

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

- 1) **Call to Order:** Chairman Aponte called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2) **Sign Documents:**
 - a) Warrant #1652 was signed for \$3,658,250.61
 - b) Routine documents
 - c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept the minutes of April 7, 2016. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- 3) **Additions to the Agenda:**

- 4) **Appearances Before the Board:**
 - 7:40 p.m. LeeAnne Connolly, Conservation Administrator: Ms. Connolly notarized the easement for the Animal Control Facility.
 - ✓ Topping Farm Conservation Restriction: She does not have the Topping Farm Conservation Restriction available for this evenings meeting. The Board has already signed it but there is a new conservation restriction reviewer for the State. She has made some changes to it and Ms. Connolly has sent them to Town Counsel for their review to see if the changes are significant enough for the Board to have to resign the document. No action taken at this time.
 - ✓ LAND Grant – Mary Madder Property – Approximately 90+ Acres off Allen Road: Ms. Connolly presented the details. She provided a timeline handout, the budget and a map of the property. This is a LAND grant which the Town has down approximately 12 times. She indicated this project is a little different because it is a community forest. There is 87 acres of land on both sides of Allen Street. It is presently under forest management and a portion of this property will remain in forest management. The timber value has been estimated at \$89,740 so the Town will be able to recoup some of its money. She is applying for a \$231,540 grant for this property. The purchase price of the property is \$437,500 (appraised value). The owner is willing to do a bargain sale with the Town for \$337,500.00. The grant will cover 68% of the cost of the property. The rest of the financing would come from the community preservation money and private donations.

Ms. Aldrich questioned if this could be part of the timber management that was recently voted on. Mr. Brougham stated that the vote had been for a particular piece of property but in the future it could be. This property has been managed for years so there is some marketable timber on it. If Ms. Connolly was able to get the grant and purchase the property quite a bit of timber could be cut without destroying the forest. Ms. Connolly presented

details of the property to the Board explaining that it is already used quite often for recreational use.

Mr. Aponte moved the Board authorize the Chairman to endorse the LAND Grant for the Madder Property utilizing his discretion before signing the final application. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Ms. Connolly also requested a letter of support from the Board for the LAND Grant. The Board was in agreement to endorsing a letter of support.

5) **Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. National Grid Distribution/Grant Easement for Animal Control Facility: Mr. Aponte presented the details. This easement is to allow for the installation of electrical service for the new Animal Control Facility. The easement will allow National Grid the right to install, operate and properly maintain the lines and equipment upon the property. Mr. Aponte moved the Board approve and endorse the easement. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- b. Amendment to Annual Appointments – Technology Advisory Committee: Mr. Barnett presented the details. Due to an error the Board last meeting voted to reappoint to terms through June 30, 2019 for the Technology Advisory Committee members. Mr. Barnett moved to amend the appointments to terms to expire June 30, 2017. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- c. Right of First Refusal – Freeman, .75 acres at 34 Rural Street and 4 acres of Map 241, Lot 23.4: Ms. Aldrich presented the details. The Conservation Commission has voted the Town not exercise its right of first refusal on this property. It is for $\frac{3}{4}$ acre parcel at 34 Rural Street and 4 acres of land known as Boardman Road, May 241, Lot 23.4. The property has been secured under a purchase and sales agreement. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board not exercise its right of first refusal on this property contingent on the Planning Board's findings at their meeting on June 28, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- d. Endorse Fair Contract: Mr. Brougham presented the details. For many years Fanelli Amusement had provided the amusements for the Fair. This year Fanelli failed to meet the minimum bid requirement. Fiesta Shows submitted bid on the fair. They are a rather large operation that goes out from the North Shore to Worcester and they are looking to expand. Fair committee members have actually gone out to one of their locations and checked them out. Committee members were impressed and feel they will do a good job at the Belchertown Fair.

Ms. Aldrich moved the Board accept and endorse the 2016 Fair Contract to Fiesta Shows. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- e. Review Appeal of Zoning Enforcement Officer's Decision – Kendall, 3 Forest Road: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. There is controversy regarding a fence on Forest Road. It is in violation of the town bylaws. It has been appealed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Barnett feels the Board should defer the matter to the Zoning Board and let them handle it. The Board was in agreement and it will be sent back to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- f. Appointment of Director of Parks and Recreation: Mr. Barnett stated he spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the resumes/applications. It was difficult to choose as all three are very competent and able to do this job.

Mr. Barnett moved to appoint Kyle Thibeault to the position of Director of Parks and Recreation. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Mr. Archible called for a discussion from the Board.

Ms. Aldrich thanked for the Search Committee for an excellent job in providing three outstanding candidates for the Selectmen to interview.

Mr. Aponte stated he is very comfortable with all three candidates. He was very impressed with Angela Dufield as she did her homework in regards to the position and the budget. He was very impressed with Mr. Thibeault but felt that he did not have the same experience as Ms. Dufield but has hands on experience. He stated that Bryan Litz was very impressive; however, money is a concern. He feels that Mr. Litz is the most qualified candidate.

Ms. Aldrich stated all three candidates were amazing. She also felt that Ms. Dufield had many great ideas. She liked the way Mr. Thibeault handles parent conflicts. He's had a lot of experience having worked in the school system. She liked Mr. Litz's knowledge with fundraising, his general knowledge of recreation and handling of parents.

Mr. O'Connor stated that all were very good candidates. He mentioned that Mr. Thibeault is not as experienced as the other two candidates. He also felt that he is too sports focused. Ms. Dufield had good ideas; she was very focused on outdoor programs but standing next to Mr. Litz he has the advantage with his experience. His choice is Mr. Litz and feels that while the money is a concern we should be choosing the best candidate. He feels the money should be a secondary consideration.

Mr. Archible echoed the other Board members sentiments regarding the candidates but agrees with Mr. Barnett that Kyle Thibeault is his choice for the position of Director of Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Barnett rescinded his motion so that the Board members could vote on their choice.

Mr. Aponte feels that Bryan Litz is the most qualified.

Mr. Archible asked for a vote from the Board members:

- Ms. Aldrich – Votes for Kyle Thibeault
- Mr. Barnett – Votes for Kyle Thibeault
- Mr. Aponte – Votes for Bryan Litz with a caveat regarding the salary
- Mr. Archible – Votes for Kyle Thibeault
- Mr. O'Connor – Votes for Bryan Litz

Mr. Barnett moved the Board offer the position of Director of Parks and Recreation to Kyle Thibeault. Mr. Aponte amended the motion to allow the Chairman of the Board and the Town Administrator to negotiate the salary with Kyle Thibeault. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.

Following further discussion, it was agreed the discussion with Mr. Thibeault would be to confirm that the 37.5 hours and the \$64,000 and change that it was clear and acceptable to him.

- g. Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3: Mr. O'Connor moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3 and not to reconvene in open meeting. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Roll call vote: Archible – yes, Aldrich – yes, O'Connor – yes, Aponte – yes, Barnett – yes.
- h. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

6) Town Administrator's Report:

- The amended legislature for the Patrick Center for sale to the Town for municipal reuse was voted in the House last week and it was voted in the Senate on Friday. It is now headed to the Governor's desk for his signature.
- Paving of Route 181 is supposed to begin tomorrow. This will be the binder coat. Once the whole road has the binder coat they will then come back to the Center of Town to begin laying down the top coat.
- Last week there was a collision on Rt. 21 with a van vs. utility pole. The vehicle caught on fire and charter communication cable burned. Our 911 calls were being routed through the phone system at town hall. Kevin Hannon redirected the calls back to the police department for 911 calls. There is a significant section of the road that was burned out. Steve Williams is working with a contractor and the insurance company to have that restored.

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

8) Individual Board Members' Reports:

Mr. Aponte: Thanks to Mr. Hannon for stepping up and getting the 911 calls routed back to the police department. The FAA has allowed for commercial drone usage. He asked Mr. Louraine to explain what it meant for the use of the drone. Mr. Louraine indicated that the FAA has come up with rules and regulations that are definitive and easier for commercial drone pilots. Mr. Aponte will check with Chief Pronovost to see how often he wants to be notified of the drone flying.

Ms. Aldrich: The smoking ban on the Town Common goes into effect July 1, 2016. She questioned whose job it is to enforce the smoking ban. Mr. Brougham suspects it will be the Board of Health and the Police Department. Richard Fritsch resigned from the School Committee. She thanked him for his service to the Town.

Mr. O'Connor: Governor Baker attended the ground breaking at McLaughlin Hatchery last Friday. The Historical Commission is desperately trying to get the school house moved. It is to go on the property at the Stone House Museum.

Mr. Archible: Attended the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting. He has been re-elected to represent a number of Western Mass towns.

- ❖ Dawn French, School Committee Chairman, spoke to the Board regarding the resignation of school committee member, Richard Fritsch. An advertisement will be placed for a couple of week seeking his replacement. It will also be placed on the

School Department web page. She believes the deadline is July 21st. The school committee meets on Tuesday, July 26th and hopes that the Selectmen will be able to attend that meeting for the joint appointment of a new member.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from *The Gazette* asked to clarify the vote for the Director of Parks and Recreation position. He also clarified that when he asked last week for the salary for that position he was told for 37.5 hours it was between \$61,000 - \$63,000 and for 40 hours it was \$69, 0000.

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

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator


Board approved/endorsed: July 11, 2016

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown


Endorsed by a majority:




Ronald E. Aponte, Chairman



Brenda Q. Aldrich



George D. Archible



William R. Barnett



Nicholas O'Connor