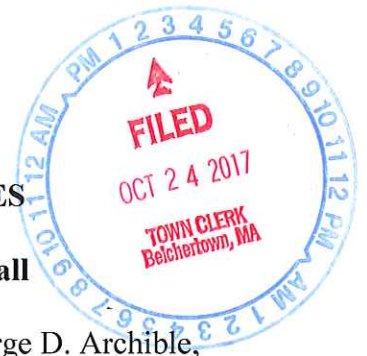


**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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 #1813 was signed for \$1,750,245.54.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: None.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

- BOAT – Narcan Training Opportunity for Town Employees: Mr. Archible presented the details to the board. BOAT- Belchertown Opioid Awareness Task Force. If residents don't think we have a problem in town they are so wrong. There are approximately four to six overdoses a week here in town. We have a very strong voice in town with BOAT and they are bringing awareness of it to town.

They have scheduled two free public Narcan trainings at the Fire Station for October. They are requesting permission to invite town employees to attend the October 10th training at 10 a.m. during their work day. They believe it is valuable to have trained people within town buildings.

Mr. Archible moved the board endorse this request so that town employees may be able to attend the training during their work day. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Mr. Aponte did ask for clarification that the training would be done by the Belchertown Firefighter Paramedic. He was told it would be. Motion passes 5 – 0.

4) Appearances Before the Board:

- 7:33 p.m. Pole Hearing #2018-01, South Washington Street: Mr. Aponte read the public hearing notice and opened the pole hearing. Diane Clowes from National Grid was present for the hearing. She indicated it is to be a jointly owned pole and is to provide service to Lot 3, on South Washington Street. Mr. Archible indicated that the director of public works has no concern for this placement. Mr. Aponte opened the hearing up to the public for questions, comments or concerns. There were none from the public.

Hearing no comments, Mr. Aponte moved to close the pole hearing #2018-01. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Mr. O'Connor moved to grant petition #2018-01. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- Police Department Promotions: At 8:05 p.m. with all other business conducted, Ms. Aldrich gave a brief introduction and asked Chief Pronovost to explain the promotion process.

Chief Pronovost began by thanking everyone for coming stating it is a very exciting night. In the almost year and a half that he has been here as a chief the department began looking at some of their deficiencies and what are some of the things that they could be doing better for both the community and the department. It was noted that there was a void in their rank structure in that the position of lieutenant needed to be brought back for a number of reasons. It started as a monetary budget reason where they knew if could bring back some money to the department as well as helping with supervision. This will help the budget in a positive way but it will also add more accountability and supervision to the officers. It also creates new leaders and mentors to work with our fine group of officers.

He is extremely proud of all the candidates that were brave enough to go through the promotion process. They had to take a test and all of our candidates scored above the national average. Following that there is an interview process as well as a written process. The responses were outstanding. The oral interviews brought so many good ideas on what is important in the department. He feels the two candidates before the board tonight really reflect what he was looking for and who will work well with him and in leading the department.

He is asking the board to appoint Sgt. Kevin Pacunas to the rank of Lieutenant and Patrolman Michael Beaupre to the Rank of Sergeant.

Mr. Aponte stated it was his honor and privilege to recommend that Patrolman Michael Beaupre be promoted to the rank of Sergeant, effective immediately and with a term to expire June 30, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Mr. Aponte stated it was his honor and privilege to recommend that Sergeant Kevin Pacunas be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, effective immediately and with a term to expire June 30, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Colleen Toothill-Berte, Town Clerk, swore Sgt. Pacunas in as Lieutenant Pacunas. Ms. Toothill-Berte next sworn in Patrolman Beaupre as Sergeant Beaupre.

Following the swearing in Lieutenant Pacunas was pinned by his wife. Chief Pronovost pinned Sergeant Beaupre.

Lt. Pacunas thanked Chief Pronovost for selecting him as the lieutenant. He thanked all of the officers for coming tonight to support him including the other candidates who were not selected for promotion. He thanked his family and friends for their support.

Sgt. Beaupre is extremely honored and humbled to have this opportunity and thanked Chief Pronovost, the Board of Selectmen and all the members of the police department for their support.

Ms. Aldrich thanked the officers for all they do for the Town of Belchertown. The officers, friends and family exited the meeting room.

Chief Pronovost informed the Board that he had just been notified today that the Town is a recipient of a \$242,500+ grant toward domestic violence, sexual abuse, dating violence and stalking. The department will be able to do some tremendous work in these areas with investigations, victims and collaboration with different agencies.

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Appointment of Cultural Council Member: Per the recommendation of the Cultural Council, Mr. O'Connor moved the Board appoint Susan Shea to the Cultural Council, term to expire June 30, 2020. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- b. Appointment of At-Large-Member to Scholarship Committee: Per the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee, Ms. Aldrich provided the details to the Board. Mr. Aponte moved to appoint Erica Rose to the at-large seat, term to expire June 30, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- c. Appointment of Democratic Member – Board of Registrars: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. The democratic town committee has given the names of three individuals for the Board to choose from. Mr. Barnett moved the Board appoint Nancy Wright as the Democratic Member – Board of Registrars. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- d. Discuss Awarding Gold Cane: Ms. Aldrich motioned that several meetings ago the board mentioned that they were seeking the oldest resident in town. The oldest person in town has been identified as Cordelia Beaver who is 100. She will not be able to attend a Board meeting. Ms. Aldrich discussed the Board going to Mrs. Beaver's home to present the gold cane.

Mr. Aponte indicated that the board had done that about ten years ago for another gold cane recipient. The office staff will speak with her son to discuss a time to present the cane to Mrs. Beaver.

Mr. Brougham thanked Ms. Toothill-Berte for her work in identifying the gold cane recipient.

- e. Review / Endorse Belchertown Day School Letter: Ms. Aldrich questioned the Board members verifying that they all had a chance to review it. Ms. Aldrich read the letter. Mr. Archible indicated that as of close of business today there is nothing stating that this is a non-profit organization. He wants to know how the Board is going to endorse something that says non-profit but in fact it is not. According to the Board of Assessors this business is not a registered non-profit organization in the Town of Belchertown. Mr. Aponte clarified there are two distinctions a non-profit and a tax exempt. According to Mr. Archible only the Board of Assessor's can give a business the status of non-profit. Mr. Aponte stated that the Board of Assessor's can determine tax exemption but the IRS

determines non-profit. Mr. Archible stated they have not registered with the Town of Belchertown.

Mr. Aponte would be agreeable to the Board endorsing the letter as long as the Day School can provide a letter showing their 501 (c) status. Ms. Aldrich noted that all the changes the Board asked for in the letter have been made.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board approve the letter for endorsement. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. He noted that it does make him a little nervous as the Board of Selectmen it puts them on the precipitous of a slippery slope but he can vote to have the Board of Selectmen endorse and approve this particular letter with the realization that this is a specific requirement for a specific circumstance for the USDA funding where they are basically mandating it. He doesn't want this to become precedent setting for the Board unless there are very similar type circumstances. Mr. O'Connor reminded everyone this is not for grant funding but rather for a loan. Mr. O'Connor moved to have the motion amended to have just the Chairman of the Board sign the letter because of the way it's written. Motion passes 4 -1 (Archible) – 0.

- f. Appointment of Tax Pilot Committee: Mr. Aponte presented the details to the Board. He reminded everyone as discussed it the last meeting the committee would be made up of two members of the board of selectmen, an EDIC member, a member from the Board of Assessors or their representative and Claire O'Neill from Mass Development. The EDIC has appointed Jonathan Spiegel, Mass Development compliance department cleared Claire O'Neill to be the designee, and he will be meeting with the Board of Assessors tomorrow to determine their designee. The Board of Selectmen will need to appoint two members to the committee.

Ms. Aldrich mentioned that Mr. Aponte should be on the committee as he has worked closely with the EDIC and the development of the State School property. Mr. Aponte suggested appointing Mr. Archible as he has been vocal about his stance; he feels the subcommittee should be diverse.

Mr. O'Connor moved to appoint Mr. Archible to the tax pilot committee. Motion seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.

The Day School has appointed their committee members and they are: Pat Bruni, Dan Alexander, Heidi Gutekenst and Michael Shafter.

Mr. Clark questioned what the committee is actually doing. He has come to several meetings and nothing has been decided regarding the Day School and taxes. Mr. Aponte explained the process. Once the committee has come to some kind of agreement they will come before the Board of Selectmen and at that point it will become an open discussion.

- g. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

- 6) **Town Administrator's Report:** The Fair was great. It was cleaned up in a very timely manner.

7) **Review of Weekly Mail:**

#18. The Department of Environmental Protection sent notice of Release of Gasoline at Sunoco Gas Station/Convenience Store on Federal Street. They had come before the board for a Wine & Malt License but were told they needed to go before the planning board for their permit to expand. They have been put on notice because gasoline has been seeping into the pond next to them and into stumps.

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

Ms. Aldrich: Fiesta Shows did an awesome job from the rides to the games. She asked that the town administrator let them know they did a good job.

Mr. Archible: Mentioned that Jean Flores will be retiring as a dispatcher from the Belchertown Police Department. There will be a retirement reception for her that is open to everyone on November 14th at the police department. There is also a retirement party at the Villa Rose on November 18th. Tickets will be available from Val Austin or David Squires.

Mr. Aponte: Kudos to the Fair Committee for all their hard work. Volunteers are needed for the Fair Committee.

Mr. O'Connor: The Kestrel Land Trust will be doing a walk in the woods with Thoreau readings on Saturday, September 30th at Scarborough Brook Conservation Area.

He also gave kudos to the Fair Committee for another great Belchertown Fair.

9) **Questions from the Press:** None.

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator


Board approved/endorsed: Oct. 23, 2017

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown


Endorsed by a majority:


Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman


Ronald E. Aponte


George D. Archible


William R. Barnett


Nicholas O'Connor