

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

March 27, 2023

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The meeting was called to order at 6:15 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 for the meeting was at 6:15 P.M. with Fire Chief Dennis Annear. Chief Annear explained that he will be turning 65 and per regulations, a Fireman can no longer work in the Fire Department after the age of 65 unless there is a Town Meeting vote. If the Town of Charlemont and the Town of Rowe wish to continue with their Fire Chief agreement both Towns will need to have articles to extend service after the age of 65. Chief Annear stated that he feels the direction both Rowe and Charlemont should go is to hire a full time Fire Chief, 20 hours in Charlemont and 20 hours in Rowe with an MOU with Rowe regarding benefits. Regionalizing would not work as there is not any Town to regionalize with. Chief Annear stated that he is willing to be Chief for 3 more years. A SAFER Grant as a joint application with Rowe, with provide funds for 1 firefighter for each Town for 3 years.
2. An EMD should have MEMA experience. An EMD position is one of coordinator rather than a doer.
3. The Board decided to place an article on the Town Meeting Warrant for a 20-hour Fire Chief position and to apply for a SAFER Grant next year. It was noted that Natalie Blais has already filed Special Legislation to extend the age for firefighters turning 65.
4. Chief Annear informed the Board that new fire trucks are now costing at a minimum of \$1,000,000.
5. Administrator reports:
 - It is allowable to apply for funding for the South River Road Bridge under the One Stop Grant, but utility upgrades are not allowable.
 - Gill Engineering submitted a bid of \$427,000 .to MassDOT to repair the deck on the long bridge. The plan will require the bridge to be closed with a detour on weekdays. It should take 1 month to complete the project once it has started.
 - MassDOT will be holding a 100% design hearing for the East Oxbow Ridge project. The right-of-way plans are in the Town Hall and appraisals for easements have begun.
 - A property owner on Main Street reported that their new wall built during the traffic calming project was damaged by an oil delivery truck. Once the Traffic Calming project was completed, the easements went back to the property owner. The oil delivery company will repair the

wall damage. The Board agreed that the Town should notify property owners along Main Street that since the Traffic Calming project has been completed, any damage to their property is the owner's responsibility.

- The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to send out an interdepartmental memo asking departments to avoid excessive spending if possible.
6. The Board of Health recommends signing the documentation to join the Opioid Settlement action. The Select Board voted, Mr. Harker -yes, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Reid – abstained, to join the settlement and sign the required paperwork.
 7. The Board next reviewed and discussed the draft articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Harker will speak with the Police Chief regarding changes to the Open Container Bylaw. An article to change the date of the Annual Town Election will be added to the Warrant. The Board agreed to keep article information on the Warrant if information is available.
 8. The Board received Traffic Count requests for Avery Brook Road, South River Road, Burnt Hill Road, and Legate Hill Road. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows, - yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to approve the traffic counts as submitted. The requests will be forwarded to the FRCOG who will conduct the counts.
 9. The Board received nomination paperwork from the MDAR for an Animal Inspector. The Board does not have a person to nominate at this time.
 10. Mr. Reid submitted for review a report and letter to residents regarding the error in reporting the 2 ½ override on the tax recap. After discussion, Mr. Harker and Mr. Bellows agreed to support Mr. Reid's letter and report. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes to sign both.
 11. A draft Select Board Annual Report was submitted by Mr. Reid. The Board agreed to review the report and continue discussion of the report during the next Select Board meeting.
 12. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to approve and approve and sign:
 - Vendors warrant 2336 for \$47,571.03.
 - Payroll warrant 2337 for \$10,967.71.
 - 3-6-23 and 3-14-23 Select Board minutes.
 - KP Law invoice
 - Assessor's Secretary request for vacations.
 13. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

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.
- Vacation request
- 2 ½ letter to residents and report
- Traffic count requests
- Select Board Annual Report
- Draft Town Meeting Warrant Articles
- MDAR request for Animal Inspector nomination.
- Opioid Settlement contracts