

Meeting of the Charlemont Selectboard

Monday March 21, 2022 4pm

Charlemont Town Hall

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

Guest: Colleen Champ

The meeting was to discuss budget items and where the board was heading in their recommendations to finance. It was first discussed that the school budget alone could affect the tax rate by 86 cents using free cash to offset it. Vocational bussing, and tuition were also discussed. The Tech school is doing an expansion and maybe now is the time to ask about joining the district if it helps these expenses. The chair will email and ask.

It was asked about a Lien process to help the low-income elderly residents that may have problems paying taxes. It was also mentioned that the age friendly survey that was sent out had about a 7% response rate which was considered good, but it does not capture all the needs. Adequate housing is still a big issue that is not addressed.

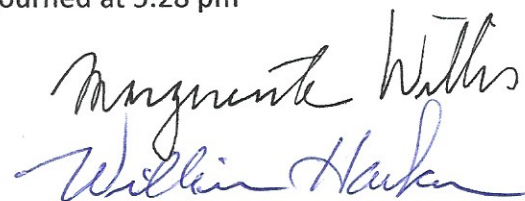
The affect of the possible colas was mentioned. They ranged from 12 cents to 33 cents on the tax rate.

The stipend for the EMD position was discussed, it was asked if it the increase voted could be reconsidered, it was decided that it could be but what was needed was an accounting of the paperwork, time spent on site, meeting etc. It was also decided that this was needed for every employee and that an email should be sent out asking for an accounting of how the employee's hours are spent week to week and a full month's accounting should be brought to an evaluation meeting, which is supposed to become part of a routine process for the selectboard, but it had not happened yet because of staffing etc. over the years. It was also mentioned in the case of the EMD work it might be possible to get an accounting of how much time the previous EMD had spent on the job requirements.

It was then discussed that maybe saying no to the capital items, it was mentioned that when considering this included in the capital items was the bridge money and that the East Oxbow easements need to come from capital items and the flooring for town hall.

Colleen Champ mentioned that in listening to the discussion that there may be interns who could help the town with various paperwork and projects. She is going to reach out to Umass and get back to the administrator with what she finds.

On a motion by Bill Harker and second by Dan Girard the meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm



Marguerite Willis  
William Harker