

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



**Present:** Brenda Q. Aldrich, Nicholas O'Connor, George D. Archible, Gail Gramarossa, Ed Boscher

**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 #1848 was signed for \$1,825,723.09.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept the minutes of May 3, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0 – 2 (Gramarossa, Boscher). Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept the minutes of May 14, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0 – 2 (Gramarossa, Boscher). Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept the minutes of April 23, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0 – 2 (Gramarossa, Boscher).

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

**4) Appearances Before the Board:**

- 7:33 p.m. Pole Hearing #2018-07, Old Enfield Road: Mr. O'Connor read the public hearing notice and opened Pole Hearing #2018-07. National Grid is installing one singly owned pole and one anchor needed for guying of pole 83.

Diane Clowes from National Grid was present for the hearing. This pole is for a new home that is going in. The street pole is already there. This is a single pole and a single guy wire anchor for guying the existing pole.

Mr. Archible stated that Steve Williams, DPW Director doesn't have any issues with it.

Mr. O'Connor asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none Mr. O'Connor moved to close pole hearing #2018-07. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Mr. Archible moved the Board grant petition #2018-07 and allow the pole to be placed by National Grid and that if there is a problem that the DPW Director and Diane Clowes will handle the situation. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- 7:36 p.m. Jim Natle – Endorse Community Preservation Act Agreement: Jim Natle from the Community Preservation Committee was present and presented the details to the Board. This is the money for the Grantham Group. The Board's endorsement allows the CP Committee to give the money to the Grantham Group.

He also has a bill that was submitted to the CPC which they endorsed to process through the Town Accountant but the Grant Agreement needs to be signed first.

Ms. Aldrich confirmed with Mr. Natle that the sum of the grant is \$238,000. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board endorse the Community Preservation Grant Agreement in the sum of \$238,000 for Christopher Heights. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Endorse State House Note: Mr. Brougham presented the details to the Board. The Treasurer-Collector has asked the Board to endorse State House Notes in the amount of \$248,000 to permanently fund the CP Grant agreement that was utilized to rehabilitate the stone walls around Parsons Field on Jabish Street. The application was approved by Town Meeting a year ago. Work has been completed. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board endorse the Community Preservation Act Agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- b. Accept Agricultural Commission Associate Member Resignation: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Leslie Cox submitted a letter of resignation from the Agricultural Commission as an Associate Member effective May, 10, 2018. A letter will be sent to Mr. Cox thanking him for his service to the Town.
- c. Request to Amend Liquor License Antonio's Pizza: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. The Board had approved the 5K Race to benefit the USO at a previous meeting. This request is to pour alcohol outside of their permitted area. Mr. Brougham reminded the Board that they had asked to be provided with the information regarding the secured area as to where alcohol would be poured as well as the hours when it would be served outside of the permitted area. The manager has provided the information identifying security, the hours of operation and the actual pouring area beyond what is currently allowed by ABCC. He feels the information adequately addresses the Board's concerns and if the Board is in agreement a notice will be sent saying they have been approved for that event. Mr. Brougham feels that Antonio's request is in line with other requests such as what McCarthy's does during the fair weekend.

Ms. Aldrich also questioned if the group had met with Chief Pronovost to discuss any concerns regarding the route for the 5K Race. Mr. Brougham is not aware of any concerns that the Chief may have had with the route. They had met with the Chief after the first review where there were concerns about the runners going into traffic and some streets that are narrow. Those concerns were addressed.

Ms. Gramarossa questioned if the staff is TIPS trained. She was told that Antonio's has their staff TIPS trained. Ms. Aldrich stated that the Board does ask that staff be TIPS trained when liquor licenses are given out. Mr. Brougham stated that to the best of his knowledge there has never been an OUI or a liquor license violation from Antonio's.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board approve as requested the additional pouring area at Antonio's on June 10<sup>th</sup> between 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- d. Special Permit – Frederick M. Leigh, 944 Federal Street: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Mr. Leigh is requesting a three year extension for his seven unregistered vehicles. There has never been a complaint about these cars and the place is clean.

Mr. Archible moved the Board allow the permit to Mr. Frederick M. Leigh of 944 Federal Street for his seven unregistered vehicles. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- e. Rescind Award of Bid – 2000 Ford Ranger Pickup: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Several weeks ago the DPW Director auctioned off some town property. The high bidder for the 2000 Ford Ranger Pickup has recently fallen on some financial hardships and cannot follow through on his bid for the pickup truck.

Mr. Archible moved the Board rescind the bid award of the 2000 Ford Ranger Pickup and let the DPW Director handle it. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. The motion passes 5 – 0.

Mr. Brougham informed the Board that the other two bidders on the pickup truck had been contacted but they were no longer interested. He also indicated the truck is not worth the cost of a legal advertisement but had been bulked in with a bunch of other items. It will most likely end up at the auto salvage yard as scrap metal.

- f. Appointment(s) of Members to the Council on Aging: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Jessica Langlois, the Director of the Council on Aging sent a letter indicating the Council on Aging Advisory Board recommends the appointment of Timothy Niejadlik (term to expire June 30, 2019) and Colleen Duro Shea (term to expire June 30, 2018) to the Council on Aging Advisory.

As Mr. Niejadlik was present, Ms. Aldrich asked him to tell the Board a little bit about himself. He is a resident of Belchertown and is currently the Director of Veteran Services throughout Franklin County and Hampshire County. He works with five major council on aging centers so he can see what they do for outreach programs and what Belchertown does to see what works and what doesn't.

Ms. Aldrich moved the Board appoint Council on Aging members as recommended. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- g. Appointment of Department Assistant II – Treasurer-Collector's Office: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. The Treasurer-Collector has reviewed applications and conducted interviews. Ms. Banner is recommending the appointment of Sarah Bisonnette. She has working knowledge of the system that the Town uses as she works in Ludlow which uses the same system.

Ms. Aldrich moved to appoint Sarah Bisonnette as the Department Assistant II in the Treasurer-Collector's office, effective June 11, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- h. Appointment(s) of Seasonal Laborer: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Steve Williams, DPW Director is recommending the appointment of two seasonal laborers. Mr. Archible moved the Board appoint Benjamin Bachand and

Damon Bachand as Seasonal Laborers, both appointments effective immediately. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- i. Appointment of Full-Time Firefighter / Paramedic: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Lisa Hermanson had been a full-time firefighter / paramedic but went to part-time so she could go to school for nursing. She is back now and wants to be full-time. The residents at Town Meeting approved hiring of two additional full-time firefighter / paramedics. Chief Bock has recommended moving Lisa from part-time to a full-time firefighter / paramedic.

Ms. Aldrich moved to appoint Lisa Hermanson to the position of full-time firefighter / paramedic, effective May 12, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- j. Appointment of Historical Commission Member: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Patrick Bierly, Chairman of the Historical Commission, Mr. O'Connor moved the Board appoint Kevin Lynn to the Historical Commission, term to expire June 30, 2020. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- k. Review Accessory Apartment Application: Mr. Brougham presented the details to the Board for the accessory apartment application at 172 Munsell Street. The property owners are seeking to add an in-law apartment over their garage. It will be 600 sq. ft. He has no concerns regarding the application. If the Board is in agreement it would be appropriate to ask the Planning Board to be critical of other Board's, Committee's, abutter's comments and / or concerns. The Board was in agreement and a letter will be sent to the Planning Board asking that they pay attention to any comments and / or concerns regarding this application.
- l. Appointment of Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Director of Public Works, Mr. Archible moved to appoint Terrence Yates to the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I with the condition that he must obtain his WWTP license within one year. This appointment is effective immediately. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- m. Reorganize the Board and Assign Liaison Duties: Ms. Aldrich moved to appoint Nick O'Connor as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for 2018-2019. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 5 – 0. Ms. Aldrich moved to appoint George Archible as Vice-Chairman of the Board. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. Archible moved to appoint Gail Gramarossa as Clerk of the Board. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Ms. Aldrich indicated that Mr. O'Connor will reassign liaison duties for Board members at the next meeting. If anyone has any preferences they should send them for Mr. O'Connor's review prior to the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

- n. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

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

- He thanked Ms. Aldrich for her outstanding job as Chairman of the Board for the past year.
- He brought the new members up to speed regarding the concern Belchertown residents have about the noise as the Granby Bow & Gun Club. Board members

attended Granby Selectmen meetings and encouraged a cease and desist order on the Gun Club. The Town of Granby authorized their Board of Selectmen to step up and take action against the Gun Club. It was identified that their extended range was not properly permitted, the Club House was opened without a certificate of occupancy and ultimately the Town of Granby did put a cease and desist on the long range which was the cause of the majority of the offensive noise.

It did quiet down for a little while but recently he is aware that some Board members have received phone calls about the noise level. Residents are threatening to no longer pay their taxes in Belchertown saying their property values are being impacted negatively. There has been increased activity on the range. Mother's day weekend the noise from the range was awful. Several Board members indicate they heard it from their homes. The Gun Club is planning on holding another shoot during the Father's Day weekend. They are advertising targets up to 900+ yards which he believes is the long range which should have a cease and desist order on it.

The residents on Barton Avenue and some of the common drives are being troubled by this once again. Granby also went through an election recently and has new members. Mr. Brougham will contact the Town of Granby suggesting that there is questionable activity going on at the Gun Club in that the long range is being used again and the noise is intolerable.

When he wrote the last round of letters he had contacted DEP as there was a massive clear cut that has allowed this noise to migrate to Belchertown unlike ever before. He is disappointed that DEP has not followed up; he has heard nothing from them.

Mr. O'Connor indicated he has had two neighbors say something about the noise. He is concerned that the cutting was not even permitted.

Ms. Aldrich mentioned that last year Granby had asked the Town of Belchertown to march in their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade. She indicated that she will not be marching in their parade. She feels that The Board of Selectmen has done everything they can to get the situation resolved for the residents of Belchertown from the Town of Granby and it just is not happening. It is not fair to the residents to have to live like this.

Mr. O'Connor made it clear that this is not a second amendment issue but it is a quality of life issue. The residents that have concerns have licenses to have guns. Members of the Board asked to be told if there are any other meetings regarding the noise concerns with the Granby Bow and Gun Club. Mr. Brougham will solicit an opinion from Town Counsel to see if there is anything that our town can do to help our residents.

- The State School project is moving rapidly along. Building G was completely demolished over the last three weeks. Carriage Drive is the road that will be constructed with the \$3 million Mass Works Grant we were approved for last

week. The contractor mobilized last week and is working on it now. The complete work will be done by next spring.

- He and Selectman Archible attended the MPO meeting last Tuesday and the final vote was given for Belchertown's FY19 congestion management project on Maple and State Streets. That will break ground when Carriage Drive concludes.
- Town meeting approved the \$2.1 or \$2.2 million capital bond. He will be working with Steve Williams, Ted Bock, Eric Lebeau in the School Department to come up with a plan to move forward with the projects. The police station roof will be done this summer. He is keeping an eye on the bond rates.

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

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

Mr. Archible: At the MPO meeting the mayors fight for their money. Our project was voted on and approved without any kind of a fight. In the last 15 years the Town has received \$15 million that Steve Williams has gotten for projects in Town.

He's had calls about the work being done on Rt. 21. He stated that the Grapevine is installing a water line so they can hook into Town water.

Mr. Brougham added that the Pride liquor license was approved by ABCC. He contacted their attorney to see if he had a construction schedule and it looks like they will be working within a month.

Ms. Gramarossa: She is looking forward to working with everyone. She thanked the voter's for electing her. She will attend the Mass Selectmen's Association training for new officials. She hopes to learn a lot from that. She also thanked Ron Aponte and Bill Barnett's time on the Board. She appreciates all the time they served.

Mr. O'Connor: Also thanked the voters for putting him back in office. He is humbled by that. He also thanked Ron and Bill not only for their service but for helping acclimate to the position when he was new. ARC Point is looking for a place in Town. He put them in touch with a realtor in Town. There is also a whiskey distiller coming, they bought a 20 acre farm in Town.

Mr. Boscher: Thanked everyone for a warm welcome. He also thanked the voters.

Ms. Aldrich: Thanked everyone who attended Town Meeting. It was a large turnout. There was a lot accomplished. The Memorial Day events were beautiful. She had a phone call from a resident. The senior class wanted their senior class pictures taken at the Quabbin. They were told they could not do it because it's a threat of a terrorist attack. The parent went the next day to speak to whomever at Quabbin along with many of the seniors. They demanded that they be allowed to take their senior pictures there. They were told that they misunderstood what had originally been said (but they really were told it was a terrorist attack). The seniors did take their pictures at the Quabbin.



Tomorrow night at the Senior Center is the Citizen's Academy graduation. She will be graduating from it. They met every Wednesday evening for three hours. There will be pizza, beverages and pastries. She invited everyone to come to it. She encouraged everyone to go through the Citizen's Academy.

They will be doing a youth academy this summer. Youths between the ages of 14 – 17 are encouraged to go through it.

- 9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from the *Sentinel* questioned when the Granby Bow and Gun Club restarted this long range. The Board stated they are not sure it's long range shooting but based on the noise they believe it is. They believe it started in April but the Mother's Day weekend was bad. The shooting is occurring on a daily basis.

He also questioned the spelling of the names of the two new appointments to the Council on Aging.

- 10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

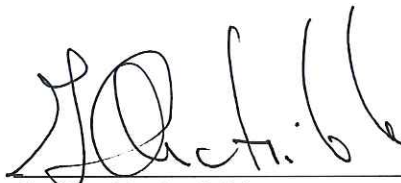
Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator


Board approved/endorsed: June 11, 2018

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

  
Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman

  
George D. Archible

  
Nicholas O'Connor

  
Gail Gramarossa

  
Ed Boscher