

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**Town of Charlemont**  
**Goodnow Town Hall**

March 13, 2023

Page 1 of 4

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Select Board Chair Valentine Reid. Select Board member Jared Bellows and William Harker along with Administrator Sarah Reynolds, also attended the meeting. This meeting was conducted in person and via telephone conference.

1. The first appointment of the meeting was at 6:30 P.M. with the Charlemont Historical Commission. Commissioners Bill Coli, Norma Coli and Bambi Miller were in attendance. Mr. Coli explained that the Commission wanted to share with the Select Board their opinion regarding the 25' statue at the Big Indian Shop located on Route 2 at the east end of Town. Mr. Coli stated that an article in the Greenfield Recorder had some errors. The Historical Commission is not nominating the statue to the National Historic Register and has not made an opinion regarding the statue. The role of the Historic Commission is to identify historic areas. The Commission did ask to be able to be involved in the discussions regarding the fate of the statue. The Commission is not asking the Select Board to take any action or form an opinion. The Board agreed that the statue is on private property which is out of the Boards jurisdiction. Bob Pollock provided a brief overview of the occurrences regarding the statue. Rhonda Andrews-Commission of Indian Affairs stated that she is able to bring indigenous representation to the table. Jasmine Goodspeed spoke of crossroads about erasure of history. Mr. Reid stated that the Select Board is not making any decisions and the Historical Commission has not made any decisions as the statue in question is private property. It appears all parties are having a good dialogue with the owner.
2. At 7:00 P.M. Greg Rowehl was recognized. Mr. Rowehl attended the meeting to discuss Charlemont licensing versus State Requirements. Mr. Rowehl informed the Board of the requirements for a Class II RMV dealer plate. Mr. Bellows stated that dealer plates are under the jurisdiction of the RMV. Mr. Rowehl informed the Board of his research regarding vehicle towing. Mr. Bellows stated towing companies are under the jurisdiction of the State. Mr. Rowehl informed the Board of his research into the renewal of Class II licenses. Mr. Rowehl stated that in his years doing business in Town he has never had to schedule an inspection for his business from the Fire Chief. Mr. Rowehl explained that when he first obtained his liquor license, the Town charged him the full year liquor license fee even though the license had to be renewed within a few months. The former Board denied his request to prorate the fee. When he later applied to include his porch in the license, the Board charged him the full year license fee and denied his request to prorate the fee. He suggested the Board consider prorating liquor license fees if a new license.

3. is issued mid-year. Mr. Rowehl provided the Administrator with documents regarding a property for sale in Town that the Town may consider for the recreational grant. Mr. Rowehl also presented the Board with documents pertaining to his research.
4. Administrator reports:
  - the Town received the Berkshire East Pentathlon event permit. Fire, Ambulance and Highway departments have approved the application in emails. The Emergency plan has not changed.
  - There is a new grant program for EV charging stations, an update will be presented at a later date. National Grid is willing to discuss upgrading their infrastructure.
  - The Town will be receiving \$14,038 in the first payment and \$25,085 in the second payment from the Opioid Settlement. The FRCOG is working with Towns and Departments regarding uses for these funds. The Town will need to create a stabilization account.
  - Attended a meeting with the Brookfield Power representative regarding trash, signs, and parking at the Zoar picnic area. Signage may include signs stating the lot is full. Mr. Bellows suggested Brookfield Power hire their own patrols on weekends.
  - There are a few BCN email accounts issued to town employees that are not being used and services from Hilltown Networks are no longer needed as the new internet and email systems are installed. The Board reviewed a letter to BCN giving the Administrator authority to access town accounts through them so old email messages can be preserved. The letter to Hilltown Networks states the Town no longer requires their service. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve and sign both letters.
5. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to approve the Chair to sign a 3 year agreement for access to the RMV ATLAS system as requested and as used by the Assessors.
6. Mr. Bellows stated that he has spoken with the Fire Chief and the Town has the option to keep Mr. Annear for another 3 years before the Town has to make a decision regarding succession for this position. Mr. Bellows suggested the FY24 budget allow for a 20- hour fire chief position with benefits. The Board unanimously voted, , Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve Mr. Bellow’s suggestion.
7. Mr. Harker wants the Town to clear both the north and south sides of the sidewalk along Main Street. The Board will place this on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.
8. The ZBA requested permission to contact Town Counsel regarding a variance decision. The Board voted, , Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – abstained, to grant the ZBA permission.

9. The Board discussed the current preferred Vocational School which is currently Franklin County Tech and a request to consider changing to include Smith Vocational. It was noted that the tuition for Smith Vocational is higher than Franklin County Tech. Mr. Bellows stated that Franklin County Tech is an exceptional school and made a motion not to change the Towns preferred Vocational School. The Board unanimously voted, , Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to keep the preferred school as Franklin County Tech.
10. Mr. Reid questioned the Board if it is only the department liaison who can give an employee a verbal warning or can the Board Chair also give verbal warnings. It was agreed that the liaison and the Chair have the power to give employees verbal warnings.
11. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to approve and approve and sign:
  - Vendors warrant 2335 for \$572,483.15 and 2334 for \$6,907.35 and # 32333 for \$14,369.16.
  - Payroll warrant 2335 for \$12,634.95 and 2335 for \$12,792.37 and # 2336 for \$14,511.93.
  - CEC 3-year contract for Tri-Town Landfill services
  - Pentathlon Event Permit
  - 2-13-23 and 2-27-23 Select Board minutes
  - KP Law invoice.
12. Business being concluded, at 8:20 P.M. the Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker -yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to adjourn the open meeting and to enter into executive session, not to return to open meeting to sign the executive session minutes from the 2-27-23 executive session.:

Respectfully submitted

Approved by:  
Charlemont Select Board

Kathy A Reynolds  
Executive Secretary

This document is to be considered a draft until signed by the Select Board.

Documents viewed by the Board:

- Weekly warrants
- KP Law invoice
- Select Board minutes.
- Pentathlon Event Permit
- CEC contract
- Preferred Vocational School request.
- ZBA request to use Town Counsel
- ATLAS agreement for access request
- BCN and Hilltown Network letters
- Various license requirement documents