

# Belchertown selectmen say 'yes' to new animal control center



Belchertown Animal Control Officer Anna Fenton is seen at Tuesday night's selectmen's meeting. (Jim Russell photo)



[\[http://connect.masslive.com/user/JimRussell1/index.html\]](http://connect.masslive.com/user/JimRussell1/index.html) By **Jim Russell** | Special to The Republican

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**BELCHERTOWN** [\[http://topics.masslive.com/tag/belchertown/\]](http://topics.masslive.com/tag/belchertown/) – There was a brief but gleeful round of applause for selectmen when they said at Tuesday's meeting it is time to build a new holding facility so the animal control officer has the tools to do the job.

**Selectmen** [\[http://topics.masslive.com/tag/belchertown-board-of-selectmen/\]](http://topics.masslive.com/tag/belchertown-board-of-selectmen/) said they supported placing an article on next month's special Town Meeting warrant to appropriate money for one.

Officials estimated it would cost about \$100,000; selectmen said they would be recommending a figure soon. The finance committee is also expected to weigh in on the matter.

**Animal control** [\[http://www.belchertown.org/government/animal\\_control/\]](http://www.belchertown.org/government/animal_control/) officer Anna Fenton attended the Jan. 11 meeting with a trio of volunteers, who, on their own have raised \$10,000 so far towards construction of a new facility, which would be located on George Hannum Road near the Department of Public Works treatment plant.

Fenton and Town Administrator Gary Brougham listed an array of problems with the current dog pound – including sanitary facilities they said were poor to nil.

In August, Fenton was responsible for reuniting a miniature poodle, **Coco**

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Because of Fenton's knowledge of **Pilots N Paws** [<http://www.pilotsnpaws.org/>] rescue service, Coco got home without a hitch. The dog ended up in this region most likely due to a theft, the ACO said.

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