

TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall

Present: Brenda Q. Aldrich, Ronald E. Aponte, George D. Archible, Kenneth E. Elstein,
Absent: 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 #1543 was signed for \$900,487.33.
 - 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. Transfer Station Trash Bag Fee Increase for FY16: Mr. Archible presented the details of the request. The Director of Public Works is asking the Board to approve an increase in the cost of the town's orange trash bags. Mr. Archible moved the Board approve the request to increase the cost of large bags to \$19/bundle of 10 and to increase the cost of small bags to \$13.00/bundle of 10, effective July 1, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 3 – 0.
 - b. Sewer Rate Increase for FY16: Steve Williams, Director of Public Works presented the details. He is asking the Board to approve the increase of \$10.00 per EDU which gains approximately \$17,000.00 additional revenue. Mr. Archible moved the Board approve the increase of \$10.00 for South End Sewer users from \$696.00 to \$706.00 and Central District Sewer users from \$789.00 to \$799.00, effective July 1, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 3 – 0.
 - c. Accept Highway Division Heavy Equipment Operator II Employee Resignation: The Board accepted the resignation of Ronald Ritter, Highway Division Heavy Equipment Operator II, effective May 1, 2015. A letter will be sent to Mr. Ritter thanking him for his service to the Town.
 - d. Appointment of Seasonal Laborers: Per the recommendation of Steve Williams, Director of Public Works, Mr. Archible moved to appoint Marc Chmura, Jordan Auffrey, Patrick Luippold and Matthew Giguere as seasonal laborers, effective immediately. Seconded by Mr. Aponte. Motion passes 3 – 0.
 - e. Appointment of Department Assistant II/Office Manager for Recreation Department: Per the recommendation of Rob Opalenik, Recreation Director, Mr. Aponte moved to appoint John Soja as the Department Assistant II/Office Manager for the Recreation Department. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0.
 - f. Accept Animal Control Advisory Board Member Resignation: The Board accepted the resignation of Carol Wagner from the Animal Control Advisory

Board. The Board requested the Town Administrator send a letter to Ms. Wagner thanking her for her service to the Town.

- g. Accept Family Center Committee Member Resignation: The Board accepted the resignation of Dr. Gary Circosta from the Family Center. The Board requested the Town Administrator send a letter to Dr. Circosta thanking him for his service to the Town.
- h. Discuss the Belchertown Family Center: Gary Brougham, Town Administrator presented an overview. He informed the Board they need to determine the future of the Family Center and decide if any funding will be made available in FY16.

Mr. Aponte feels the Committee should be accountable to the Town Administrator and that the Family Center Director should be administratively responsible to the Town Administrator.

Ms. Aldrich feels that the Town Administrator and she should meet with the Family Center Committee to work out any logistical issues regarding the director, cash flow, etcetera.

Mr. Aponte feels budgeting funds for the Family Center will be a good investment for the community.

Mr. Archible feels in limbo regarding the Center. The Town was stuck with bills from the Family Center in the past. The new committee asked for the building with the understanding there would be no money and now they want \$5,000. He questioned what happens if the Town employs the Family Center Director and they fail? Will the Town be responsible for unemployment?

Mr. Aponte is impressed with the accomplishments the Family Center has made.

Mr. Aponte moved the Board of Selectmen support the \$5,000 for funding requested by the Family Center with the working understanding that the Collaborative money be named to the Town of Belchertown by July 1, 2015 and that the Director of the Family Center become a Town employee reporting to the Town Administrator, this will be a part-time, non-benefited position for a one year term. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0.

- i. BCTV's Drone: Peg and Lew Louraine from BCTV presented the details. The Board questioned if it's legal to operate these by a government community. It was questioned if additional liability is necessary. Mr. Aponte feels the BCTV should notify the police department when it's going to be used to eliminate 911 calls regarding suspicious activity.

Mr. Aponte moved the Board of Selectmen instruct and authorize the Town Administrator to discuss the purchase of a drone and the effect on the Town's liability with our insurance agent as well as with Town Counsel. Seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 3 – 0.

- j. 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: Mentioned that Mr. Barnett is in the hospital. The School Committee will vote on their budget, Tuesday, April 28th.

Mr. Archible: Expressed his appreciation to the DPW for their extraordinary efforts this winter. The DPW employees and their spouses were recognized with a dinner sponsored by the VFW.

Mr. Aponte: The Comcast – Charter merger is off indefinitely. Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 11th and Elections will be held on Monday, May 18th.

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

10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator


Board approved/endorsed: June 8, 2015

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

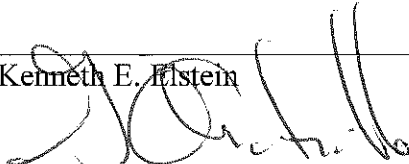
Endorsed by a majority:



Brenda Q. Aldrich, Chairman

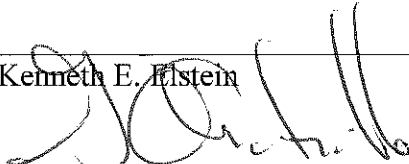


Ronald E. Aponte



Kenneth E. Elstein

(Absent)
William R. Barnett



George D. Archible