

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

**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 # 1807 was signed for \$ 398,615.79.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: None.

**3) Additions to the Agenda:**

- Appointment Electrical Inspector: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. Due to an oversight Douglas Rae was left off the re-appointment list. Per the recommendation of Paul Adzima, Director of Inspection Services, Mr. Barnett moved to re-appoint Douglas Rae as electrical inspector, term to expire June 30, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.

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

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Discussion – Sunoco Liquor License Application: Mr. Brougham presented details to the Board. Several years ago the owners of Sunoco came before the Board asking about the feasibility of having a liquor license. The Board was concerned that their store was inadequate to display and secure a controlled substance. The owners suggested they would expand the building if they were given a license; however, the board said they would need to expand the business and then they would consider giving the license. Eventually the license was denied.

Recently the owners have come forward with the same request indicating that their sales are down, business is hard and they have a mortgage to pay. They are again asking for a license to sell wine and beer at this location. He suggested to the owners back in May or June, in writing, that this license had been previously denied and that it would be appropriate for them to visit the planning board office as well as the zoning enforcement officer to see if an expansion of the building is even possible. The planning board did tell the applicant to submit a site plan; however the applicant rather submitted a liquor license request to the board of selectmen. He is asking the board if they want the applicant to first go through the planning board and zoning enforcement for approval before the board reviews the liquor license application.

Ms. Aldrich indicated that her feelings have not changed. She feels the applicant needs to go before the planning board prior to the board of selectmen reviewing the liquor license. They need to get the approval of the conservation commission,

planning board and zoning enforcement. Mr. Aponte was in agreement with Ms. Aldrich as all the past concerns are still there.

Mr. Archible indicated that he stopped at the business and spoke with the owner and told him what he needed to do.

Mr. Archible moved the Board take no action on the liquor license application until the applicant follows the procedure that was outlined to him. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- b. Review/Endorse UMass Transit Services Agreement: Mr. Brougham presented the details to the Board. This is an annual agreement that the Board signs for transit services. This is the same agreement that the Board has signed for many years. Mr. Archible moved the Board authorize the Chairman to endorse the UMass Transit Services Agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- c. Belchertown Fire-Rescue Department – Request for Dispensation to Solicit: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. This is an annual request from Chief Bock requesting that the Board authorize a dispensation for the fire department to be able to participate in fund raising activities during the Belchertown Fair while in uniform.

Mr. Aponte moved the Board allow the Belchertown Fire Department to solicit and fund raise while in uniform and to use town equipment on the town common during the Belchertown Fair. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 - 0.

- d. Appointment of Firefighter/Paramedic: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. Chief Bock has indicated that Mr. Dantas has passed his physical abilities test. He is a paramedic with firefighting knowledge. Mr. Aponte moved the Board appoint Luciano Dantas to the position of full-time firefighter/paramedic with a start date of August 21, 2017. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- e. Acknowledge Member Resignation from Scholarship Committee: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. The Board accepted the resignation of Franco Dell'Olio from the Scholarship Committee. A letter will be sent to Mr. Dell'Olio thanking him for his service to the town.
- f. Appointment of Member to Scholarship Committee: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of the chairman of the scholarship committee, Mr. Barnett moved to appoint Lorraine Alves to the Pathfinder Seat on the Scholarship Committee, term to expire June 30, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- g. Appointment of Senior Center Program and Volunteer Coordinator: Bill Korzenowski, Senior Center Director presented details to the Board. Susan Shea is retiring. He held interviews and is requesting that the Board appoint Katherine Martin to the position of senior center program and volunteer coordinator. She is a Belchertown resident and has worked at the senior center as an aide working in many of the different areas of the senior center. She left the senior center because she was in a non-benefitted position and needed them. He feels that she is the right fit for the senior center.

Mr. Archible indicated he had just received the packet of information today regarding the applicants and has not had time to review it. He has not been able to get a handle on who he feels is the best candidate. He asked for confirmation that Mr. Korzenowski had indeed hired her before the selectmen met. Mr. Korzenowski stated

he has not hired her, he is recommending her for the position. He did confirm that Ms. Martin gave her notice to her current employer because Ms. Shea is leaving at the beginning of September and he wants the new hire to have the opportunity to come in for training. He indicated he had discussed with the town administrator and the chairman of the board. Mr. Archible has concerns about the process that Mr. Korzenowski followed.

Ms. Aldrich confirmed that the council of aging was in agreement with the decision to hire Ms. Martin. The members did not sit in on the interviews but are familiar with her because she worked for the center previously. Mr. Barnett confirmed with Mr. Korzenowski that the council was in agreement with the appointment but he knows that the selectmen do the appointing.

Mr. Archible recommends the board take no action so that they may be given a chance to read all of the information and make an informed decision. Ms. Aldrich recommended that he go to the council on aging meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> to meet and talk with Ms. Martin. Mr. Archible stated he wants to meet all the candidates not just Ms. Martin. Ms. Aldrich didn't understand why he wants the board to do the interviewing if they don't do it for all potential employees.

Mr. Aponte recused himself from the discussion and vote. Mr. Archible moved the Board take no action on the appointment of Katherine Martin. Motion seconded by Mr. Barnett. Ms. Aldrich wants the Board members to attend the council of aging meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> so they can meet Ms. Martin. Motion passes 3 – 0 – 1 (abstain – Aponte).

Mr. Brougham will have the office staff post the meeting for the board of selectmen to meet with the council of aging on August 24<sup>th</sup> at the senior center. He asked for confirmation as to whether the top three candidates would be interviewed or only Ms. Martin. Ms. Aldrich indicated she did not plan on holding interviews. Ms. Aldrich feels interviews have already been held and that the board has not interviewed in the past for other positions.

Mr. Korzenowski again stated he had spoken with the town administrator and the chairman of the board of selectmen about having the person begin prior to their appointment. He was told both individuals told him it could be done. Mr. Brougham corrected Mr. Korzenowski by telling him that he was told to get the recommendation to him and that he would seek conceptual agreement by the board members. He never received the recommendation until the end of last week. There were concerns on when emails were sent and received.

Ms. Aldrich still does not believe that the selectmen should interview the two finalist interviews. She doesn't understand why his is such a contentious appointment. Mr. Barnett realized he cannot attend the meeting on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and questioned if the date could be changed.

Mr. Archible stated he was withdrawing his motion and indicated the board should vote on the appointment. Mr. Aldrich called for a motion to appoint Ms. Martin. There was no second to the motion. Mr. Barnett stated he felt it would be good for

the board to talk to Ms. Martin. The board again asked for the meeting date to be changed to either the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> with the council of aging and Ms. Martin. Mr. Archible again requested to withdraw his motion to take no action. There was no second to his motion as Mr. Barnett and Ms. Aldrich want to meet with the council on aging. Mr. Korzenowski will let Mr. Brougham know which date the council can change their date to so the office staff can post the meeting.

- h. Appointment of Auxiliary Police Officer: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. Chief Pronovost is recommending the appointment of an auxiliary officer. Mr. Aponte moved the Board appoint Jaime Williams to the position of auxiliary officer. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- i. Appointment of Seasonal Laborer(s): Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Steve Williams, Director of Public Works has requested the appointment of a seasonal laborer. Mr. Archible moved the Board appoint Timothy Pelletier to the position of seasonal laborer, effective Monday July 31, 2017. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- j. Award Bid – Front Street Extension: Mr. Archible presented the details to the Board. Steve Williams has received the bids for the Front Street Extension. The low bidder is Nunes Construction of Ludlow, MA. Mr. Brougham reminded the board that Town meeting approved the borrowing of \$1,250,000 for the continuation of Front Street. Bids were opened on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and that 13 bids had been received.

Mr. Barnett moved the board award the Front Street extension to Nunes Construction of Ludlow, MA in the amount of \$854,335 to include alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$72,830 and to authorize Gary Brougham to sign the contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.

Mr. Aponte questioned if the Mass Works grant had been submitted and when we would get the approval or denial for it. Mr. Brougham was not certain as to whether it had been submitted yet or not. He has heard that the announcement should be made in September.

*Meeting taken out of order at 7:37 p.m.*

- k. Discussion – Granby Bow and Gun Club: Ms. Aldrich indicated that the four board members who are present for tonight's meeting attended the Granby Board of Selectmen meeting last Monday evening. She is aware that the Granby Bow and Gun Club is before the Granby Planning Board and the Zoning Board.

One of the Granby town residents indicated she attended those meetings as they began at 6:00 pm and she is now at our meeting. The Granby planning board feels that it is not in their jurisdiction but that it should be the building inspector that the residents call and file a complaint about the zoning issue with what was done. The only permit the Planning Board has on record is from 2010 and that is only for a shooting shed. There is nothing about a shooting range being expanded; nothing on their records and that was shown at the meeting tonight. The Granby Planning Board is asking the Granby residents to go to the building inspecting and zoning officer. There is now a group of Granby residents communicating through email in order to pick a spokesperson for the entire group. Mr. Archible questioned if the EPA was present for the Granby discussion and was told that they were not at the Granby meeting this evening. The Conservation Commission has not become involved as of yet.

Ms. Aldrich received an email from a town resident that indicated their home had been targeted. She indicated that the residents should send info to the Belchertown Police Department and they can discuss it with the Granby Police Department. Granby Board of Selectmen encouraged residents to file complaints with the Granby Building Inspector regarding the Bow and Gun Club.

Mr. Aponte confirmed that the Granby Planning Board did not discuss a cease and desist. They informed the residents that the next step is for them to file complaints with the building inspector's office. Residents asked how to get the Granby Conservation Commission involved. They were told to reach out to the Granby town hall and / or the Board of Selectmen's office.

Ms. Aldrich questioned if a letter had been sent to all the Granby departments from our town. Mr. Brougham indicated his letter had questioned everything including the forest cutting; his letter was also copied to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Aponte confirmed for a resident that the Belchertown noise ordinance does not provided protection to Belchertown residents when the noise comes from Granby or another town.

Residents were asked to keep the Belchertown Board of Selectmen informed about the Granby town meetings.

Mr. Brougham questioned the residents if there had been any reduction in the noise since it was first brought to the Board's attention. Residents indicated there had not been any change.

It was noted that a Belchertown resident who is trying to sell their house on Boardman Street is having a hard time because of the gun noise from the range. Residents that live in closer proximity to the range are concerned about what this will do to property values and what happens if they try to sell their homes.

The board clarified the statement made at the Granby Board of Selectmen's meeting when it was stated that the group could not talk about the devaluation of their homes. The board was only referring to the fact that it was not on their agenda, the discussion was to be about the impact of the noise coming from the gun club.

The department of environmental protection can cite Granby Bow and Gun Club if they did cutting outside of the scope of what was approved. They can be fined a substantial amount if the cutting is inappropriate.

An additional bit of information from the Granby planning board meeting is that it was noted that the use may not be grandfathered in as it was changed from a small gun club to what it is now.

The board asked that the residents keep them informed as to what is happening in the Granby meetings. Ms. Aldrich also recommended the residents contact the police department if they feel they are being threatened or targeted.

- l. Invitation – Town of Granby 250<sup>th</sup> Parade on June 10, 2018: Ms. Aldrich presented the details of the Granby 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She feels the town should participate. She requested the town administrator to send out letters to the police, fire and department of public works departments asking for their participation in the Granby parade.
- m. Miscellaneous Matters:
- 6) **Town Administrator's Report:** The finance committee requested a meeting with the consultant and the true meaning of . Four members of the finance committee, the town accountant and himself sat in with the consultant and discussed what is and what it means to Massachusetts' residents. They discussed some of the options that other communities are using to fund this including solar agreements, a designated amount of free cash or a combination of factors. He discussed in greater detail as to what the Town needs to do.
- 7) **Review of Weekly Mail:** Mail reviewed.
- 8) **Individual Board Members' Reports:**  
Mr. Aponte: Letter from Matthew Bien regarding internet options in town. He is not happy with Charter. Mr. Lomanno, Chairman of the Technology Committee responded to his concerns.

He also mentioned the letter regarding the water ski course on Lake Metacomet. Mr. Brougham indicated there have been several emails also regarding concerns over the water ski course. A couple of years ago a resident wanted to install a pneumatic ski course. Following a very long process DEP granted a permit to the property owner. The permit was supposed to be for two years with annual review with the board of selectmen and the courses owner. For unknown reasons the hearing officer at DEP re-opened the discovery period. The Town never received a copy of the final decision from the Commissioner at DEP. The property owner also appealed a couple of the conditions on the permit. There was a lot of lag time and the town was never really informed that the course was installed in the permitted period. It is only recently that we have received complaints regarding the water ski course. He requested a copy of the agreement from town counsel that does not have a copy of the commissioner's final report. He is aware of the concerns but feels the environmental police should be responsible if there are concerns about safety on the lake.

Mr. Aponte gave big kudos to the Cultural Council and the Food Truck event that they held. It was very successful.

Mr. Barnett: It has been a number of years since the gold cane has been presented to the oldest resident in town. The office staff will request a list from the town clerk's office for the oldest residents.

Ms. Aldrich: Also gave kudos to the Cultural Council. She attended the Food Truck event. They ran out of food. The cultural council is hoping to hold this event again next year, once a month during the summer months.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Jim Russell from the *Republican* asked for dates of the Belchertown Fair. Those dates were given to him (Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>). He also requested the KP Law eUpdate regarding employee use of medical marijuana. A brief discussion was held regarding the eUpdate. He also questioned the concerns regarding the water ski course.

Aimee Henderson from the *Sentinel* asked for copies of the bid information for the Front Street extension project. She also questioned if it was known how long the project would take to complete. She was given a copy of the recommendation from the director of public works. She was also told that they hoped to have it completed by the end of this construction season with some additional finish work needing to be completed next year.

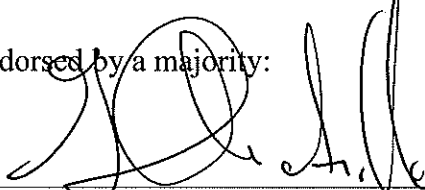
10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

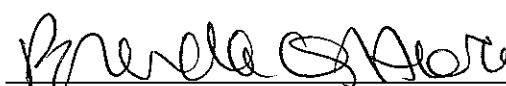
Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: Sept. 11, 2017


Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown


Endorsed by a majority:

  
George D. Archible, ~~Chairman~~

  
Brenda Q. Aldrich, ~~Chairman~~

  
Ronald E. Aponte

  
William R. Barnett

(Absent)  
  
Nicholas O'Connor