government and 25% from the State Transportation Department. We are currently on the federal fiscal year 2019 plan for funding. So this October we could be going out to bid but by September of next year we would have to be out to bid with construction beginning in 2020.

Mr. Aponte: Congratulated BARC on their successful fundraiser over the weekend. He also just wanted to thank BARC for continuing to fundraiser for the operations and programs for the animal control facility and they have kept their promise. They are doing a very good job.

Mr. O'Connor: Also attended the tour and it was impressive. He's never seen the backside of it. There will be some nice views. The kitchens face the ballfields. He also thanked Anna Fenton for all the work she is doing with social media and her outreach as it really helps BARC to do the fundraising.

Ms. Aldrich: On Friday she attended, with Chief Pronovost and Lt. Pacunas, The Children's Advocacy Center Luncheon. The Northwestern District Attorney holds a luncheon every year for Child Abuse Month. One of the speakers got up and stated that the abuse happens in all communities. In 2017, Belchertown had nine cases of child abuse reported and acted upon. She hopes that we are all there listening and seeing what is happening and protecting our children. Our officers are doing an awesome job in our community.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from *The Sentinel* questioned what was going on with the issue of signage on the Town Common. Ms. Aldrich gave an overview of what was happening. The matter has been referred to Town Counsel.

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: April 23, 2018

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:



Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman



Ronald E. Aponte



George D. Archible



Nicholas O'Connor