

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

Present: Brenda Q. Aldrich, Ronald E. Aponte, George D. Archible, Kenneth E. Elstein, William R. Barnett

- 1) **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 #1541 was signed for \$464,132.83
 - b) Routine documents
 - c) Approval of Minutes: Mr. Aponte moved the Board accept the minutes of March 9, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 3 yes, 2 – abstain(Archible, Elstein).

- 3) **Additions to the Agenda:** None.

- 4) **Appearances Before the Board:**
 - 7:35 p.m. Ray Janke, Veterans' Agent: Mr. Janke came before the Board to present an overview of the proposed house bill. He feels this is not a good proposal and is asking the Board to write / authorize a letter to be sent to our legislators. He feels the potential exists to do undo harm to the veterans and their families if this bill is allowed to become law. He questions how the State will address emergencies and or changes of status.

Ms. Aldrich supports veterans' agents remaining the way the system is now in place.

Mr. Elstein praised the efforts of Ray Janke locally and as a spokesperson for Hampshire County Selectboards Association. We should not support this legislation but rather proper certification standards for all veterans' agents.

Mr. Aponte stated he is not in support of this proposed house bill.

Mr. Archible stated that Massachusetts has the best veterans services in the country. Mr. Archible moved the Board oppose the proposed house bill 1590 and to authorize the Town Administrator to send a letter to our legislators indicating the Boards opposition. Seconded by Mr. Elstein. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Mr. Archible moved to re-appoint Ray Janke as the Veterans' Agent, term to expire April 30, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Elstein. Motion passes 5 – 0.

5) **Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Police Chief's Request to Attend Conference: Mr. Aponte presented the details. The Chief is requesting to attend the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Conference from June 8 through June 12, 2015 in Edgartown, Massachusetts. This is consistent with his contract. Mr. Aponte moved the Board allow the Chief to attend this conference. Seconded by Mr. Elstein. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- b. Acknowledge Police Chief's Administrative Secretary's Notice of Retirement: The Board acknowledged the retirement of Mary Rattell as the Police Chief's Administrative Secretary, effective April 12, 2015. A letter will be sent to Ms. Rattell thanking her for her years of service.
- c. Acknowledge Recreation Administrative Assistant's Notice of Retirement: The Board acknowledged the retirement of Debra Dorval, Recreation Administrative Assistant, effective May 1, 2015. A letter will be sent to Ms. Dorval thanking her for her many years of service.
- d. Accept Firefighter Resignation: The Board accepted the resignation of Aaron Mackenzie as a firefighter, effective April 4, 2015. A letter will be sent to Mr. Mackenzie thanking him for his service to the Town.
- e. Appointment of Temporary Registrar: Mr. Barnett presented the details. Registrar Clara Very(D) is not available to work the Annual and Special Town Meeting on May 11, 2015 and the Annual Town Election on May 18, 2015. A temporary registrar needs to be appointed. Mr. Barnett moved to appoint MaryEllen O'Reilly-Bracey (D) to perform the duties of Registrar of Voters for these events. Seconded by Mr. Elstein. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- f. Appointment of Senior Center Aide: Per the recommendation of Bill Korzenowski, Director of the Council on Aging, Mr. Elstein moved the Board appoint Katherine Martin to the position of Senior Center Aide effective April 6, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- g. Appointment of Animal Control Officer and Assistants: Mr. Aponte moved to appoint Anna Fenton, Animal Control Officer and Janet Lipscomb and Lawrence Belbin as Assistant Animal Control Officers, all terms to expire April 30, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Barnett. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- h. Appointment of Highway Division Supervisor: Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Director of Public Works, Mr. Archible moved to appoint Christopher Laurenzo to the position of Highway Division Supervisor, effective date and salary to be determined. Seconded by Mr. Elstein. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- i. Endorse Close-Out Agreement for CDF FY12 Grant 0027: Mr. Aponte moved the Board endorse the Close-Out Agreement for CDF FY12 Grant 0027. Seconded by Mr. Elstein. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- j. Endorse State House Note – Renewal on Borrowing for Jackson Farm Land Acquisition: Mr. Elstein presented the details. The paperwork is required for the issuance of a state house note to fund the Jackson Farm land purchases. Mr. Elstein moved the Board endorse State House Note #989 in the amount of \$79,000 for one year at a rate of 0.53%, the Certificate of Town Clerk, Material Events Disclosure and Certificate and Designation. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.

- k. Endorse Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure – James and Catherine Hayward, Sargent Street (Map 237, Lot 100): Mr. Barnett presented the details. The Haywards wished to forego the legal formalities and costs associated with the foreclosure process and agreed to deed the property to the Town. Mr. Barnett moved the Board endorse the Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- l. Review Planning Board Special Permit Application – Brandt, Motor Vehicles Sales, 442 State Street: The Board had no concerns with this application. The applicant is requesting to have between two and six cars for sale at this location. A letter will be sent to the Planning Board indicating the Board of Selectmen has no concerns at this time but that they should take into consideration concerns from any other Boards or Commissions.
- m. Request to Increase Wage and Inspection Fees for Electrical, Plumbing and Gas Inspectors/Inspections: Mr. Barnett presented the details to the Board. Paul Adzima, Director of Inspection Services is requesting that the Board approve the proposed wage increase and the fee increase for electrical, plumbing and gas inspectors. Mr. Barnett moved the Board approve the increases for wages from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per inspection, effective July 1, 2015 and an increase in permits from \$30.00 to \$35.00 for electrical, gas and plumbing, effective July 1, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- n. Reauthorize Commitment to Hampshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee and Appointment of Emergency Response Coordinator: Mr. Aponte moved to reauthorize the Town's commitment to Hampshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee and re-appoint Fire Chief Bock as Emergency Response Coordinator. Seconded by Mr. Elstein. Motion passes 5 – 0.
- o. Review / Approve Warrant Articles for Special and Annual Town Meetings: The Board reviewed and approved the Warrant Articles for the Special and Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 11, 2015.
- p. Miscellaneous Matters: None.

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

7) **Review of Weekly Mail:** Mail Reviewed.

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

Mr. Archible: The VFW will host an appreciation meal for the DPW employees and their spouses in recognition of exceptional service this winter.

Mr. Aponte: The Finance Committee, School Committee and the Board of Selectmen work toward a budget proposal. The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School assessment is down.

Mr. Elstein: Mentioned letters from the mail. Lisa Rainaud from the Family Center Committee has submitted a letter of resignation and Jaime Michaels has submitted a letter of interest for the Cultural Council.

Ms. Aldrich: There will be a budget hearing at the school on Tuesday at Chestnut Hill Community School at 7:00 pm. Last weeks school committee meeting went well.

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

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

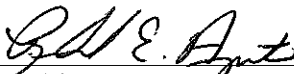
Board approved/endorsed: June 8, 2015

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

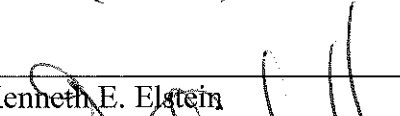
Endorsed by a majority:



Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman

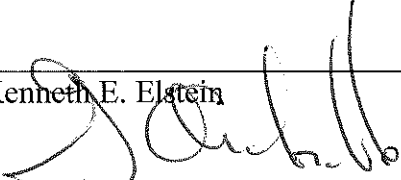


Ronald E. Aponte



Kenneth E. Elstein

William R. Barnett



George D. Archible