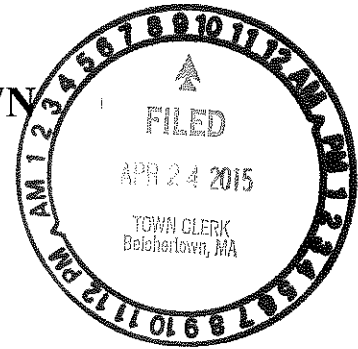




## TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

### 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: Thursday, March 26, 2015  
Time: 7:00pm  
Location: Lawrence Memorial Hall  
Present: Edward Boscher, Kate DeCou, Melissa Hurst, Lynne Raymer  
Guest(s): Gary Brougham, Jill Panto, Brenda Aldrich, Ron Aponte, George Archible, Karol Coffin, Michael Knapp, Richard Fritsch

- Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.
- Ms. Hurst distributed the minutes from the March 19, 2015 meeting.
- Ms. Raymer moved to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2015 meeting. Ms. Hurst seconded. Minutes were accepted 3-0-0.

### Old Business

- None noted.

### New Business – Transfer from Reserve

- Ms. Panto presented a request for transfer of \$8,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Lawrence Memorial Hall account because there had been a large repair to the HVAC system earlier this year and the funds were not able to be made up elsewhere. Ms. Panto stated that the HVAC system blew a seal and this could not have been foreseen.
- Ms. Raymer moved to transfer \$8,000 from the Reserve Fund to Lawrence Memorial Hall. Ms. Hurst seconded. Transfer was approved 3-0-0.

### New Business – Budget Deliberations

- Discussion of apparent confusion between the tentative budgets of the School Department. Mr. Brougham indicated that he understood that there was the level service budget then the needs

budget, which he took as a capital budget, but that he later learned in a follow up discussion with Ms. Coffin that they were seeking the needs budget.

- Mr. Knapp indicated that the intentions of the budget subcommittee is to use \$250,000 additional funds from School Choice to apply towards the needs budget.
- Mr. Fritsch indicated that the schools have opened an additional 67 school choice seats. Discussion that the cherry sheet offsets are not just school choice, but also air pollution and regional transit. Incoming school choice funds total \$652,000. Mr. Knapp stated that the school choice funds are not in until the students are counted in October and that some school district use the previous year's funds for the budget.
- Mr. Knapp and Ms. Coffin explained that there has been ongoing asbestos removal at the schools that has been occurring in prior fiscal years at approximately \$40,000/year. The tentative working budget for the schools includes making Central Office handicap accessible.
- Mr. Knapp stated that the school enrollment is decreasing from between 50 to 100 students per year.
- Ms. Coffin stated that they are seeking to increase the special education services provided because they are not servicing the students at Belchertown High School and they want to develop a continuous K-12 program. She indicated that this would require hiring a teacher, a paraprofessional, and a counselor – about \$150,000/year. Ms. Coffin indicated that they hope that it would keep some students in district, but the IEP (individualized education plan) would need to be for the student to be in district. She guessed that there would be a net savings by providing services in district.
- Discussion that with both Town Departments and School Department level service budgets, approximately \$287,000 in free cash, and \$300,000 from the Stabilization Fund, there would be a deficit of \$347,217. Consensus that the Town Departments would try to locate \$104,000 in savings and the School Department would try to locate \$243,000 in savings and then reconvene.

### **Other Business**

- Meetings scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2015 at 7pm and Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 7pm.
- Ms. Panto updated the Finance Committee regarding the financial status of the Family Center, indicating that there is \$250 in their gift account, but now three quarters of sewer bills are owed totaling \$534.94. She also stated that she received a call from Swift River Heating and the Family Center owes \$929, having paid half of the bill on January 16, 2015 for one delivery and there was a second delivery. Mr. Brougham stated that discussions with Mr. Knapp and Ms. Coffin found that the schools are not prepared to provide funding or association.

### **Adjournment**

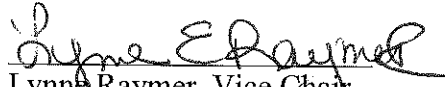
- Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Hurst, Clerk

FINCOM Town of Belchertown (Endorsed by majority)

  
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Kate DeCou, Chair

  
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Lynne Raymer, Vice Chair

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Melissa Hurst, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Rose

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward Boscher