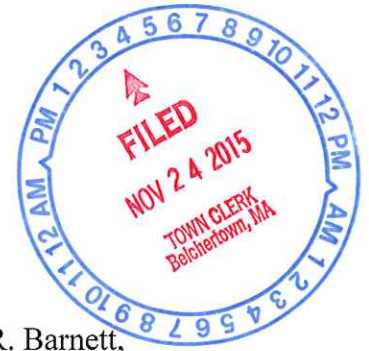


**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



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

- 1) **Call to Order:** Chairman Aponte called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.
  
- 2) **Sign Documents:**
  - a) Warrant #1619 was signed for \$599,698.10.
  - b) Routine documents
  - c) Approval of Minutes: Ms. Aldrich moved the Board accept the minutes of October 13, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 3 – yes, 2 – abstain (Aponte, O'Connor).  
Ms. Aldrich moved the Board accept the executive session minutes of October 13, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 3 – yes, 2 – abstain (Aponte, O'Connor).  
Ms. Aldrich moved the Board accept the minutes of October 26, 2015. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
  
- 3) **Additions to the Agenda:**
  - Appointment of a Part-Time Police Officer: Mr. Aponte presented the details. Per the recommendation of Acting Police Chief Jenks, Mr. Aponte moved to appoint Andrew Letendre to the position of part-time patrol officer effective November 13, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 5 – 0.
  - Appointment of a Part-Time Pound Keeper: Mr. Aponte presented the details. Per the recommendation of Anna Fenton, Animal Control Officer, Mr. Aponte moved to appoint Patricia Sanuita to the position of pound keeper, effective November 15, 2015. Seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 5 – 0.
  
- 4) **Appearances Before the Board:**
  - 7:35 p.m. Senator Eric Lesser: Senator Lesser came before the Board and introduced himself. He spoke about the areas that the Senate has focused on over the last few months.
    - He will be focusing much of his energy on substance abuse and the opioid addiction crisis. He is the author of two pieces of legislation on this topic that have become law. The first is to close the pharmacy shopping loophole for highly addictive narcotics. Public health officials and law enforcement felt this was the most necessary to stem the tide of opiate abuse. It basically requires pharmacies in the State to report to the Department of Public Health within 24 hours the issuance of any highly addictive narcotic pain killers that they are dispensing. There is now a mechanism to track and flag the abuse. It use to be that pharmacies had seven days to report it but it was found that it gives someone too much time obtain multiple fills on these narcotics. The idea is to move this reporting to real time as everything is done electronically now. This amendment became law in July. All the major pharmacies have already started complying.

- The second piece of legislation he is working on is mandating narcan. Initially the cost of narcan was \$16. Once the legislation hit it rose to \$66. The senate implemented a bulk purchasing program and it is now \$33.
- He is also working toward job training for manufacturing jobs.
- He is also the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Tourism and Arts.

Mr. Aponte told the Senator that Belchertown needs continued legislative support. Continued support and funding for remediation and / or development of the former Belchertown State School property.

Mr. Archible raised the issue of Chapter 90 being short changed under Governor Patrick. Senator Lesser indicated that funding is coming up and will continue to increase.

School Committee Chairman, Richard Fritsch indicated that the Central Office and one of the schools are falling down and the Town will be looking for funding toward both in the next few years.

Mr. Aponte mentioned the State School auction of the Patrick Center. He asked if the Town could get a hold on this auction. Senator Lesser will contact DCAM regarding this auction.

- 8:15 p.m. Elizabeth Rairigh, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission – Community Development Strategy Discussion: Ms. Rairigh presented the background on the program and the potential funding availability for CDBG FY16. She informed the Board that Belchertown is a CDF2 community which indicates our chances are highly competitive.

The Town can apply for up to \$900,000. Ms. Rairigh suggested the Town should pursue social service and housing rehabilitation funding.

She questioned if Belchertown is interested and if we want Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to administer the grant. Mr. Aponte said yes. The Town has had great success with prior grants. Ms. Aldrich and Mr. Archible both agreed. Ms. Rairigh indicated the grant paperwork is likely due around February 13, 2016.

Mr. Barnett moved the Board endorse the concept of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission applying and working as our agent on the 2016 CDBG grant. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.

## 5) **Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Appointment of Members to the Police Chief Candidate Search Committee: Mr. Aponte presented the details. He indicated that there were seven individuals who received three or more votes and in no particular order they are: Bonnie Strickland, Sean Gallagher, Thomas Soutier, Reverend Haqq, Jerry Grasso, Tom Ruscio and Andrew DiNapoli. Mr. Aponte moved the Board appoint these seven members to the Police Chief Candidate Search Committee. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Mr. Aponte then asked the Board to vote for the next member on the committee. Following a count Mr. Aponte indicated that Steve Williams received the most votes. Mr. Aponte moved the Board appoint Steve Williams as the 8<sup>th</sup> member to the

committee. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0. The Board then held another poll to choose between Chris Mattocks and Bob Knight. Mr. Aponte indicated that Mr. Mattocks had three votes and Robert Knight had two votes. Mr. Aponte moved the Board appoint Mr. Mattocks as the 9<sup>th</sup> member of Committee. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0. Mr. Aponte read the names of the Committee members in no particular order: Chris Mattocks, Bonnie Strickland, Sean Gallagher, Thomas Soutier, Reverend Emmanuel Haqq, Jerry Grasso, Steve Williams, Tom Ruscio and Andrew DiNapoli.

Mr. Aponte asked the Town Administrator to notify these members as soon as possible. He also asked Mr. Brougham to schedule and organize the first initial meeting. A packet will be put together with the charge, the open meeting law, copies of the applications, an email contact list and ask that they work aggressively towards choosing a chairman. He will also offer assistance to make logistical contacts for the interviews and what needs to take place.

- b. Review and Endorse Green Community Report: Mr. Archible presented the details. The Town of Belchertown is entering its sixth year of “online” MassEnergyInsight (MEI) Annual Reporting. The Town has retained its Green Community Status since 2010. The Town had successfully reached the required 20% energy reduction savings but with the extreme cold this past winter and increased heating oil consumption our savings were reduced to 14% for FY15 reporting. Per the request of Steve Williams, Director of Public Works, Mr. Archible moved the Board authorize the Chairman of the Board to endorse the Green Community Annual Report for FY15. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.
  - c. Chapter 90 Request for Reimbursement: Mr. Archible presented the details. The request for reimbursement is in the amount of \$307,565.00 for road work the Board of Selectmen had previously approved throughout the Town. Mr. Archible moved the Board endorse the Chapter 90 Request for Reimbursement in the amount of \$307,565.00. Seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 5 – 0.
  - d. Endorse Council on Aging FY16 State Formula Grant: Mr. O’Connor presented the details to the Board. The maximum obligation is \$21,690 and the funds are customarily used to offset expenses associated with the Nutrition Program. Mr. O’Connor moved the Board authorize the Chairman to endorse the Council on Aging FY16 State Formula Grant. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 5 – 0.
  - e. Discuss Chestnut Hill Community School Basketball Court: Mr. O’Connor asked the Board to table this discussion to allow for time to talk to Mr. Opalenik and a broader committee about possibly expanding this. Discussion rescheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - f. Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 6: Ms. Aldrich moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 6. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Roll call vote: Aponte - yes, Archible – yes, Aldrich – yes, Barnett – yes.
  - g. Miscellaneous Matters: None.
- 6) **Town Administrator’s Report:** He asked that Mr. Archible remind everyone about the Veterans’ Day services.
  - 7) **Review of Weekly Mail:** See Mr. Aponte’s comments in Member Reports.
  - 8) **Individual Board Members’ Reports:**

Mr. Archible: Tomorrow is the United States Marine Corps birthday. Also tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. at the Belchertown High School all veterans are invited to attend a ceremony at the High School. Wednesday is Veterans' Day and at 9:30 am at the Town Common. At 11:00 a.m. there will also be a ceremony at the Belchertown High School.

Mr. Barnett: Wanted to bring attention to the Hampshire County Selectboard's Association is having their quarterly meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Blue Bonnet Diner on King Street in Northampton.

Ms. Aldrich: She went to a talk by Dr. Potee at the high school about addiction. There is a plan to have her come and talk to the public in an open forum.

Also when her father-in-law passed away (he was a veteran) they needed help with her mother-in-law. She spoke with Ray Janke, Veterans' Service Agent who helped with different programs for spouses of veterans. This past week he held a seminar on VA Aid and Attendance for veterans and their spouse and/or dependents as well as pension benefits. She encourages any veteran or their caretaker to speak with Mr. Janke as he's there to help.

Mr. Archible wants to emphasize to the veterans and their families that we have the best Veterans' Service Agent in the Commonwealth. The veterans in Town should take advantage of him as he's a great resource. Also around Town you might see some green light bulbs on front doors or passageways it's to show support of the veterans.

Mr. O'Connor: He's met with a bunch of committees and commissions in the past few weeks and it seems like there is a lot of momentum and that their interests are very closely aligned but they haven't made the connections with the other committees and commissions so he is going to try and bring them together and move towards one big agenda.

Mr. Aponte: The Department of Revenue has certified free cash. Belchertown will be receiving \$ 759,497 for the general funds. The sewer enterprise fund is \$188,460 and the landfill enterprise fund is \$13,608.

- 9) **Questions from the Press:** Aimee Henderson from *The Sentinel* informed the Board she had residents contact her regarding their concerns about the stone walls along Route 181 in the construction area. She is wondering what will happen to them and if they will be protected. She was told that whatever is taken down will be replaced.

Ms. Aldrich asked Ms. Henderson if she plans on writing an article about the DPU denying the municipal aggregation through the Hampshire Council of Governments. She believes that Ms. Henderson's piece about the Board voting to leave the municipal aggregation was quite vile and she would like the residents of town to see that the Board made the correct decision. Ms. Henderson stated she had planned on doing an article in a timely manner but as the only full time writer at the paper she is spread thin. Ms. Aldrich understands but still feels that it's important that the article is written sooner rather than later.

The Town Administrator went back to the question regarding the stone walls. Steve Williams, Director of Public Works is managing the project but will be out of the office until Monday. The Town Administrator will give her the name of the resident engineer from massDOT tomorrow. The intent is to protect as much of the existing infrastructure as possible thus the footprint road project.



Mr. Goldscheider from *The Gazette* asked for the names of the Police Candidate Review Search Committee. He was told they would be given to him. He then questioned how many applicants there were for the Police Chief position and if anything could be said about them. He also questioned if there were any internal applicants. The Town Administrator told him he didn't know anything about the applicants at this point in time.

Mr. Goldscheider then questioned the time-line for this committee; when does the Board hope to appoint a new police chief. He was told there is no time-line at this point but that the Board is willing to wait a few extra weeks if it means appointing the best candidate. The Town Administrator reminded everyone that it is a difficult time of the year to get this going with the upcoming holiday season and trying to arrange the schedule of nine people on the screening committee. There is also the time it will take to arrange for applicants to come to Town when the committee decides who to interview. Mr. Brougham indicated there is no rush and that Acting Chief Jenks is doing a great job and has everything running smoothly. The Board and the Town Administrator think it will be at least February before a new police chief is appointed.

Mr. Goldscheider again questioned the letters of interest for the Police Chief Candidate Search Committee and if they were public information. He was told they were. He questioned why they did not appear on the Selectmen's mail list. He then questioned the Selectmen's mail list and wonders why it's not a complete list. He was told that it is a complete list but these letters had a deadline to them and were kept in a central file. He was told he could now look at those letters.

Mr. Goldscheider also questioned what the Board was going into executive session for. He understands the Board cited the laws but questioned if they give a general sense of what the executive session will be about. Tonight's executive session will be about real estate.

**10) Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator


Board approved/endorsed: Nov. 23, 2015

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

  
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Ronald E. Aponte, Chairman

  
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George D. Archible

  
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Nicholas O'Connor

  
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Brenda Q. Aldrich

  
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William R. Barnett