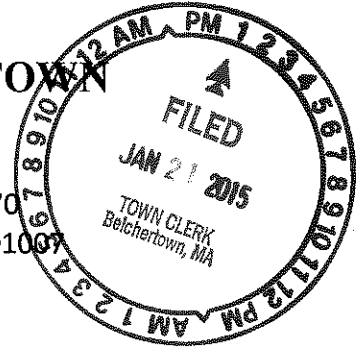




## TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

### Finance Committee

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



Kate DeCou, Chairman  
Lynne Raymer, Vice-Chairman  
Melissa Hurst, Clerk  
Edward Boscher  
Steven Rose

### Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2014  
Time: 7:00pm  
Location: Lawrence Memorial Hall  
Present: Edward Boscher, Kate DeCou, Melissa Hurst, Lynne Raymer, Steven Rose  
Guest(s): Jill Panto, Fred Morris

- Meeting called to order at 7:01pm.
- Mail reviewed and distributed.
- Ms. Hurst distributed the revised minutes from the September 16, 2014 meeting and minutes from the October 21, 2014 meeting for review to the committee.
- Mr. Rose moved to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting. Ms. Raymer seconded. Minutes were accepted 5-0-0.
- Mr. Rose moved to accept the minutes of the October 21, 2014 meeting. Mr. Boscher seconded. Minutes were accepted 5-0-0.

### Old Business

- None noted.

### New Business – Special Town Meeting Article Discussion

- Discussion that the certified free cash figure has not yet been received by the Town.
- Discussion of Article 1 for the Special Town Meeting. Ms. Panto explained that the motion is primarily for the retroactive funding of salary increases resulting from the employee salary survey adjustments. Ms. Panto explained that the Fire Department staffing changes lead to the

increased unemployment cost. She also indicated that the Police and Fire Departments had some available funds due to staffing changes. Ms. Panto explained as to the salary survey, some staff were placed below Step 1 of the grade and there was a \$2,000 cap on the increases. Mr. Rose requested that Ms. Panto send him the information regarding the issues regarding salary survey issue cost the Town.

- Mr. Rose moved to vote on Article 1, seconded by Ms. Raymer. Committee voted 5-0-0 in support of Article 1.
- Discussion of Article 2 for the Special Town Meeting regarding transfer from free cash to the Stabilization Fund. There was \$1,454,000 in the Stabilization Fund. Discussed what amount of free cash would be transferred to the Stabilization Fund. Ms. Panto suggested leaving some free cash available in case there are snow removal overages. Committee agreed to transfer \$450,000 to the Stabilization Fund, with possibly another vote prior to the Special Town Meeting if needed depending on the amount of certified free cash.
- Mr. Rose moved to vote on Article 2, seconded by Ms. Raymer. Committee voted 5-0-0 in support of Article 2.
- Discussion of Article 7 for the Special Town Meeting regarding the building repairs at the former Franklin School. Ms. Decou explained that Building Inspector came out and that there are basic items that do not meet code. The repairs cost would be \$3,750.00 – \$3,200 for an electrical panel and \$550 for the boiler. An additional \$1,000 may be needed at another time for a ramp. Mr. Rose asked about the intentions of the Board of Selectmen regarding selling the building. Ms. Decou indicated that from informal discussions, she thinks that the Selectmen are not in a rush to sell the property and that the vacate date for the Family Center has been extended. Ms. Decou indicated that there is a question of the School Department covering some of the costs or functions of the Family Center and that the Board of Selectmen are overseeing the Family Center budget. Mr. Boscher expressed a concern about ongoing repair costs for the property. Ms. Hurst stated an unease about incurring the current repair costs with the vacate date for the Family Center coming at the end of the year.
- Mr. Rose moved to vote on Article 7, seconded by Ms. Raymer. Committee voted 3-1-1 in support of Article 7.
- Discussion of Article 8 for the Special Town Meeting regarding Jabish School roof repair as the roof is pooling water, but there is no leaking yet. Mr. Rose requested additional information regarding how long the issue has been ongoing, if there is an actual problem, and who has determined that repair is needed. Ms. Panto indicated that she believes the determination was made by Robert Lachance. Ms. Decou stated that the question may be more of a collaboration with the school department about upcoming capital expenses. No vote was taken at this time.

### **Other Business**

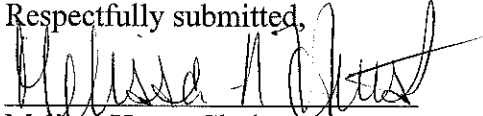
- Ms. Decou indicated that she attended the legislative forum sponsored by the Council of Governments. She said that many issues that have arisen before the Committee are already in progress.

- Committee agreed to meet on December 1, 2014 at 6:30pm, prior to the Special Town Meeting, to finalize the fund transfers impacted by the certified free cash amount.
- Next regular meeting scheduled for December 16, 2014 at 7pm.

**Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Hurst, Clerk

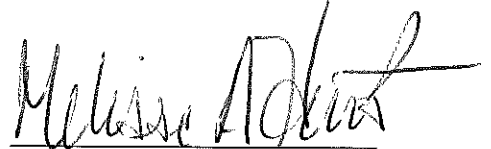
FINCOM Town of Belchertown (Endorsed by majority)



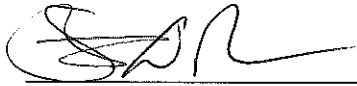
Kate DeCou, Chair



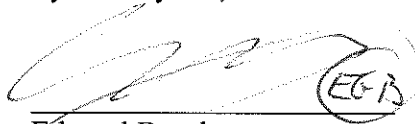
Lynne Raymer, Vice Chair



Melissa Hurst, Clerk



Steven Rose



Edward Boscher