

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

June 5, 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. Two Mohawk High School students attended the meeting to present their Civic Action project. The students chose to report on the Charlemont Inn as their project. They stated that the Town should not leave the Inn abandoned and it should be a priority to the Town as it is a landmark and historical building. It was suggested that the Inn could be community owned and opening the building would be an economic impact, create jobs, attract tourist, and help the area flourish. The students were thanked for their research and presentation.

Administrator report

- The bids for the Long Bridge project came in too high for the funding available. Mass DOT engineer is contacting the bidder that came in the closest to inform them that the protective material for under the bridge should not be to the entire bridge, which will reduce the cost of the project.
  - The South River Road bridge grant has been submitted. Berkshire East wrote a letter of support for the grant.
  - The Recreation Tax has been sent to the Joint Committee on Revenue. The Town should reach out to the Committee urging and supporting its passage. The Select Board will write a letter and the other Boards will be asked to do the same.
2. The Agriculture and Forestry Commission is having difficulties assembling a quorum to be able to hold meetings. The Commission is made up of 5 members and can have up to 3 alternate members. Claire Pearson, Nathaniel Bellows and Paul Hicks have stated interest in an alternate position. Nathaniel Bellows attended the meeting to be appointed. The Board voted, Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Bellows recused, to appoint Nathaniel Bellows as an associate member of the Agriculture and Forestry Commission. Nathaniel Bellows was qualified for office.

Administrator report continued

- There is not enough information available to print a monthly newsletter and it was suggested the newsletter is published every other month for the summer. Mr. Reid felt the Town needs to be consistent so maybe a light newsletter can be published.

At 6:45 P.M. Bob Handsaker, Broad Band Chair, was recognized. Mr. Handsaker reported that the long-term internet financing will occur in November. The financing will be for 15 years at approximately \$70,000 to 80,000 per year. The resiliency project/backhaul contracts will be with 5 Towns. They are waiting to see if Verizon connection will work. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Bellows – yes to support the MLP

Manager signing the resiliency/backhaul contract. Installation costs are increasing. The cheapest installation now costs \$1,250. The Administrator will look for grants to fund installations. There is also a need for a policy for new installations.

3. At 7:00 P.M. Claire Pearson attended the meeting to be appointed to the Agriculture and Forestry Commission as an alternate. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Bellows – yes, to appoint Claire Pearson an alternate on the Agriculture and Forestry Commission. Claire Pearson was qualified for office.

Administrator report continued

- An All-Board meeting has been scheduled for June 20, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at the Fairgrounds. Agenda items will be IT, Recreation Tax and What are you working on.
  - The Charlemont Inn status update will be discussed in an executive session that will be held at the end of the meeting.
4. The EMD job description from Rowe has been received. Administrative duties to the Fire Department will be added and the Board will conduct a final vote during the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Interim Fire Chief Douglas Annear has the Fire Chief vehicle.
  5. The Board reviewed the list of liaison roles and unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to keep the same roles without change.
  6. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to keep Mr. Reid as Chairman of the Select Board.
  7. The Board noted the current list of vacancies on elected Boards.
  8. At 7:30 P.M. Erwin Reynolds Jr. joined the meeting to volunteer for the Animal Inspector position. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to nominate Mr. Reynolds to the position.
  9. Copies of all Class II licenses issued by the Board were reviewed. Businesses of Class II licenses will be updated with the number of vehicles for sale and where vehicles are to be stored. Mr. Harker and Mr. Reid will work on policies for Class II licenses and work with the Planning Board.
  10. The Board received a list of action items regarding the Annual Town Meeting warrant articles.
  11. A letter from a resident regarding changing the Annual Town Meeting date was read. A response will be drafting letting the resident know that Town Meeting voted to change the date of the Annual Town Election, thus allowing the Board to schedule the Town Meeting at an earlier time.
  12. The Board unanimously voted to approve/approve and sign:
    - Vendor warrant #2347 for \$218,708.38, #2346 for \$4,750.86, #2345 for \$125,940.10.
    - Payroll warrant #2347 for \$12,2896.52 and #2346 for \$9,986.67.
    - Transfer Station hauling services MOU.
    - KP Law invoice.

At 7:48 P.M. the Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to enter into executive session under exemption #3 To discuss strategy with respect to

collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; and not to return to open meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:  
Charlemont Select Board

Kathy A. Reynolds

This document is to be considered a draft until approved and signed by the Select Board.

Items viewed by the Board.

- List of liaisons, elected board vacancies
- Class II licenses
- Annual Town Meeting action items
- Letter from a resident
- Vendor and Payroll warrants
- MOU for transfer station hauling services.
- KP Law invoice