

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

**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 #1752 was signed for \$4,061,327.73.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of May 22, 2017. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of June 12, 2017. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the executive session minutes of June 12, 2017. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

**3) Additions to the Agenda:**

- Municipal Financial Relief Forms: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. The first transfer is from the police expense account to the police wage account in the amount of \$30,000. This is reflective of the overtime budget. Mr. Aponte moved the Board approve the municipal transfer for \$30,000 from the police expense account to the police wage account. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Mr. Aponte presented the detail of the second municipal transfer request. It is in the amount of \$1,500 from the Pathfinder assessment account to the library wage account. Mr. Aponte moved the Board endorse the municipal transfer for \$1,500 from the Pathfinder assessment account to the library wage account. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

**4) Appearances Before the Board:** None.

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Accept Resignation form At-Large Member on Scholarship Committee: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. The Board acknowledged the resignation of Theresa Przybylowicz, from the Scholarship Committee, effective immediately.
- b. Joint Appointment of Planning Board's Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. The Planning Board has appointed Eric Wojtowicz to the position of the Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits. As this is a joint appointment they are asking the Board of Selectmen to also vote to appoint him. Mr. Barnett moved the Board appoint Eric

Wojtowicz as the Alternate Voting Member to the Planning Board, term to expire June 30, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- c. Appointment of Full-Time Police Officer: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. Chief Pronovost is recommending the appointment of Andrew Letendre to the position of full-time police officer. Mr. Aponte moved the Board appoint Andrew Letendre to the position of full-time police officer, effective June 19, 2017. Motion seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- d. Appointment of Historical Commission Member: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of the Chairman of the Historical Commission, Mr. O'Connor moved to appoint Bruce Klockars to the Historical Commission, term to expire June 30, 2020. Motion seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- e. Appointment of Seasonal Laborer: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Director of Public Works, Mr. Archible moved to appoint Brandon Gonzalez to the position of Seasonal Laborer, effective June 23, 2017. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- f. Endorse Senior Center Title III Grant Application: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. This is a grant that the senior center director applies to every year and it helps to pay for nutrition, medical rides and outreach. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board authorize the Chairman of the Board to endorse the Senior Center Title III Grant application. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- g. Endorse Standard Contract – Green Communities Competitive Grant: Town Administrator Brougham presented the details to the Board. DPW employees Max Bock, Donna Lusignan and Steve Williams as well as several other employees took advantage of a green communities grant opportunity and were approved for \$195,358 to update fifteen municipal building with LED lighting and to replace the majority of our street lights. This will provide an energy savings to the town. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board authorize the Chairman to endorse the Standard Contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. O'Connor amended the motion to assign Gary Brougham, Town Administrator as signatory for this grant. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- h. Discuss MassWorks Grant: Mr. Brougham presented the details to the Board. An opportunity has presented itself to file for a MassWorks Grant seeking \$2.5-\$3 million which would complete the installation of water and sewer utilities, and construct a road extending Front Street to Jackson Street with a new intersection at the end.

There was initially a plan to redirect \$200,000 of the road bond money as the town's match even though no match is required but contributing funds gains points in the evaluation process. In speaking with MassWorks recently it was pointed out that the town has invested \$1.25 million in infrastructure development on the site and this will be counted as a contribution so the \$200,000 does not need to be redirected. Everyone is very supportive of this application opportunity. He is asking the Board to endorse it and ideally to appoint him to endorse it because once it is filed there will only be five days to endorse it and get it filed and it may fall between meetings.

Mr. Aponte questioned when approval would be expected. Mr. Brougham believes it would be sometime in September.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board authorize Town Administrator Brougham to endorse the MassWorks Grant Application when it's prepared for submission. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Claire O'Neil joined the meeting and went into greater detail regarding the grant. There is a lot of momentum regarding the development on the former State School grounds and she feels it is very important to get this grant application submitted. There has been a lot of discussion with various department heads as to where the road should go. The final application for this grant should be submitted around the end of July.

Ms. Aldrich questioned the DPW director regarding the road and having it come out on Jackson Street. He indicated there is an active notice of intent on file to support phase II of the project. The roadway is being widened and some of it is being relocated. The hope is to have the traffic from Jackson Street diverted through the campus grounds and alleviate the traffic up on the residential section of Jackson Street and Howard Street.

- i. Chapter 90 Project Request: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Mr. Archible moved the Board endorse the Chapter 90 forms in the amount of \$495,048.72 for resurfacing utilizing bituminous concrete overlay, chip sealing, some reclamation and/or crack sealing. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- j. Discuss PVRTA Bus Stop: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. The PVRTA bus only comes as far as the town common so anyone trying to get to the court house must walk down State/Maple Street. In the winter it's rough walking to the court house. Mr. Bolduc who is developing the Pride Station has sent a letter to the Board indicating he will develop an appropriate area for a bus stop, pull-out or turnaround area for the bus route.

Mr. Archible moved the Board authorize the Chairman of the Board to send a letter to the PVRTA asking that they extend the bus run down to the Pride Station once the project is completed. Mr. Aponte seconded the motion. Motion passes 5 – 0.

k. Miscellaneous Matters:

6) **Town Administrator's Report: None.**

7) **Review of Weekly Mail:**

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

Mr. Archible: Mentioned the letter that he wrote concerning town counsel's coverage for the continued town meeting. He was not impressed with the coverage. Town counsel was late, he felt she was not prepared when she was asked questions; she doesn't have the ability to broadcast her voice. He would like to see the town administrator move forward and express these concerns to KP Law that the town was not satisfied.

Mr. Barnett added to the concerns stating that she did not do a good job at the May meeting either. She did not know how to vote on an article that someone wanted to amend. She had to review the Roberts Rules before she knew how to proceed. He believes the Board should notify KP Law that we want a different attorney for our meetings.

Mr. Aponte was in agreement with the comments. He feels her presentation is not a strong or assertive enough. He has had residents tell him that they've been in the audience and they cannot hear what she is saying. On the stage the board can barely hear her. She was not prepared and especially for the meeting last week knowing that those three questions were controversial and not to be prepared was unacceptable. He feels it necessitates a letter from the Board stating their dissatisfaction.

Mr. Aponte moved that the Board of Selectmen submit a letter of dissatisfaction with town counsel's performance at the last town meetings for the reasons stated this evening. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion amended to request new counsel. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Ms. Aldrich was in agreement stating that the second meeting was postponed over four weeks and she was not prepared for it. Motion passes 4 – yes, 1 – abstain (O'Connor).

Mr. Aponte: Thanked the senior center and the council on aging director and staff for allowing the Board to attend their meeting last week. There was a nice tour of the senior center and a chance to review their needs assessment study.

He spoke of the continuation and finalization of the annual town meeting. The vote to withdraw from the council of governments was defeated but he realizes that there are still some concerns regarding the management of the council. He questioned how the Board felt about having a deeper audit of the council with the auditor that the town uses (Tom Scanlon) and to include some of the other member towns such as South Hadley.

Mr. Archible moved that the town administrator reach out to other member towns to see if they are willing to go in on an audit. The town administrator questioned if it was legal to audit another organizations books. Mr. Aponte stated that is why he wants to reach out to Tom Scanlon to see what he says. The board agreed that they would reach out to Tom Scanlon before contacting other member towns.

Mr. O'Connor: Did not attend the meeting at the senior center as he was at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. Congratulations to all the 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

He and Mr. Barnett attended a meeting with Senator Lesser and the State Auditor in a round table discussion around how technology can be leveraged to town government for efficiencies.

Ms. Aldrich: The Board all attended the Police Citizen's Academy. She felt it was nice that the Board all attended as this is the first one for our new chief. A gift certificate was given to the K-9 Officer to help pay for food for the dogs. She did not know that he is responsible for buying all the food. Mr. Brougham corrected Ms. Aldrich in stating that there is a gift account that residents are very generous to that

does help to pay for the dog food for the Belchertown K-9's but did note that Officer Brougham does make a significant contribution to the dogs.

She also participated in the blood drive on Friday. The Council on Aging held the blood drive and it was a competition between the police department and the fire department. The police department ended up winning by a narrow margin.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from *The Sentinel* had questions regarding the road construction from Front Street to Jackson Street. His questions were answered. He also questioned which state agency did the Green Communities Grant. He was told it was DOER.

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

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: July 24, 2017

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

  
Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman

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George D. Archible

  
Ronald E. Aponte

  
William R. Barnett

  
Nicholas O'Connor