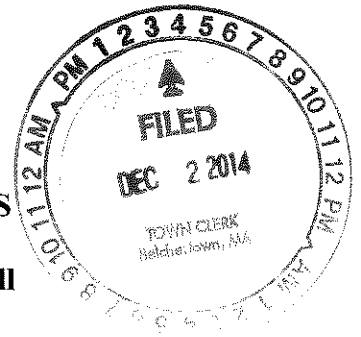


**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



Present: Brenda Q. Aldrich, Ronald E. Aponte, George D. Archible, William R. Barnett
Late: Kenneth E. Elstein arrived at 7:50 p.m.

- 1) **Call to Order:** Chairman ^{Aldrich} Barnett called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) **Sign Documents:**
 - a) Warrant #1513 was signed for \$ 1,510,361.88.
 - b) Routine documents
 - c) Approval of Minutes: None.
- 3) **Additions to the Agenda:**
 - None.
- 4) **Appearances Before the Board:**
 - None.
- 5) **Discussion/Action Items:**
 - a. Discuss / Set Dates for Classification Hearing and Special Town Meeting: Mr. Barnett confirmed with Gary Brougham, Town Administrator the date that was being looked at for the classification hearing. Mr. Brougham indicated the Classification Hearing should be scheduled for November 24, 2014 with the Special Town Meeting on December 1, 2014. The tax rate needs to be set prior to the Town Meeting.

Mr. Barnett moved the Board set the Special Town Meeting for Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Belchertown High School. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.
Mr. Archible confirmed that Mr. Whelihan, Director of Assessments will be at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on November 24th for the Classification Hearing.
 - b. Endorse Election Warrant: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. The Board needs to endorse the November 4, 2014 Election Warrant. Mr. Barnett moved the Board endorse the Election Warrant as presented. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
 - c. Acknowledge Supportive Day Program Assistant Retirement Announcement: The Board acknowledge that Johanna M. Bessette will retire as the Supportive Day Care Assistant at the Belchertown Senior Center effective December 1, 2014. A letter will be sent to Ms. Bessette thanking her for her service to the Town.
 - d. Review/Endorse One-Day Auction Permit: Mr. Barnett presented the details. J. Edward Leaman has applied for an auction permit. The location of the auction will be the Estate of Sebastian E. Dudek, 91 Bardwell Street in Belchertown.

This will be a one day permit. Mr. Barnett moved the Board endorse the One-Day Auction Permit. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- e. Appointment Fire Department Administrative Secretary: Per the recommendation of Chief Bock, Mr. Aponte moved to appoint Anne Loftus to the position of Administrative Secretary to the Fire Department. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- f. Request for Holiday Closing: Mr. Barnett stated that non-essential Town employees have submitted a request to consider closing the non-essential Town Offices the afternoon of Wednesday, November 25th (day before Thanksgiving) and Friday, December 26th (day after Christmas) to allow employees time to prepare for, drive to and spend more time with their families. Employees will use their own vacation or personal time for these days. Mr. Barnett moved the Board allow the closing of non-essential Town Offices on the days requested with employees using their vacation or personal time. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- g. Review Green Communities Annual Report: Gary Brougham, Town Administrator presented the details. Steve Williams, Director of Public Works has presented the Board with the Annual Green Communities 2014 Report which was left for the Board to review. Mr. Aponte moved the Board authorize the Chairman of the Board to endorse the report. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- h. Discuss Hunting/Foley Field: Mr. Aponte presented the details regarding this discussion. He indicated that the Conservation Commission has led the charge to ban hunting in the Foley Field space. The Recreation Commission has also discussed hunting in this area. It was noted that the State allows hunting and passive recreation on 60,000 acres of State Land.

The difference with this area is that the School Department has primary use of the field. Several hunters were present for this discussion. They were asked when they start hunting. They responded that they usually begin with first light and up to two hours after sunrise.

Deb Dorval, Recreation Administrator indicated the high school track team also runs thru this area when school is in session; consequently, limited hunting hours may be a practical solution.

Mr. Elstein joined the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Peg Louraine, Recreation Committee Member also stated that residents have complained to the Recreation Committee about the hunting in this area.

Terry Chevalier speaking for the hunters feels that hunting from sunrise to 9:00 a.m. is manageable. Upon further discussion with the hunters it was agreed that hunting would be allowed ½ hour before sunrise to 8:00 a.m. within 500 feet of Lake Wallace. There will be no hunting when the field is in use. Mr. Aponte

moved the Board adopt the hunting conditions as previously stated. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 - 0

- i. Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 1 and 2: Mr. Aponte moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsections 1 and 2 and not to reconvene in open meeting. Seconded by Mr. Elstein. Roll call vote: Aldrich – yes, Aponte – yes, Elstein – yes, Archible – yes, Barnett – yes.
- j. Miscellaneous Matters: None

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

7) **Review of Weekly Mail:**

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

Mr. Aponte: He asked Lew Louraine and Frank Lomanno if there is anything new with Charter and Comcast and whether or not there is anything else that the Town needs to do. Mr. Louraine stated there isn't anything new with the change over between the two and won't be until the FCC makes a decision. He did inform the Board that Charter will now require residents to have a cable box as they will be scrambling their signal. The Technology Advisory Committee is dealing with that currently. There has been discussion with the School Department, DPW, the Town Administrator and with Mr. Cohan from Charter. They do not have any answers at this point to the questions regarding the cable boxes. There is confusion on the cost and how many boxes are going to be free. Changes are supposed to happen on or before November 11th.

Mr. Barnett: Questioned Mr. Brougham about Funky Cab operating off of Canal Drive. Mr. Brougham stated that the office had received a letter of complaint about the cab company. The complaint was brought to the attention of the Zoning Enforcement Officer who investigated and has notified the property owner that there is a business being run improperly out of that location. It is being addressed through the Zoning Enforcement Officer. The people running the cab company are not the owners of the property they are under a rental agreement.

Mr. Elstein: Presented an update regarding the Family Center. Ms. Aldrich feels the Board might consider providing a budget to the Family Center. She also feels that there should be some shared responsibility with the school committee and the family center.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Jim Russell from the *Republican* confirmed the hours for Hunting in the Lake Wallace/Foley Field recreation area during the hunting season. Mr. Brougham indicated that it is primarily duck and goose hunting. Very little other kind of hunting takes place in the area of concern, right around the playing fields.

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: Nov. 24, 2014

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

Brenda Q. Aldrich
Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman

Ronald E. Aponte
Ronald E. Aponte

Kenneth E. Elstein
Kenneth E. Elstein

William R. Barnett
William R. Barnett

George D. Archible
George D. Archible