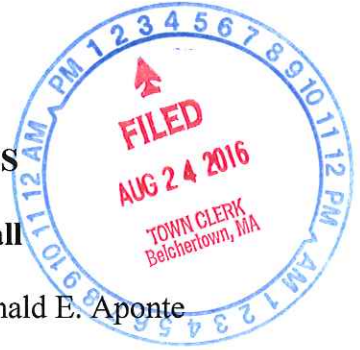


**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

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

2) Sign Documents:

- a) Warrant #1704 was signed for \$755,825.77.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept the executive session minutes of March 14, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 3 – yes, 1 – abstain (Archible). Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept the executive session minutes of March 28, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept the executive session minutes of June 27, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept the regular session minutes of July 11, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board accept the executive session minutes of July 11, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 - 0.

Mr. Barnett arrived following the votes on the minutes and signed them.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

- Appointment DPW Seasonal Maintenance Laborer: Mr. Archible presented the details. This is to fill a recently vacated seasonal laborer position. Mr. Barnett moved the Board appoint Derek Gariepy to the position of DPW Seasonal Maintenance Laborer. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- Discuss School Committee Interviews: Ms. Aldrich stated she saw an article in Mass Live that there would be nine interviews for the School Committee member position. As of Friday Board members had been given information for seven individuals who were to be interviewed. Ms. Aldrich had communicated with the School Committee Chairman questioning why there were two additional individuals to be interviewed. She was told that the paperwork for the additional two individuals had been misplaced. The Central Office has updated the packets and they are now up to date. Ms. Aldrich is concerned because the two additional letters are date stamped with today's date and the deadline was noon on Friday, July 22nd. She believes the final two applicants should not be interviewed.

Mr. O'Connor doesn't want to discourage anyone from applying but to be fair if they came in past the deadline they should not be interviewed.

Mr. Aponte was in agreement that they should not be interviewed if their applications were received after the deadline.

Ms. Aldrich questioned the Town Administrator on how to handle this; who tells the school committee and these two individuals that the Board of Selectmen will not interview these candidates. She doesn't want the two candidates to be embarrassed tomorrow night. Mr. Barnett thinks the Board of Selectmen is the majority and they will be told tomorrow night that they will not be interviewed. Mr. O'Connor is hopeful that the school committee comes to the same conclusion as they have not had a meeting to discuss the applications. Mr. Barnett wants to make sure that this is a school department mistake and not that these two individuals submitted applications past the deadline. Other Board members feel they need to go by the date stamp on the applications. Mr. Barnett feels if this was a mistake made at the Central Office and that the applications were received on time then they should be interviewed.

Mr. O'Connor moved that none of the five Selectboard members endorse the two late candidates and will not participate in interviewing them. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Mr. Aponte amended the motion that it is not the candidate but the application that was received after the deadline. Mr. Brougham asked for confirmation that the Board of Selectmen will not participate in the interview of these two late applications regardless of whether the school committee decides to interview them. It was confirmed that he is correct. A vote was called for. Motion passes 5 – 0. Ms. Aldrich will contact Dawn French, Chairman of the School Committee to let her know how the Board voted tonight.

4) Appearances Before the Board: None.

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Endorse National Grid Distribution Easement – 57 South Main Street: Mr. Aponte presented the details. This is an existing pole that has never been formalized through an easement.

Mr. Aponte moved that the Board of Selectmen endorse the grant easement between National Grid and the Town of Belchertown for the pole at Cold Spring School. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

LeeAnne Connolly, Conservation Administrator came in to witness and notarize the Chairman's signature.

- b. Christ Community Church – 5K Race, October 1, 2016: Ms. Aldrich presented the details. Mrs. Aldrich confirmed with Rev. Haqq that this is the third year for the road race. Rev. Haqq was present for the discussion. He explained that they are supporting a mission that aids mostly orphans in India. All of the money raised will go to them. The race course is exactly the same as last year. They expect around 100 people for the race.

Mr. Aponte confirmed that the race has been approved by Police Chief Pronovost, Steve Williams, Director of Public Works and Fire Chief Bock. Ms. Aldrich

- moved the Board approve the request for the 3rd Annual 5K Race sponsored by Christ Community Church. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- c. Ratify Police Dispatcher memorandum of Agreement: The memorandum was not available. This will be taken up at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
 - d. Accept Part-Time Police Dispatcher Resignation: Mr. Aponte presented the details. Madeline Souleotis submitted her resignation as a Part-Time Police Dispatcher, effective July 10, 2016. The Board accepted Ms. Souleotis's resignation. Chief Pronovost and Mr. Squires are actively looking to fill this position. A letter will be sent thanking her for her service to the Town of Belchertown.

The Town Administrator asked the Board to take a formal vote on this resignation. Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the resignation of Madeline Souleotis, effective July 10, 2016. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- e. Appointment of Auxiliary Police Officers: Mr. Aponte presented the details. The Board has received a memorandum of recommendation for appointment of auxiliary police officers. Chief Pronovost has recommended Francis Henderson, Hannah Hulse and Zachary Parker. Mr. Aponte moved the Board appoint the officers as recommended, terms to expire June 30, 2017. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5- 0.
- f. Appointment of Associate Member to Zoning Board of Appeals: Mr. Barnett presented the details. The Zoning Board of Appeals has recommended that Robert C. Vigneault be appointed as an associated member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Barnett moved the Board of Selectmen appoint Mr. Vigneault as recommended, term to expire June 30, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- g. Appointment of Member to Scholarship Committee: Mr. O'Connor presented the details. Ms. Vigneux, Principal of the Belchertown High School has recommended appointing Donna Robbins to the Scholarship Committee. Mr. O'Connor moved the Board of Selectmen appoint Ms. Robbins as recommended, term to expire June 30, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- h. Review Accessory Apartment Application – Holt, 2 Sabin Street: Mr. Aponte indicated that this application is consistent with the Town's Bylaw with the particulars of the build out. He would defer to the other Boards and Committees for their recommendations and approvals. The Board will send the application back to the Planning Board for their review with the reminder that they should consider comments and / or concerns of other Boards and Committees.
- i. Deactivate Sewer Account – Chiusano/Massa, 25 Depot Street: Gary Brougham, Town Administrator presented the details. There has been a request to deactivate a sewer account which suspends billing. One of the provisions in the sewer bylaws to deactivate and account is if there is a demonstrated lack of use of water for a year or more. This property owner has provided documents from the Bondsville Water District which serves this property, that demonstrates termination of the water service which makes the use of sewer near impossible.

Ms. Aldrich moved the Board deactivate the sewer account for the property on 25 Depot Street. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- j. **Trash Bag Fee Increase:** Mr. Archible presented the details. Due to the cost of getting rid of trash the Department of Public Works is looking for an increase in the cost of the large trash bags. The DPW Director has indicated the increase helps in keeping up with the cost of hauling the trash out of town.

Mr. Brougham confirmed that only the large bag prices are being raised from \$19.00 for a bundle of 10 to \$20.00 for a bundle of 10. Mr. Barnett moved to approve the Trash Bag Fee Increase to \$20.00 a bundle, effective October 1, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- k. **Patrick Center Letter:** Mr. Brougham presented the details. He stated we are back on track with the purchase plan. The legislation that had previously been voted on wasn't legally appropriate. The legislative team had to go back and correct the language and submit amendments. It was approved on the House and Senate. Governor Baker signed it on July 8, 2016.

He is now trying to define what steps are necessary to complete the transition from the Department of Capital Asset to the Town of Belchertown. Town Counsel has reviewed a draft deed for the property. The Town also needs to respond to a letter that is consistent with the amended legislation authorizing DCAM to offer the property to the Town of Belchertown for municipal reuse. He is hoping the Board will authorize the Chairman to acknowledge the letter when it comes. The letter basically will say that the Department of Capital Asset is offering to the Town of Belchertown this parcel of land for municipal reuse and then the Town has to formally accept it in writing. He asked that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the letter that he will draft back to DCAM.

Mr. Barnett questioned if the \$80,000 was part of the offer to purchase the property. Mr. Brougham confirmed that it was the way that the legislation and appraisal came through. Mr. O'Connor confirmed that the level of reuse still has to be determined.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board authorize the Chairman to acknowledge and endorse the letter to DCAM accepting the offer. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. Barnett questioned if the motion should state the \$80,000 that had been previously told to the Town. Mr. O'Connor moved to amend his motion that the Board authorize the Chairman to acknowledge and endorse the letter to DCAM accepting the offer to purchase the property for not more than \$80,000. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- l. **Miscellaneous Matters:** None.

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

7) **Review of Weekly Mail:**

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

Mr. Aponte: Mr. Aponte is concerned that each of the candidates for the school committee is only allowed 15 minutes for the interview. Mr. Barnett stated that for the

nine members to ask a question they would each only have 1.66 minutes. Ms. Aldrich indicated the same thing had been said to her. Mr. Archible stated the school committee only wanted the Board of Selectmen to ask one question per each interview. Mr. Archible stated he informed Ms. French that it was very important who was chosen as the school committee member and one question for the Board of Selectmen was not appropriate. Mr. Archible instructed each of the Selectmen to have a question for the interviews.

Mr. Barnett: Is very upset with the way the school committee is handling the interviews. He spent more time reading through the applications then he will have in questioning the candidates.

Mr. Archible: He has a list of streets that are going to be paved but will hold off until the next meeting. He attended a MPO meeting this morning in downtown Springfield with Steve Williams. The major concern is that PVTA is looking for an extra \$16,000,000 to build a garage on Cottage Street in Springfield. The cost of that project is \$72,000,000. There are some State and Federal funds available for the project. It was defeated as Chapter 90 funds would have been taken away from the cities and towns to build it.

He received a letter in the mail at his home address; therefore it is not stamped in with a date received. It was a thank you letter to the people in Town for their kindness and generosity from Michael Parezzio, an English teacher in Buffalo, NY. He grew up in Belchertown and coaches a baseball team in Buffalo and this is where Belchertown comes in. Many of his students came to him because they could not afford gloves. The school provides other equipment but not the gloves. He posted on facebook asking for help. Keith Bettencourt of Belchertown was the first to help. Mr. Bettencourt then went on to post in Belchertown Trash to Treasure asking for help. He went and picked up the gloves, boxed them up and sent them to Buffalo. He also included some bats with the shipment of gloves. All of the kids who needed or wanted a glove were able to get one. Pictures of the team with their gloves were also included with the letter. The letter and pictures were presented to Mr. Bettencourt.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Jim Russell from *The Republican* confirmed that the date stamps were from the school department and not the town clerk's office.

- He questioned if the Board had the date stamps for all the applications. Ms. Aldrich provided the information.
- Questioned if the three part-time auxiliary officers were new or reappointments. He was informed those are new positions. He confirmed the names of the auxiliary officers.
- Confirmed the trash bag increase only affects the large bags.
- Questioned if somewhere down the road another appointment would need to be made for the school committee if there was discussion of holding a public forum. Also if there is some kind of procedure in place the Board would not feel they are being told what to do by the school committee. Mr. O'Connor stated that on the school committee agenda it opens with allowing comments from the public so there is a public forum portion to the interviews.

- He asked Mr. Barnett for an update on the electricity program as there is talk that the Hampshire Council of Governments is talking about keeping the program or dismantling it. Mr. Barnett indicated that it had not been brought up at the Selectmen's meeting tonight and that he would talk to Mr. Russell after the meeting.

Mr. Hill from *The Sentinel* questioned the number of trash bags in a bundle. He was told there are 10 bags. He also confirmed the size of the bags.

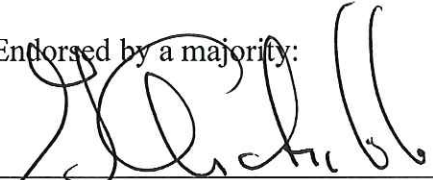
10) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator


Board approved/endorsed: _____

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:



George D. Archible, Chairman




Brenda Q. Aldrich



Ronald E. Aponte



William R. Barnett



Nicholas O'Connor