

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

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

2) Sign Documents:

- a) Warrant #1945 was signed for \$496,837.38.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: None.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

- Appointment DPW Seasonal Laborer: Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Director of Public Works, Mr. Archible moved to appoint Jeffrey Grossman to the position of DPW Seasonal Laborer, effective immediately. Motion Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.

4) Appearances Before the Board:

- 7:35 p.m. Public Hearing – Stormwater Utility By-Law: Ms. Gramarossa read the public hearing notice and opened the hearing.

Steve Williams, Director of Public Works and Erica Cross, Conservation Administrator were present for the hearing. Mr. Williams reviewed the high points of the Stormwater Utility By-Law. The town has to do this because of the federally issued MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) permit. The EPA (environmental protection agency) administers it at the federal level. The town was first permitted for stormwater in 2003 for its stormwater discharges. At that time the town also formed a stormwater committee which has been instrumental in keeping the town in compliance with this program. We were able to stay in compliance for 13 years without any major impacts. In 2016 the EPA issued a revised permit which had highly restrictive measures. He reviewed the revisions. The permit became effective in 2018. We received a grant in 2017 to study the effects of this permit and more specifically the financial impacts and how to fund them.

The committee looked at three options for funding stormwater and felt that a stormwater utility was the best option. They presented the facts earlier this year to the Board of Selectmen who asked that they have some public hearings which they did. While not highly attended the discussion went well with residents asking some very pointed questions. In order to move forward with the utility option there are two things that need to happen. The formation of an enterprise fund needs to happen. The enterprise fund is a revolving account for revenues and expenses. The money obtained for the utility stays within that fund. The

stormwater budget will need to go back to town meeting to be approved like all other town budgets.

The stormwater bylaw does require a public hearing. He published tonight's public hearing in the *Sentinel* on March 19th and 26th. In addition the bylaw was made available in the Town Clerk's office. The bylaw authorizes the Board of Selectmen to establish rates and methods to collect fees and creates regulations if necessary, address abatements. The bylaw outlines all the definitions of the stormwater program and goes over certain exemptions.

The rates will be established by factoring the total program costs which will be developed by the department heads that are affected and approved by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. A billing unit is 1,000 sq. ft. of impervious area. The average home has about five billing units or 5,000 sq. ft. of impervious area. The average five year cost is just under \$400,000 which means each billing unit is going to be equal to about \$9.24 or for an average home \$46.20 a year. There are over 6,600 billable properties throughout town both residential and commercial. It equates to about 45,000 billing units which puts us just over \$400,000.

Ms. Gramarossa confirmed that municipal buildings as well as commercial and residential buildings are subject to this utility. Mr. Williams added that the committee went with the utility as everyone would be responsible there would be no exceptions.

The process for determining billing of impervious area was explained by the conservation administrator.

Mr. Boscher moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 4 – 0

Ms. Gramarossa moved the Board place this article on the May 13, 2009 annual town meeting warrant. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.

5) **Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Review Variance Request – Stephen Delude, 15 Crestview Drive, Belchertown: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. The Board remanded the request back to the Zoning Board of Appeals for their review. The ZBA will hear this request on May 15, 2019.
- b. Review Accessory Apartment Application – Knodler, 50 Alden Avenue: Mr. Boscher presented the details. The applicants want to build an apartment for their in-laws. The Board remanded the plan back to the Planning Board for their review.
- c. Right of First Refusal – Morra, Pine Street/Franklin Street (.021 acres/Lot 13A, Map 272-81; 1.033 acres/Lot 14A, Map 272.81: Both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board have recommended the Board of Selectmen not exercise their right of first refusal. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board not exercise their right of first refusal on this property. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- d. Endorse Dog Warrant: Ms. Gramarossa presented the details to the Board. The Board annually endorses the warrant which allows the animal control officer and / or assistants to respond to dog issues. Ms. Gramarossa moved the Board endorse the Dog Warrant. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- e. Endorse Health Insurance Memorandum of Agreement: Mr. Brougham presented the details to the Board. The Hampshire County Insurance Trust has been trying to amend the health insurance for the past year. He reminded the Board of the different options that were open to the Board regarding collective bargaining and the 25% mitigation that would go back to the employees who had health insurance.

Ms. Aldrich moved the Board endorse the Health Insurance Memorandum Agreement. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- f. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

6) Town Administrator's Report:

- Both the DPW and School Department have been struggling to fill job positions. There has been a shortage of applicants.
- At the special town meeting there is a warrant article to buy two lots near the Jabish Brook Middle School. He believes it is in the town's best interest to own them and they are identified as lots 111.3 and 111.4. We have a signed agreement on the offer with a conceptual purchase and sale agreement. The purchase and sale is contingent on the special town meeting vote. If approved the closing will happen rather quickly. He is asking the Board to authorize him to sign the purchase and sale for these lots or someone on the Board so we are not caught in between meetings waiting for a signature. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board appoint the town administrator to sign off on the purchase and sale agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Gramarossa. Motion passes 4 – 0.

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

8) Individual Board Members' Reports:

Ms. Gramarossa:

- Town meeting is May 13th - both special and annual. Please do everything you can to attend.
- There is a school committee meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 pm. They are at the end of their process to hire a new school superintendent. Finalist interviews were held last Friday. School committee deliberations will continue tomorrow evening.
- The cultural council had a reception earlier this week to recognize the groups that they are granting funds to.

Ms. Aldrich: Met with the dispatcher's and came to an agreement on their contract. It is subject to ratification.

Mr. Boscher: He attended the school superintendent finalist meets and greets and listened to both candidates speak. He also went to the actual school committee interviews where they were asked 12 pre-arranged questions.

- 9) **Questions from the Press:** *BCTV* will have Mr. O'Connor sitting with them on Thursday night to go over the town meeting warrant articles and there may or may not be a member of the planning board and the community preservation committee also present. May 16th they are hosting candidate's night at 7:30 p.m.
- 10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: June 10, 2019

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

(Absent)

Nicholas O'Connor, Chairman

Gail G. Gramarossa
Gail Gramarossa

Ed Boscher
Ed Boscher

George D. Archible

Brenda Q. Aldrich
Brenda Q. Aldrich