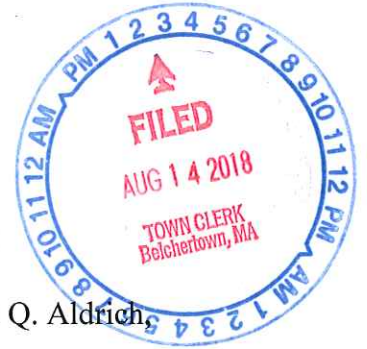


**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 23, 2018  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

**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 #1904 was signed for \$1,326,698.38
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Ms. Gramarossa moved the Board accept the minutes of June 25, 2018 and July 9, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Ms. Gramarossa rescinded the motion.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board approve the minutes of June 25, 2018. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 4 – yes, 1 – abstain (Aldrich). Mr. O'Connor moved the Board approve the minutes of July 9, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – yes, 1 – abstain (Boscher).

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

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

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Belchertown Fire-Rescue Department – Request for Dispensation to Solicit at Fair: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Fire Chief Bock has requested that the fire department be allowed to solicit donations while in uniform on the Town Common at the Belchertown Fair. He indicated that this has been an ongoing event throughout the years without any problems. It is their major fundraiser. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board allow the Fire-Rescue Department to solicit for donations while in uniform at the Belchertown Fair. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- b. Acknowledge Technology Advisory Committee Member Resignation: Mr. O'Connor acknowledged the resignation of Yosef Nimni from the Technology Advisory Committee. A thank you letter will be sent to Mr. Nimni for his service to the Town.
- c. Right of First Refusal – The Property Group, Inc. – 7.49 Acres, 290 Rockrimmon Street (Map 263, Lot 107): Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. It is his understanding that the Planning Board recommended the Board take no action. He asked the town administrator for confirmation. Mr. Brougham confirmed that as well as adding the Conservation Commission also recommended no action be taken. There will only be a couple of homes built on this property.

Mr. O'Connor moved on the advice of the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board to take no action and not exercise the right of first refusal of the

property at 290 Rockrimmon Street. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- d. Appointment of Part-Time Conservation Secretary: Ms. Gramarossa presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Erica Cross, Conservation Administrator, Ms. Gramarossa moved the Board appoint Cayla Paulding to the position of Secretary to the Conservation Commission. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- e. Endorse FY19 UMass Transit Service Agreement: Mr. O'Connor questioned the Town Administrator to see if there was anything different in this annual agreement. He confirmed that it is an annual agreement where UMass agrees to perform a certain number of trips each year to transport people in PVTA buses around the area. Tonight's agreement is the same.

Ms. Aldrich moved the Board authorize the Chairman of the Board to endorse the FY19 UMass Transit Service Agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Boscher. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- f. Set Date for Special Town Meeting; Establish Deadline for Warrant Articles: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. We have received the required 200 certified signatures for the three citizen petitions to facilitate a special town meeting. There is a deadline to hold the special town meeting. He reviewed the three citizen's petitions regarding two of the larger solar projects in town. The town voted for a solar tax payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for Syncarpha Solar but has not received a plan yet for this project. Blue Wave has submitted a plan but has not submitted an agreement for a solar tax PILOT with the town yet. Article one is to rescind the tax PILOT on the plan that has not yet been received by the town.

Article 2 is to see if the Town will vote to amend its zoning law to prohibit the construction of any commercial large scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic installation that will require the clear cutting of more than four acres of land.

Article 3 is to see if the town will vote to amend its zoning laws to provide for a minimum distance between commercial large scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic systems.

Mr. O'Connor questioned if all three articles were still being proposed as there had been some talk that there would only be one article. Ken Elstein from North Street indicated that his understanding of Mass General Law was that once the petitions had been submitted they are official.

Mr. O'Connor indicated he has some concern regarding article 2 as it seems similar to what happened with the Verizon Cell Tower a couple of years ago. It went to court because bylaws were proposed to change zoning after the plan was received. The Town can't change zoning bylaws to prohibit a plan. Mr. Elstein indicated he has spoken to two lawyers as to whether you can change the law between the time the application has been submitted and approved. He doesn't know the right answer but believes the Planning Board will do the right thing.

Mr. O'Connor spoke that his concern about rescinding article 1 as voted on at town meeting is a logistical concern. It doesn't prevent the project from happening. It only takes away the PILOT agreement which hurts the town. Mr. Elstein feels that there would be a new assessment of the property and they would pay real estate taxes.

Mr. O'Connor believes the warrant for the special town meeting should be closed to just these three articles. The Board agreed the warrant should be kept to these three articles.

Former Town Clerk, Barnett explained that the Board had to act upon the citizen's petitions within 45 days and since 17 days had passed they have 38 days left to schedule a meeting. Mr. O'Connor commented that he confirmed what the Board already knew.

Mr. O'Connor questioned the town administrator regarding the logistics of the meeting. Mr. Brougham reviewed the availability of the high school, the town moderator and town counsel. He also explained the warrant needs to be posted 14 days prior to the date of the special town meeting. He also explained what happens if the agree to allow other warrant articles.

Ms. Aldrich moved the Board close the warrant to allow only the three citizen's petitions. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Upon reviewing the availability of the school and all concerned parties, Mr. Archible felt that Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> was the best date. Following a discussion of the Board, Mr. Archible moved the Board set the date of Monday, August 20, 2018 for the special town meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Belchertown High School auditorium. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

g. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

6) **Town Administrator's Report:** Nothing to report.

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

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

Mr. Archible: He has an MPO meeting tomorrow. He also commented that Officer Lozier and Steve Williams did a study on Allen Street and Route 9 where all the accidents happen. Signage was put up and trees were cut back at that time. He will bring it up at the MPO meeting tomorrow as the town has no say on what happens on Route 9. It is a State highway. He also informed the Board that National Grid has agreed to move the pole that was broken.

Ms. Gramarossa: Thanked everyone who was involved with the Food Truck Event. It was a great time. She asked that everyone pay attention to any alerts that may come out from the Board of Health regarding the mosquito season. Many communities have found West Nile virus in mosquitos. She continues to meet with some of her liaison

groups. Some of the groups are concerned that they have outdated information on the town website.

Mr. Boscher: Hopes everyone is enjoying summer vacation. He thanked Mr. Archible for looking into the problem with Route 9 and Allen Street. He is looking forward to building relationships with his liaison duties.

Ms. Aldrich: Thanked the Police Department for holding the Youth Police Academy. They did a phenomenal job with the academy and congratulations to the youth that graduated.

Mr. O'Connor: Also thanked Mr. Archible for his plan to looking into the Route 9, Allen Street problem. There was supposed to be an agenda item to reinstate the Patrick Center Re-Use Committee. It will be added to the next agenda as members have moved on. Mr. Brougham indicated it had been a committee of seven with liaisons from other committees. The family center, school committee and the recreation department liaisons need to be updated.

He also spoke about the town website. He wants to put together a sub-committee to discuss remote participation, to put together some modernization or bring technology into the process for the board, reducing the use of paper, updating the website and a social media policy. Ms. Gramarossa brought a copy of Ware's social media policy. He wants it not only for how we post on social media but the school committee now has a Facebook page and we should have some guidelines on how to officially post. We should also have a policy on how we should post on public affairs. He wants to include bctv folks, IT folks; he wants to take a field trip to other town's to see what they are doing. He wants this on a future agenda to discuss this further.

He also thanked the Cultural Council for the Food Truck event.

Ms. Gramarossa: The Cultural Council will be looking at a national endowment for the arts. They may be looking for some funding to help them think about and plan for updating a cultural plan for the community. They may or may not ask to come to a Selectmen's meeting in August. If they are not ready they will wait until next year.

- 9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from the *Sentinel* questioned Route 9 and Allen Street accident. Mr. Brougham commented that it is nothing new but there has been an increased number of accidents with some serious and some minor. The intersection is an old layout. The problem is that Route 9 is maintained by Mass Highway. Steve Williams had asked Mass Highway to do something with the intersection last year but Mass Highway down played it. He wants everyone to know that folks should contact Mass Highway in Northampton to do something about this intersection. As mentioned earlier, National Grid is going to move the pole back to prevent it from being hit in the future.

He also questioned the solar tax PILOT. He asked for confirmation as to whether the tax pilot was or was not required for the solar project. Mr. O'Connor stated the PILOT is a condition for the solar project that the town has placed on it. They don't need it to

proceed with the project. Mr. Brougham commented on the solar projects that have been completed and those that have submitted plans.

He also questioned if there is a dollar amount with the UMass Transit agreement. He was told that there is but it was not available at this time. The projected mileage in Belchertown is 29,449 with eight trips that will occur week days only. Mr. O'Connor will provide the dollar amount to Mr. Hill once he has it.

Mr. O'Connor also expressed his condolences to the Terry Family. The town has lost another coach and mother. Mrs. Terry was instrumental in getting the Field Hockey program going. She passed away this week. She has three young children in the school system. Condolences to the whole family.


**10) Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: 8/13/18


Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

  
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Nicholas O'Connor, Chairman

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George D. Archible

  
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Gail Gramarossa

  
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Brenda Q. Aldrich

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Boscher