

TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN/ FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall



Present Finance Committee: Chairman Rose, Laurie Shea, Lynne Raymer, Melissa Hurst, and Boucher.

Present Board of Selectmen: Brenda Q. Aldrich, Ronald E. Aponte, George D. Archible; Gary Brougham, Town Administrator and Jill Panto, Town Accountant

The purpose of these meetings was to hear preliminary budget submittals from department heads.

Colleen Toothill-Berte, Town Clerk at 7:00 p.m.: The Town Clerk presented a brief overview of her FY19 budget proposal. She reminded everyone there will be three elections within the FY19 budget period which will add cost to her department.

It was followed by a discussion regarding dog license fees. The Town Clerk presented a community by community comparison and felt Belchertown's fees are currently appropriate considering contiguous community comparisons.

Bill Korzenowski, Executive Director of Council on Aging at 7:10 p.m.: Mr. Korzenowski presented the Council on Aging's FY19 proposed budget. Mr. Korzenowski further indicated the social day program and nutrition program are currently not generating sufficient revenues to offset cost. There are several issues felt to be responsible for this situation. Grant funding and the lack of marketing of these programs is likely directly responsible.

In addition, the State mandates staffing levels for the social day program which at times are excessive or allow no consideration for absentees.

The Council be will applying for a new van for the Center. The federal van grant application process begins in May.

Mr. Korzenowski further reminded everyone the Center remains hopeful funding will be provided for the Nutritional Program software to lessen reporting and submittal costs.

Sheila McCormick, Executive Director Clapp Memorial Library at 7:45 p.m.: Ms. McCormick presented a level service budget with the following exceptions. She asked for additional custodial hours enabling the custodial employee to work 15 hours as opposed to the ten presently budgeted. The library is open far in excess of 40 hours per week, generates considerable foot traffic and is difficult to maintain in significant part due to the historical nature of the building.

Additional funding was also sought to increase a library page position by four additional hours per week. She is also asking for three new computers with a composite cost of \$2,700. The heating oil budget has also been adjusted modestly.

Ms. McCormick reminded everyone the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library donate on average \$21,000 per year to offset operational expenses or needs for the library. Ms. McCormick completed her budget presentation at 8:10 p.m.

In unrelated business the Board of Selectmen acted on two employee matters as follows.

Appointment Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I: Motion by Selectman Archible to appoint Thomas Hoad to the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I, effective immediately. Motion seconded by Selectman Aponte. Motion passes 3 – 0.

Appointment Department of Public Works Mechanic/Truck Driver: A motion by Selectman Archible to appoint Luke Toussaint to fill the position of Mechanic/Truck Drive, effective immediately. The actual start date will be determined by DPW Director, Williams. Motion seconded by Selectman Aponte. Motion passes 3 – 0.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

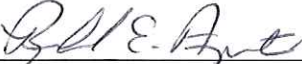
Board approved/endorsed: March 12, 2018

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:



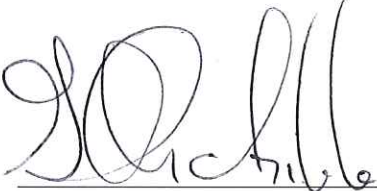
Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman



Ronald E, Aponte

(absent)

Nicholas O'Connor



George D. Archible

(absent)

William R. Barnett