

Minutes of the Charlemont Selectboard October 23,2023

Charlemont Town Hall and Via Phone Conference

Meeting was opened at 6:30 pm

Present: Bill Harker, Jared Bellows, Valentine Reid via telephone, Lynn Hathaway, Bob and Cheryl Handsaker, David Eisenthal via phone and Sarah Reynolds.

- 1) Broadband financing was discussed. The Town has been going over the different methods of financing with David Eisenthal from Unibank. The 15-year financing option from Newburyport bank is perfectly acceptable and allows for the broadband to not have to raise rates immediately. The costs for broadband are currently locked in for 5 years and having a locked in payment makes this a stable option. The project was originally authorized to borrow 1.75 million of the over 3 million project cost, the town must fund about 25% of the project. Due to the way the project was managed the borrowing is coming in at a little over \$800,000.

David Eisenthal explained that the chosen option allows for consistent payment and the way it is set up if the interest rates go down, they can refinance if that is desired.

On a motion by Valentine Reid and second by Jared Bellows the selectboard unanimously approved signing the 15-year terms from Newburyport Bank.

- 2) A letter for the Class II license renewal at 180 Route 8A North was then discussed. The board has received complaints about the property and the intent is to notify the license holder before they are doing renewal process at the end of the year. The selectboard intends to implement changes in the process in the future. This is not being done solely for the license with the complaints but with all licenses.

On a motion by Valentine Reid and second by Jared Bellows the Letter will be sent.  
Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm on a motion by Valentine Reid and second by Jared Bellows.