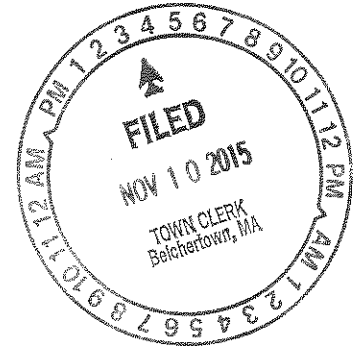


**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

- 1) **Call to Order:** Vice-Chairman Archible called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) **Sign Documents:**
  - a) Warrant #1615 was signed for \$516,937.96.
  - b) Routine documents
  - c) Approval of Minutes: Ms. Aldrich moved the Board accept the minutes of May 26, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 2 – yes, 1 – abstain (Barnett). Ms. Aldrich moved the Board accept the minutes of August 24, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 3 – 0. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board accept the minutes of the open session of September 17, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board accept the minutes of September 28, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3- 0.
- 3) **Additions to the Agenda:**
- 4) **Appearances Before the Board:**
  - 7:33 p.m. Pole Hearing #2016-03, Federal Street: Ms. Aldrich read Pole Hearing #2016-03 and opened the public hearing.

The petition is from Verizon New England Inc. and Massachusetts Electric Company. It is for one jointly owned pole on the southwesterly side of Federal Street at a point approximately twelve feet northwesterly from the centerline of Channel Drive, a private way. It is to provide to the existing pole line; and to provide for the distribution of intelligence and telecommunications, and for the transmission of high and low voltage electric current.

Andy Hufnagel from Verizon was present. He has met with the property owner. He indicated that he would be happy to answer any questions from the Board or the property owner. Mr. Archible stated that prior to the meeting he had spoken with Steve Williams, Director of Public Works, and that Mr. Williams had sent a memo stating he has no concerns with the installation of the pole.

The property owner would like the tree butt with the guy wire removed when this pole is installed.

Charlie McCarthy questioned if the stump from the existing tree will be removed. Mr. Archible indicated that Verizon, National Grid and the Town will work it out.

Ms. Aldrich moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0.

Ms. Aldrich moved the Board grant petition # 2016-03. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0.

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Request for Approval – 5K Fall Frenzy Road Race: Ms. Aldrich presented the details to the Board. Mr. Ruscio, Principal at Jabish Brook Middle School, is requesting the support of the Board for the 5K Fall Frenzy Race. The race will take place on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board approve and support the 5K Fall Frenzy Road Race to raise money for their after school program. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- b. Request for Holiday Closure: Mr. Barnett presented the details. The Town Hall employees are requesting the Board allow the closing of non-essential employee's at noon on the day before Thanksgiving. Mr. Archible added that employees will have to use their vacation or personal time for this. Mr. Barnett moved the Board allow the request for the holiday closure. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- c. Chapter 90 Reimbursement(s): Mr. Archible presented the details. The total amount of the reimbursement request is for \$ 474,108.61. This is for all of the paving that has been done in Town. Mr. Archible moved the Board seek the partial reimbursement in the amount of \$474,108.61. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 3 – 0.
- d. Endorse MassDEP 2015 Recycling Dividends Program – Grant Reimbursement: Gary Brougham, Town Administrator presented the details. He stated that the Director of Public Works has submitted a memo indicating the Town has earned nine points and will be receiving \$2,800 towards a grant that had been applied for. The grant is the Recycling Dividends Fund and Small Scale Initiative Funds under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. By the Town accepting this \$2,800 it allows the DPW to apply for more significant grants in the future. This grant money can be used for public outreach, recycling containers, a program to dispose of mattresses and various other things.

Mr. Barnett moved the Board accept the grant reimbursement and authorize the Chairman to endorse MassDEP 2015 Recycling Dividends Program. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 3 – 0.

- e. Executive Session, MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 1, 2 and 3: Ms. Aldrich moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 1, 2 and 3. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Roll call vote: Archible – yes, Aldrich – yes, Barnett – yes.
- f. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

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

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

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

Ms. Aldrich: She is wearing a 4H shirt. She stated that Gary, Ron and she were on the Town Common on Saturday morning for the end of 4H week. They raised the flag. It was very nice to hear what the 4H members and to visit with the young people in Town who are a part of it. Each of the Board Members received a shirt and Mr. Aponte asked her to put

them out on the chairs which is why she is wearing hers tonight. Louise Butler and the group had a very nice event.

LeeAnne Connolly asked Ms. Aldrich to mention that the Reed Property Nature Walk will be taking place on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Rain date will be the following Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. This area can be reached by driving to Gold Street across from house #96. Ms. Aldrich has been on a couple of these walks and they really are very informative.

One last thing that Ms. Aldrich noticed is that Walter Hamilton from *The Sentinel* is not present and is hoping that Amy Henderson is watching. Ms. Aldrich stated the DPU did not pass the electrical aggregation and our local paper did not cover that story. She knows that Masslive and the Gazette both covered it. She believes our local paper needs to cover that story because it is important for our residents to hear what happened and why it is not going through. Both she and Mr. Archible voted against it for good reason and she hopes that *The Sentinel* will pick up on it and share the decision by DPU and why it didn't go through.

Mr. Barnett: Mentioned that on the minutes of September 28, 2015 with the appointment of the firefighter/paramedic that his appointment is contingent on having passed the firefighter physical.

- 9) **Questions from the Press:** Jim Russell from *The Republican* asked if the Board could say anything about the search process for the new police chief or is Sgt. Jenks going to remain. Mr. Archible asked the Town Administrator to respond. Mr. Brougham indicated that with the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen's directive the office has advertised for letters of interest for the search committee. Mr. Russell asked if the Town was looking for people to join a search panel. Mr. Brougham stated the application process is also open but the Candidate Review Search Committee will at some point organize. At some point they will screen the applicants and conduct preliminary interviews. Mr. Russell stated that there are two things going on – getting together a search committee and the job opening.

Mr. Brougham stated that there is an existing police candidate review committee that consists of five people. That committee will likely be expanded to either seven or nine members. Some of the individuals that are currently serving on the candidate review committee may not want to commit the time to the police chief's search so there could be more or less depending on how many of the five core members are interested on working on this. Mr. Russell confirmed that he is talking about a seven to nine person search panel.

Mr. Brougham stated that the Town has advertised the job opening for the police chief. It was in the *Sentinel* last week; it was in the *Gazette* this past weekend. It is currently up on the Mass Chief's website. It will be in the MMA Beacon in the November publication. Mr. Russell questioned if there was a salary range on the position. Mr. Brougham stated it is per the personnel by-law but he did not have the information readily available. Mr. Brougham stated the office will continue to monitor the activity and will expand the search area if need be. To date the office has received six applications. Mr. Brougham believes the deadline to apply is November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Russell confirmed it is not an internal search, it is open to everyone. Mr. Brougham stated that certainly current employee's could apply for the position. Mr. Goldscheider from

the *Gazette* questioned how many of the six were internal candidates. Mr. Brougham stated that at this point none were internal.

Mr. Russell questioned if there was going to be a special town meeting and if so has a date been chosen. Mr. Barnett stated it's usually by the end of the year because of free cash but nothing has been set.

Mr. Russell questioned if the Planning Board has requested money on the Verizon tower appeal as it's now in federal court as he understands. Mr. Brougham stated Town Counsel has been asked to prepare a preliminary opinion on what is being claimed. He continued that the Planning Board has not at this point asked for money. Mr. Russell stated that Kopelman and Paige is the Town Counsel and as of right now its just standard operating procedures. Mr. Archible stated yes.

Mr. Goldscheider questioned if the Town knows when that opinion will be coming in. Mr. Brougham stated the initial claim required a response within 20 days and he knows that Kopelman responded to it but at this point the Town doesn't have any information.

Mr. Russell commented on the Hampshire Council of Governments rejection by the DPU for the municipal aggregation and questioned if the HCOG had reached out to Belchertown with a new community aggregation. Mr. Archible indicated they had not. Mr. Russell continued he realized there was a vote last fall to exit the program but the Town had been involved for a number of years. He continued that he came upon some information that stated the HCOG could provide a point by point rebuttal of the DPU's reasons for why they rejected it if a community requests it. He said they are also saying they advised the towns to join this community aggregation. He asked if the Town had asked for it or if they had seen the point by point rebuttal; he would like to see it because they haven't been able to report on it. They've gotten some interviews and he thanked Mr. Barnett for that. He said if Mr. Ford has the rebuttal he would certainly like to see it. Mr. Barnett stated they are not appealing it.

Mr. Goldscheider from the *Gazette* stated that he and his editor had submitted a written request and it has been more then ten days he believes for the January 24, 2011 minutes and the executive session minutes of September 17 and 28, 2015. Mr. Barnett stated the Board would vote on them tonight. Mr. Goldscheider questioned if that would include a copy of the settlement with the Chief. Mr. Archible indicated it would not. Mr. Goldscheider questioned the correspondence the Board had received with comments about Chief Fox. Mr. Archible stated it is a personnel issue. Mr. Goldscheider stated his editor wants to get a written response, either a yea or nay as to either releasing the documents or citing the law as to why they won't be released. Mr. Archible stated when the Board hears from our Counsel they will let him know. Mr. Goldscheider argued that there is a ten day window and it's been greater then ten days. Ms. Aldrich stated the Board only meets every fourteen days. Mr. Goldscheider claims his editor wants to follow-up on it. Mr. Brougham stated the law says the Town has ten days to respond and 30 days to schedule a meeting.

Mr. Goldscheider asked for the names of the five individuals on the police candidate review committee. Mr. Brougham didn't have the names in front of him but he said Pastor Haqq, Bonnie Strickland, Jim Phaneuf, and Tom Soutier. Ms. Aldrich added Diane Smith's name to the list. Mr. Goldscheider was not sure what this group was – he thought it was a personnel committee for the Town. Mr. Brougham corrected him stating it is the Police Candidate Review Committee that is used when the Town advertises for part-time police

officer's. Mr. Goldscheider realized it is a standing police candidate review committee. Mr. Brougham indicated this committee was very strategically chosen. Mr. Goldscheider thought this committee was opening up to other community members. Mr. Brougham corrected him stating that this committee was notified of the Chief's Search Committee and that they were informed if they are interested to submit a letter of interest. Goldscheider asked who chooses the Chief's Search Committee. Mr. Brougham stated the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Aldrich believes the Board will choose members from different sectors in the community such as a clergy member, a business owner, etcetera. Mr. Goldscheider confirmed that the Board of Selectmen makes the final hiring decision. He questioned if a member of the Board of Selectmen will be on the committee. Mr. Brougham indicated that it would be as an *ex-officio* member only, not as a voting member.

Mr. Goldscheider questioned if the Board had timeline as to when they want the position filled. Mr. Archible stated he doesn't think the Board should rush it as it's a very important position.

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: NW. 9, 2015

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

(Absent)  
Ronald B. Aponte, Chairman  
George D. Archible

Brenda Q. Aldrich  
Brenda Q. Aldrich  
William R. Barnett  
William R. Barnett

(Absent)  
Nicholas O'Connor