

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
NOTICE OF MEETING
Monday, March 25th, 2024, 6:30 pm
Via Conference call and in person, Town Hall Meeting Room

Members in attendance: Jared Bellows, Valentine Reid, Bill Harker
Others in Attendance: Mike Hayden, Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson

Appointments:

6:30 PM – Mike Hayden- RE: Appointment to the Capital Planning Committee

Bill Harker motioned to approve Mike Hayden to serve on the Capital Planning Committee. Valentine Reid seconded the motion. All in favor.

****As Mike Hayden is Chair of the fairground committee, they will take the agenda item 2) out of order:**

Updated Special Events application and Liability Waiver for rental of Town Property

Fairgrounds can determine what a non-risk event is, they will come up with a quota. The attorney will write a liability waiver for Parks and Rec. A non-risk event would be, for example, 20 people at a birthday party. A town event will use the larger event application which could include road use and would be a larger liability. Apropos of this, Mike reported that the Reggae Fest would like to come back.

Administrator reports:

1)Warrants Articles for town meeting, review list

Two articles are missing: stabilization and free cash. The 1st draft has no capital items yet, (the meeting hasn't happened yet.) The non-binding resolution for the fire district is not on yet. Sarah would like help with wording. The warrants must be ready by April 26th to do postings.

So far they have:

- School 911 system;
- late bus (payment share with Rowe and Heath);
- minimizing printing of Town report (Val will ask attorney if a bylaw should be written);
- the recall bylaw

2) Fire Truck Earmark Certification letter, vote to approve letter after review

Jared Bellows made a motion for Valentine Reid to sign the Fire Truck Certification Earmark letter. Valentine Reid seconded the motion. All in favor.

3) Notice about eligibility for MBI Digital Equity reservation of funds agreement with MassTech to reserve funding under the Digital Equity Implementation Program

Upon completion of Digital Equity Plan from FRCOG, there will state broadband money available — \$70-100,000, whatever the priorities are. Forms need to be filled out to get funding. There isn't a lot of clarity on what it will be used for yet. Sarah will send in the forms.

4) Franklin County Age Friendly Action Plan request for a meeting for next steps in our community, action plan copy for review.

The Board of Health is the driving factor in this action plan, the report took 3 years. They would like to meet with the select boards to discuss the plan and next steps for communities.

Val said the action items work well with what Charlemont does already, they can match grant programs with what we are already trying to do —recreation committees, funding for projects at the Fairgrounds...there may be access to funding. Val would like to act fast, in time for the next meeting. Sarah will ask how long they need for the meeting 30 minutes could be fine.

5) Franklin Regional Council of Governments Traffic Count Request.

Sarah asked HWY and Police. This year they would like to do Heath Stage Terrace; there is a problem with drainage there at the intersection with the Trail. Sarah will talk to the DOT about the water problem. They will do two on North River Road at the Transfer Station and beyond and Avery Brook Road as well, the bridge will be needing repair and may qualify. The old count was high. The police want to do Zoar Rd near the railroad underpass, couldn't fix the road near a low point, they need to work with the railroad.

Agenda items:

1) FY 25 Budget Review

Regarding consolidating the budget lines, Thorne put together all the line holds at Town Meetings from the last 6 years. The board went over the holds and talked about the reasons for the holds. They discussed lines that could be consolidated into one line. A resident can still hold a line, and then specify it is for a particular item. Residents will be given access to the expanded budget as well to make clear what's inside of it. The Board continued to go over the lines that could or should not be consolidated. It was brought up that the tree warden wished to have his budget be a warrant article so it could be rolled over if underspent for larger projects in ensuing years. Sarah and Val will work on a spreadsheet and bring it to the FinComm.

2) Update on Review of Town Insurance Personal Property Amounts for Town Garage, Tractor Shed, Fire Station and Fairgrounds.

Sarah talked to the insurance representative. Any item worth over \$2,500 should be listed separately. The ambulance stretcher was cited as an example, many towns don't list it, as well as the jaws of life. Sarah went over what highway and police have and what it is worth. They will bring it back once Fire, Parks and Rec, and Transfer Station give their list of items. Sarah will look into the Transfer Station items. They will review the insurance every 3 years. Sarah will add it to the calendar.

3) Updated Special Events application and Liability Waiver for rental of Town Property

**Covered in beginning of Minutes and:

Valentine Reid made a motion to accept the updated Special Event Application. Jared Bellows seconded it. All in favor.

4) Response from Senator Markey's office about Affordable Connectivity Program Support

The board reviewed and acknowledged the response from Senator Markey's office.

5) Review and Vote on acceptance of change order from Civil and Environmental consultants for PFAS sampling related to Burrington Road Capped Landfill.

- The additional sampling will cost 1000. A year.

Valentine Reid motioned to accept the change order to test for PFAS at the Burrington Road capped Landfill. Jared Bellows seconded it. All in favor.

6) Confidentiality Agreement from Great River Hydro

The Assessor's office got a request for a blanket confidentiality agreement with Green River Hydro. Sarah called other towns to see if they had such an agreement and they did not. There are already regulations in place regarding what can be disclosed in public records request. They felt this agreement went too far. Sarah asked for permission to ask the Town Attorney. She will also reach out to the records secretary. Valentine Reid gave Sarah permission to talk to the Town Counsel.

7) Nominate Animal Inspector for period of May 1,2024 until April 30,2025.

Bill Harker motioned to nominate and accept Erwin Reynolds. Valentine Reid seconded the motion. All in favor.

8) Subdivision Road Bid, review, and award lowest bidder if acceptable.

The subdivision Road repair bids are in. CD Davenport is the lowest bidder. It needs tyo be doen buy June.

Bill Harker motioned to give the job to Davenport. Valentine Reid seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approve/sign/approve and sign:

1) Payroll 2435,2436 and Vendor 2437,2438 warrants

Valentine Reid motioned to sign the payroll and vendor warrants. Bill Harker seconded the motion. All in favor

2) Minutes from March 11

Valentine Reid motioned to accept the Minutes of March 11th with the verbal amendments made. Bill Harker seconded the motion. All in favor.

3) One Day Liquor License American Whitewater Deerfield River Fest

Valentine Reid motioned to sign the one-day liquor license. Bill Harker seconded the motion. All in favor.

4) Not foreseen in the last 48 hours: Post Grant to cover expenses for police training.

Valentine Reid motioned to approve and sign the post grant to cover expenses for police training. Bill Harker seconded. Jared Bellows abstained. All those voting were in favor.

Valentine Reid motioned to Adjourn at 7:55 PM seconded by Jared Bellows

Next Scheduled Meeting will be held on April 8th, 2024.

Documents viewed at the meeting

Application for Special (One Day) Liquor License from Berkshire East

Email from Jesse Lederman, Senator Markey's office to Select Board re: Response to Select Board Letter on ACP

Email to Administrator from Benjamin Duga, March 14, 2024, re: requested estimates for Insurance.

Email to Administrator from Carlene Hayden, March 19, 2024 re: Confidentiality Agreement

Agenda for Select Board Meeting Monday, March 25, 2024

Sheet from HWY: Highway Department Contents, Tractor Shed Contents

List of Warrant Articles

Items Held in recent Town Meetings 2018-2023

Mass DOT Lowest Bidder Form re: Charlemont Mountain View Road

FRCOG form Charlemont Mountain View Drive Bid opening

March 4 letter re: Nomination of inspection of Animals, Massachusetts Dept. of Ag. Resources Form for the nomination of Inspector of Animals,
ABCC Application for Amendment Change of License classification.
FRCOG 2024 Traffic Count Request Form, 4 location requests
Email from Ariana Fielding, March 18, 2024, re: Municipal Digital Equity Implementation
Letter from CEC to Heath, Charlemont, and Hawley re: PFAS testing at TriTown Landfill March 8, 2024
Bridge Academy Training Municipal Reimbursement Program SFY24 Scope of Work and Compliance Certification Form, Reimbursement request Form, Standard contract form, Standard signatory Form
Earmark Certification letter from Select Board
Post Grant