

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD  
NOTICE OF MEETING  
Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:30 pm  
Via Conference call and in person, Town Hall Meeting Room

Members in attendance: Jared Bellows  
Members on phone: Valentine Reid  
Others in Attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson

Valentine Reid called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

**Administrator reports:**

1) MMA Conference Information from April Conference in Northampton

The Board thought that the issues that the legislators were working on, on behalf of rural communities in Western Massachusetts, was good.

2) Long Bridge project layout of roadway update

Sarah considered taking this off the warrant to do closer to the date of the bridge replacement. It is too late to change now, Sarah will explain on the town Meeting Floor.

3) Earmark Funding possibility for fire truck update

Congressman Neal put the Earmark in for the Firetruck; it will go through the USDA economic development program.

4) Mass works application for Zoar Road Bridge support letter request. This is regarding Zoar Rd Bridge, a letter from the Chair is required, that the town supports the proposed work. It needs to be signed.

**Jared Bellows motioned to proceed with Valentine Reid signing the letter outside of the meeting.**

**Valentine Reid seconded the motion. Jared Bellows—Aye, Valentine Reid—Aye**

5) Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership Deerfield River National Wild and Scenic River Designation grant ask from Deerfield River Water Shed.

The previous SelectBoard signed on to this initiative regarding a study to see if the Deerfield River qualifies to be designated a Wild and Scenic River. Each Town gets a representative to serve on an advisory committee. The designation could open grant funding and could help with access points and issues such as littering on the river.

**Jared Bellows motioned to sign a letter of support to the Executive Office of Energy and the Environment. Valentine Reid seconded the motion. Jared Bellows —Aye, Valentine Reid —Aye**

6) Recreation Tax ask for inclusion in Economic Development Legislation

The Recreation Tax bill is going to new committees in the House and senate. The Governor started a Regional Economic Development Plan. Natalie Blais suggested Sarah ask them to include the Rec Tax in that plan. If it doesn't go in, it will still be submitted as a separate bill. Sarah would like to state in an open meeting that she sent the request in as Town Administrator. The Select Board did not have a meeting in time for her to discuss it with them. Anne Gobi and the Recreation Secretary are all onboard with this, and are helping to advocate for its passing. Charlemont had okayed the Rec Tax on Town meeting Floor.

## Liaison reports:

### 1) Liaison discussion and assignments before election.

The Board discussed the particulars of the liaison duty— that is a line of communication and not a supervisory role. Valentine Reid would like to add that clarification of the liaison role as *line of communication* to the Employee handbook. Jared Bellows agreed.

Jared Bellows will take over Highway liaison from retired Selectman Bill Harker, at least until there is another Select Board member on the Board. If any other Board Chairs need help, Val and Jared can share the responsibility.

## Agenda items:

### 1) FY 25 Budget review latest draft

Nothing has changed except formatting. It looks good. They will know the Free Cash number on Wednesday.

### 2) Confidentiality Agreement from Great River Hydro.

The Board members are more comfortable now that the lawyer made additions to a confidentiality agreement submitted for signing by Great River Hydro. Val would like the Board of Assessors to vote on whether to recommend that the SelectBoard sign it. Sarah will be in touch with Carlene Hayden about it. The Board believes the confidentiality agreement is unnecessarily broad.

### 3) Town Meeting Warrant, review and approval.

Sarah wants to speak to Jonathan Mirin about feedback she got from Town Counsel regarding the proposed moratorium on smart meters. They said that town Meeting can vote on whether they in theory support the measure, but the town would have no power to enforce it and Counsel suggested he send a petition directly to National Grid.

There were a few small amendments made to other warrants that can be specified on the Town Meeting Floor.

**Jared Bellows made a motion to accept the Warrant as written. Valentine Reid seconded the motion. Jared Bellows —Aye, Valentine Reid—Aye.**

### 4) Annual Town Election Warrant review and approval.

They have decided to schedule a “meet the candidates” and informational meeting for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM. Sarah will reserve the school for that night.

The election is on June 4<sup>th</sup> from 12-7 PM at Hawlemont.

**Valentine Reid motioned to accept the Election Warrant as written. Jared Bellows seconded the Motion. Jared Bellows —Aye, Valentine Reid—Aye**

### 5) Opioid Settlement Participation Forms J&J and Subdivision Settlement Form review and approve.

The Boards and Departments would like to use the money for trainings and Narcan supplies. Doug Telling is finding out the needs from the departments.

**Valentine Reid motioned to approve and sign the opioid settlement Forms. Jared Bellows seconded the Motion. Jared Bellows —Aye, Valentine Reid—Aye.**

### 6) Letter to DOT for traffic calming project.

Sarah is working on the letter and will point out the sidewalk cracking, crosswalks not flush with streets (peeling up,) and the water building up at High Street and the Bridge near the Fire Department. She will include photos.

**Jared Bellows made a motion to make this a Chair Sign letter and to have Val and Sarah finish it. Valentine Reid seconded the motion. Jared Bellows —Aye, Valentine Reid —Aye.**

**Approve/sign/approve and sign:**

- 1) Payroll and Vendor warrants PR 2441, 2442, 2443; AP 2443,2444, 2445  
**Valentine Reid made a motion to approve and sign Payroll and Vendor Warrants. Jared Bellows seconded the motions. Valentine Reid —Aye, Jared Bellows—Aye.**
- 2) Minutes from April 22,2024  
**Valentine Reid motioned to approve and sign the Minutes from April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. Valentine Reid —Aye, Jared Bellows—Aye.**
- 3) Shun Pike Porta Potties Agreement  
**Valentine Reid motioned to approve and sign the Porta Potty agreement. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. Valentine Reid —Aye, Jared Bellows—Aye.**
- 4) Digital Equity Implementation Funding Agreement.  
**Valentine Reid motioned to approve and sign the Digital equity Agreement pending approval from the MLP manager. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. Valentine Reid —Aye, Jared Bellows—Aye.**

**Valentine Reid motioned to Adjourn at 7:30 PM seconded by Jared Bellows**

Documents viewed at the meeting:

- Letter of Support dated May 13, 2024,from Charlemont Select Board to Vanessa Farny, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for Connecticut River Conservancy Application for Woodlands partnership Grant for a “Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Feasibility Study”
- FRCOG and Charlemont Shunpike porta pottie reimbursement contract dated May 13, 2024
- Transfer Station Lease Agreement
- Application for use of facilities for Hawlemont for Wednesday 22, 2024
- Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference, April 27 2024 slides
- Print out of FAQs, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 information from Housatonic River Commission
- May 13 SelectBoard Agenda
- confidentiality agreement, with additions by Town Counsel, between Great River Hydro and Charlemont Board of Assessors
- Page 6 of warrant articles with comment form Counsel
- National Opioid Litigation update to Lauren Goldberg KP Law from Opioid Department Levin Papantonio Rafferty dated April 26, 2024
- Bill form KPLaw dated April 23, 2024
- Quartley progress report From Sharon Pleasant Franklin County HRA re: CDF-G-2022/2023- Wendell (Lead) Charlemont activities for the quarter ending 3/31/2024