

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

October 11, 2022

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

1. Chair Girard turned over the Chairmanship to Valentine Reid for the 6:30 P.M. appointment with Marie Wargo, Jon Schaefer and Fire Chief Annear regarding Fireworks at the Valley View Farm. Chief Annear explained the process of obtaining a fireworks permit. A fireworks company is hired, the Company reviews the area and sends a permit packet to the Fire Chief for approval. Once the permit has been signed off, the Chief sends the packet to the State Fire Marshal who signs off on the packet as well. The local Fire Department is required to have a detail at the fireworks during and 1 hour after the fireworks. The State Fire Marshal approves of the event site. As Mr. Schaefer could not attend the meeting, a member of his staff (Melissa) read a letter from Mr. Schaefer. Marie Wargo explained that her concerns for the fireworks was not just from herself but that she is speaking for other people within the neighborhood. The neighborhood was not notified of this event and were taken by surprise. Ms Wargo also voiced her concern for the nearby animals and elderly people with health concerns.
2. Fire Chief Annear explained that if the Town decides to regulate fireworks, he has found a bylaw from the City of Northampton that can be modeled for Charlemont. Chief Annear also reported that this is the first fireworks permit that he has issued in the 4 years he has been Chief for Charlemont.
3. Melissa stated that it is in a good faith effort of Warfield not to do fireworks again.
4. It was agreed that the Board would review and discuss the fireworks bylaw of Northampton.
5. Ambulance Director Dana Johnson attended the meeting to discuss a bill received from the Northfield Ambulance department in the amount of \$350 for a response for an intercept. Charlemont does not have a contract for intercept services with Northfield and the contracts that are in place with other Towns state the fee of \$300. Northfield was called after all other Towns could not respond to the intercept. The Board unanimously voted, Ms. Girard – yes, Ms Willi – yes, Mr. Reid – yes not to pay the bill and to send Northfield a copy of an intercept contract.
6. Broad Band Chair Bob Handsaker attended the meeting to report that construction is coming to an end. There will be a short term note maturing in November . One more year of short term borrowing and then the Town will go

into long term borrowing. Federal Broad Band programs are available that the Town may use. Mr. Handsaker will be meeting with the Planning Board to discuss the build-out of the fiber network in sub-divisions. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Girard – yes, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Reid – yes to have Administrator S Reynolds contact Town Counsel to see if build outs for sub-divisions include fiber as a utility.

7. Hawlemont Elementary School Committee member Cheryl Handsaker reported that although not certified, the total number of students at Hawlemont is 92 which is down from 121. 32 students from the Town of Heath are choice in.
8. Ms Willis requested Mr. Girard attend a Mohawk School zoom meeting to choose a representative from one of the District Towns to represent all District Towns in the teacher negotiations. Mr. Girard agreed.
9. Administrator S Reynolds reports:
 - A change order for the 8A North road project will result in the reduction of the cost of the project by \$70,000. The quarterly report for this project has been filed.
 - Anne Kaplan, Christopher Gieier, Ashley Sparks, Wilder Sparks, and Robert Handsaker have volunteered to be on the recall bylaw committee. The Board will solicit 2 more members at the Special Town Meeting scheduled for October 18, 2022.
 - The Fire, Highway and Police Departments have been installed with the dark fiber. Northeast IT will need to conduct the final install.
 - Administrator S Reynolds stated that she would like to conduct monthly meetings with the emergency services departments.
 - Paving will be conducted on Laurel Lan, Tower Road and South River Road.
10. Ms Willis reported that fuel adjustments per the current busing contract may increase the cost of busing for Technical/Vocational students.
11. Mr. Reid stated that a job description is what is defensible in court if an employee is fired with cause. A gap analysis and common attributes template for job descriptions were reviewed and the Board instructed Mr. Reid to move forward.
12. The Board unanimously voted to approve/approve and sign:
 - Vendor warrant 2313 for \$12,188.62, 2312 for \$693,416.71, 2311 for \$41,765.10
 - Payroll warrant 2311 for \$12,788.10, 2312 for \$18,787.04, 2313 for \$13,290.40
 - KP Law invoice
 - State Election Warrants
 - Thorne Palmer's resignation from the Mohawk School Committee and thank you letter
 - 8A North road project change order.

13. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 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 and State warrants
- Northampton fireworks bylaw
- Gap analysis example
- KP Law invoice
- Resignation and thank you letter
- 8A North change order