

Minutes for the Charlemont Selectboard

December 20, 2021

6:30 pm

Present: Dan Girard, Bill Harker, Marguerite Willis, Frank Mooney, and Sarah Reynolds

Bob Handsaker and Mary Ellen Banks joined via telephone

Frank Mooney discussed the Capital Planning Committee, he shared that once the original spread sheet was made with Peg that they had meetings during Tracy Hall's time as chair that went smoothly.

The meetings have become what feels like a waste of time and duplicating the Finance Committees work. The department heads have given their plan, and it feels like recommendations aren't followed to them and the committee.

It was brought up that it is because there has been no money to spend, and as things like the broad band bonding gets paid back it will change.

Franks Suggestion for going forward would be to have the committee fold or run concurrent with the finance committee. Or have the administrator bring the capital items to the finance committee using the spread sheet.

Frank also briefly discussed the school meeting, he was on the original building committee, he was given the date for the budget meeting this week. He also mentioned that Charlemont had a

"Olympian "in town, Paula Moltzan who would be competing in February it was asked about putting a blurb on the front sign.

7:06 pm – Broadband Appointment:

Bob Handsaker reported that construction was moving along and that testers had started, the testing had been causing a bottleneck, but he is hopeful that now that they are back it will allow for another FSA release in January.

He also discussed the generator cable. Because of the hub being up and running the room needs to have restricted access. Ken from broadband will reach out to Dennis Annear about the cable and conduit for the generator.

Administrators report:

IT grant was awarded to the town in the amount of \$ 23,477.00 there is a ceremony tomorrow in Pittsfield

Mass preservation announced a grant that is a matching grant for the Jail, the administrator to have Bill Harker help get a price work up on the labor for the roof so we can pursue the grant

The planning project has started, Marguerite Willis took them on a tour last Thursday and they had lunch at Wells Provisions. It went well. The public meeting will occur in January.

The CDBG was discussed, the board will have the representative come to a January meeting to give the grant details.

The administrator explained in talking to Francisca Hemming from DOT district one, they are willing to look at Warfield Road and Rice Fort Road because of their change due to traffic calming and the amount of traffic on Warfield. Francisca needs a letter from the town to continue. The letter was read aloud on a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker the letter will be sent to Francisca.

Liaison Report:

The Chair reported on the Hawlemont Meeting. She announced that the budget meeting will be this week. Also Acknowledged that Dan had asked a good question at the meeting that helped show the declining enrollment. It was also brought up that the census responses are an issue and possibly there could be some letter sent with them that explains it, the board asked the administrator to follow up with the town clerk when she was back from vacation

Opioid settlement- The board voted to not participate on a motion by Dan Girard and Second by Bill Harker passes unanimously

The compost cost was then discussed. On a motion by Dan Girard and second by Marguerite Willis the board voted to accept the cost change.

The complaint letter about the highway liaison contact and sanding was discussed. Dan Girard explained he had in fact removed his Verizon line, not because he did not want to hear from towns people but because with the new internet, he was able to. He also made clear that the public could in fact email the board and get a hold of them. The expectation of instant service and 24/7 access is not realistic. Also, the highway department was out sanding, they just had not done it fast enough for the resident. The board discussed how to end this, and it was decided that Bill Harker (who volunteered) and the administrator would go to the Yard in question.

The AFF grant for personnel was then brought up, Dan Girard read the list of pros and cons, it was asked what the pay would be if we proceeded, Administrator is to get that as well as how benefits are handled. Also, it was asked who they report to. This will be put on the January meeting so that some more information can be obtained.

Approve and Sign:

On a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker, the warrants, minutes of 12/06/2021, third party transfer station inspection, and It grant paperwork were all approved for signature.

On a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker the board voted to accept two checks from Byron Gilchrest each for 500.00 one for police and one for EMT training.

On a motion by Dan Girard and Second by Bill Harker the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm