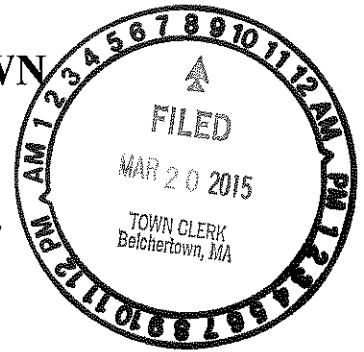




TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

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, March 10, 2015
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Lawrence Memorial Hall
Present: Kate DeCou, Melissa Hurst, Lynne Raymer, Steven Rose
Guest(s): Gary Brougham, Jill Panto, Chief Edward Bock, Ron Aponte

- Meeting called to order at 7:03pm.
- Mail reviewed and distributed.
- Ms. Hurst distributed the minutes from the January 20, 2015 and February 24, 2015 meetings.
- Ms. Raymer moved to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting. Mr. Rose seconded. Minutes were accepted 4-0-0.
- Mr. Rose requested minor correction to minutes of the February 24, 2015 meeting, which was added. Mr. Rose moved to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2015 meeting. Ms. Raymer seconded. Minutes were accepted 2-0-1.

Old Business

- None noted.

New Business – Budget Status Update

- Ms. Panto distributed a packet of materials including the Income Expense Summary Sheet dated 3/9/15, the Projected Town 2016 budget, as well as the budget request documents from all departments. Ms. Panto indicated that this information is provided without the free cash number, or the School Department or Pathfinder information. The information is based on level service on the Town side. She stated that so far, there is a deficit of \$315,261, with level funding for schools and Pathfinder. The revenue numbers may be revised.

- Mr. Rose asked about why there was a doubling in the cherry sheet offsets. Ms. Panto indicated that there is more school choice and that the direct offsets go directly to certain accounts and are not available for general allocations. She also indicated that the interest and debt decrease is because Swift River Elementary and another loan (Daigle well) have been paid off.
- Ms. Raymer asked about what of the requested increases are excess. Ms. Panto indicated that the substantial increases that she saw totaled about \$203,000, but that this does not mean that they are not necessary.
- Mr. Rose asked if the retirement incentive proposed for the Commonwealth would also go to the Town. Mr. Brougham indicated that he does not believe so at this time.

New Business – Fire/Rescue Department

- The Fire/Rescue Department budget request had been provided with the materials from Ms. Panto at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Raymer inquired if the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus that are scheduled for replacement in 2019 would then be able to be purchased on a rotational basis. Chief Bock stated that they need to replace all because otherwise the parts required would not be the same if they were purchased in different years. Ms. DeCou asked what items are requested for the 2016 budget year. Chief Bock stated that items 1 through 4 (service maintenance contract for Ambulance stretchers and stair chair devices, radio parts and maintenance, increased medical supplies and medications required on ambulances, and structural firefighting gear) is for the 2016 budget year while 5 (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) is forecasted.
- Ms. Hurst asked about grants, particularly for the replacement of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus units which Chief Bock stated were originally purchased with a grant. Chief Bock stated that he can look into it again in 2018. He stated that there was a \$10,000 grant for cardiac monitors and that his department had a little extra funding at the end of last year, so they were able to replace the thermal imaging cameras.
- Discussion of what would be needed to accommodate the planned assisted living facility. Mr. Brougham indicated that it would be a three floor facility, straight assisted living (no levels for additional care), and that they would have a negotiated tax agreement. Mr. Brougham stated that the residents are permitted to remain in their same unit, even after they have exhausted their assets. Ms. Raymer asked about where the residents would draw from geographically. Mr. Aponte stated that the Grantham Group is projecting that 80% would be from within five to seven miles. Mr. Brougham stated that there are only to be 83 units. Chief Bock indicated that a platform/ladder truck would be needed to service a building of the height of the proposed facility. Mr. Brougham indicated that there are four outstanding bonds that are set to expire in upcoming years – Senior Center (2019), Fire Truck (2017), Belchertown High School (2022), and the Chestnut Hill Community School roof (2027).
- Ms. DeCou asked if the staffing for the Fire/Rescue Department has stabilized. Chief Bock stated that it has mostly, though one staff member may be leaving. He stated that there is now lower overtime and that they were told it would take five to six years to get settled after

transitioning to a professional force. Mr. Brougham indicated that the department has must sustainable progress through the integrated processes.


Other Business

- Mr. Brougham indicated that the electricity costs are high for winter and should go down around April. He indicated that there is a contract for electricity through November. There is a net metering deal that will likely show dividends beginning in July. Mr. Brougham indicated that by partnering with the School Department, they have buying power for electric service.
- Ms. DeCou indicated that she received two memorandums. One is from Town Clerk Colleen Toothill-Berte for new voting machines, stating that four Accuvote machines would be needed in the next three to four years and that the total cost would be approximately \$26,000. The Director of Assessors John Whelihan requested a new vehicle, wage increases, and an increased mileage reimbursement rate. Mr. Brougham does not know if the vehicle must be replaced at this time.
- Ms. DeCou and Ms. Hurst are planning to attend the Pathfinder meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. The joint meeting with the School Committee will be on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 7pm.
- Special and Annual Town Meetings are scheduled for May 11, 2015.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Hurst, Clerk

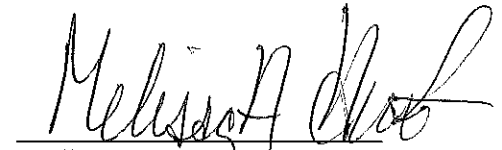
FINCOM Town of Belchertown (Endorsed by majority)



Kate DeCou, Chair



Lynne Raymer, Vice Chair



Melissa Hurst, Clerk

Steven Rose

Edward Boscher