

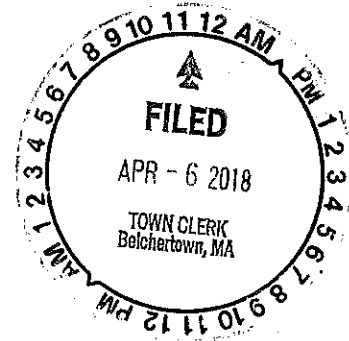
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

Finance Committee

Lawrence Memorial Hall
2 Jabish Street, P.O. Box 670
Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007



Steven Rose, Chairman
Lynne Raymer, Vice-Chairman
Melissa Hurst, Clerk
Edward Boscher
Laurie Shea



Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 5, 2018
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Lawrence Memorial Hall
Present: Steven Rose, Lynne Raymer, Melissa Hurst, Edward Boscher, Laurie Shea
Guest(s): Ron Aponte, Archie Archible, Brenda Aldrich, Nick O'Connor, Gary Brougham, Jill Panto
Board of Assessors – Jay Whelihan
Veterans' Services – Ray Janke
Computing/IT – Kevin Hannon
Conservation & Lakes – LeeAnne Connolly, Jennica Gallagher

- Meeting called to order at 7:01pm.

Assessors

- Discussion that approximate assessment date for Christopher Heights is 7/1/18.
- Discussion that the levy limit (without the debt exclusions) is \$27,491,801.
- Discussion of communities who “hit the ceiling” or “approached the ceiling” (meaning have met or are at 90%+ of their levy ceiling under Prop 2 ½). Mr. Whelihan indicated that Belchertown is at approximately 75% of the levy ceiling.
- Mr. Whelihan stated that there are increased costs for mapping and due to a consultant needed for revaluation for FY2020.
- Review of proposed Assessors budget.

Veterans' Services

- Discussion of provision of Veterans' Services – 75% of benefits provided are reimbursed by the Commonwealth approximately 18 months after funds are spent.
- Discussion that over 40 residents receive Veterans' Services.

- Discussion that Christopher Heights may not provide staff to assist residents with paperwork for services and may shift the burden to the local Veterans' Services office.
- Review of proposed Veterans' Services budget.

Computing/IT

- Discussion of recent ISP reallocation between town and schools and upcoming staff retirements.
- Discussion of request for additional staff and a vehicle. Mr. Hannon indicated that there is currently insufficient staff time to work on projects as 80-85% of staff time is spent on fixing problems that arise. Estimate that a part time, full year staff would cost approximately \$23,000.
- Discussion of infrastructure needs and that there are some aging switches. PEG grant funds can carryover to another fiscal year.
- Review of proposed Computing/IT budget.

Conservation & Lakes

- Discussion that funds are primarily being requested for treatment of Lake Metacomet, including spot herbicide for \$12,000. Also there is peet in the outlet and water flow needs to be increased. Discussion that the treatment for both items is \$24,000, of which \$4,000 would be provided by Tri-Lakes. Request is for \$20,000 (including the \$14,000 already in the draft budget).
- Also discussion of request for an increase in printing.
- Review of proposed Conservation & Lakes budgets.

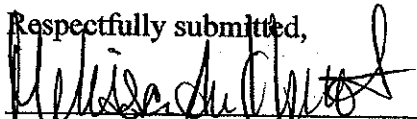
Miscellaneous Matters

- Sean Donovan of Green Light Bicycle Shop attended, seeking guidance as to continuing the rail trail/bicycle path through town. Discussion of the prior attempt to bring this to Belchertown and suggested that Mr. Donovan liaise with those involved in the issue previously.

Adjournments

- Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

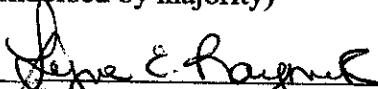


 Melissa Hurst, Clerk

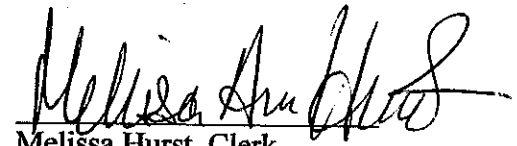
FINCOM Town of Belchertown (Endorsed by majority)




 Steven Rose, Chair



 Lynne Raymer, Vice Chair



 Melissa Hurst, Clerk



 Edward Boscher



 Laurie Shea