

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

January 30, 2023

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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. Administrator Sarah Reynolds reported:

- The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Representative and Alternate Representative positions require the Special Municipal Employee designations. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes to designate the position of Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Representative as a special municipal employee position for the Town pursuant to M.G.L. c. 268A, section 1(n). The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes to designate the position of Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Alternate Representative as a special municipal employee position for the Town pursuant to M.G.L. c. 268A, section 1(n). The Executive Secretary will notify the Solid Waste District of the Board’s vote.
- Michael Hayden has offered to donate a small microwave to the Town Hall. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes to accept the donation,
- During a Mohawk Trail Sub Committee budget meeting it was reported that the school is paying \$650,000 enrollment cost for students who opt out of Mohawk and enrollment in the school is down.
- During a Northwest Rail Presentation, it was mentioned that Charlemont may be considered a stop as the train travels to North Adams. A letter will be drafted strongly supporting a stop in the Town.
- A grant has been obtained to purchase 4 speed signs. The signs will only show speeds up to 45 mph but can include a flashing “slow down” sign for vehicles moving faster than 45 mph. Two of the signs will be placed on Main Street with one each on 8A North and South. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes to purchase the signs that flash slow down.
- The solar credits from the Sewer District that go towards the Highway Department electricity bills in exchange for plowing and with the sewer bills being paid by the Department appear to be less than the amount the Town is spending on the sewer bills and plowing the district. The Select Board will hold a discussion with the district regarding costs versus benefits.

- The One Stop grant portal is open. The Board was asked if they have any projects that may be funded by grants. The Administrator would like to apply for the South River Road Bridge project. The Board members will be speaking with other boards asking if they may have any projects. The One Stop Grant will be revisited at the next Board meeting.
2. Recall Bylaw Committee Members Wilder Sparks and Robert Handsaker attended the meeting to explain and answer questions regarding their draft of a Recall Provision. It was explained that the document was drafted after the Town of Colrain's Provision and the Committee recommends moving forward with sending the document to Town Counsel for review. Mr. Reid commented that the section regarding recalling the Town Clerk does not apply to Charlemont as this position is appointed. The Committee will make updates to the document. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes once the document has been finalized by the Committee, the Town Administrator will send it on to Town Counsel.
 3. Ken Bertsch, Hawlemont School Committee Chair, attended the meeting to ask if the Board has a liaison to the Committee. Mr. Bertsch was informed that Mr. Reid and Mr. Bellows are liaison to the schools.
 4. Mr. Bertsch reported that the two District agreement between Hawlemont and Mohawk has been approved.
 5. The Committee is looking into roof-based and ground-based solar. One issue is National Grid does not have the capability and the ground based solar would need to be on Town property.
 6. The Rural Schools Report has recommendations for changes. The Board will join with the School Committee to push for these changes. The districts in the area are conducting a coordinated effort to bring about change.
 7. Administrator report continued:
 - Eric Dean reviewed the floor structure of the 3 offices in the Town Hall and suggests replacing the sub-floor and using laminate for the new flooring. The Board preferred the new flooring match the wood floor in the hallway as close as possible. The Historical Commission will be contacted for their opinion.
 8. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Bellows recused, to approve the Charlemont Police Chief job description.
 9. The Board received a notice from the Franklin County Retirement System stating that the Legislature and Governor voted to allow an additional 2% on retirees COLA as long as the retirement board and 2/3rds of the select boards agree. This would be a one-time additional increase of 2% added to the allowed 3% COLA. Mr. Reid will conduct further research and bring his findings bac to the Board for the next meeting.
 10. The Board agreed to place on the next agenda “Job Descriptions-working session”.

11. The Board will be discussing employee raises during the next joint Select Board and Finance Committee meeting.
12. The Board agreed to hold an All Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. at the Highway garage. Items on the meeting agenda will include: any warrant articles, what your board has, needs and what's next.
13. The Board had a chance to review the items being worked on by the former Select Board. Everyone felt the document was clear and no one had any questions.
14. The Board unanimously voted to dedicate the 2022 Annual Town Report to the former Highway Superintendent Gordon Hathaway.
15. Both the Administrator and Executive Secretary were requested to conduct a search regarding all permits/licenses held and needed through the Select Board office for 169 and 180 Route 8A North properties.
16. The Board received requests for the District Local Technical Assistance Project through the FRCOG. The Planning Board chose technical compliance and campground bylaw. The board of Health chose Age and Dementia Planning and abandoned and distressed property inventory and action. The Board would like to include flood plain planning.
17. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve/approve and sign:
 - Vendor warrant 2328 for \$26,287.58 and 2327 for \$185,572.92.
 - Payroll warrant 2329 for \$11,252.16 and 2328 for \$22,777.11.
 - Shared Streets reimbursement form for purchase of the sidewalk clearing machine.
 - Request to use Wetlands Funds (up to \$500) for educational classes from Barbara Beall, Conservation Commission member.
 - The 1-3-23 Select Board minutes.
 - Request for vacation Feb. 21 through 24, 2023 from the Executive Secretary/Town Clerk.
18. The Highway Department was recognized by a resident for their ability to keep the roads clear this winter.
19. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 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
- 1-3-23 Board meeting minutes
- Vacation request
- Shared Streets reimbursement form
- Request to use Wetland funds
- E-mail regarding highway dept
- DLTA request forms
- FCRS COLA request
- Draft Recall Provision