

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 17, 2024, 6:30 pm
Via Conference call and in person, Town Hall Meeting Room

Members in attendance: Jared Bellows, Valentine Reid, Kim Blakeslee
Others in Attendance: Bill Martin, Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson

Valentine Reid called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

Appointments:

6:30 PM- Bill Martin RE: Right of First Refusal Chapter 61 for property owned by 133 Warfield Realty LLC. Selectboard to discuss and vote

Bill Martin went over the impending sale of 133 Warfield Road to Hinata Realty LLC. And the project that will take place there.

Valentine Reid motioned to waive Charlemont's right to purchase the property. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

Thorne Palmer notarized Val's signature.

6:45 PM- Conservation Commission RE: Appoint Bill Harker to the Commission

Thorne Palmer asked the Select Board to appoint Bill Harker to the Conservation Commission.

Valentine Reid motioned to approve the appointment of Bill Harker to the Charlemont Conservation Commission. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in Favor.

Administrator reports:

1) Long Bridge information meeting July 11th

There will be a public information meeting regarding the replacement of the West Hawley Bridge at Hawlemont Elementary School on July 11th from 6:30-8:30 PM.

The project will take 5 years to complete. There will be one southbound traffic lane open on the bridge. Northbound traffic will be directed to Tower Road which will be one-way. This will allow emergency services easy access across the bridge towards Berkshire East.

Sarah Reynolds, Kim Blakeslee and Jared Bellows will attend the info meeting.

Val wants to prioritize speed safety on Tower Road, as well as using real signs and keeping the foliage trimmed so the signs are not obscured. The RR crossing will be repainted with functioning lights.

2) Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)- use for heat pumps?

Sarah would like to apply for a grant for heat pumps in Town Hall as well as Air Conditioners for the police and Highway building.

Valentine Reid motioned to approve Sarah's applying for the EECBG for heat pumps and AC's. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

3) MIIA (Town Insurance Company) Grants- possible projects?

Sarah went over possible items compatible for a grant from the insurance company. The Town Hall walkway needs work to fix some trip hazards.

Val wants Sarah to check with Highway Super to see if he needs chainsaw work zone safety gear. **Jared Bellows motioned to go ahead and apply for the front walkway repair with any remaining money available to go towards Highway safety gear. Valentine Reid seconded the motion. All in favor.**

4) Federal Grants – Bridge Grants Boot Camp update from first two classes.

Sarah wanted to let the Board know her plans for taking these bootcamp classes and that she will continue to apply for bridge engineering studies for the next 12 bridges (1st 12 bridges are complete) and then the repair or replacement of the next 12 bridges, 2 at a time. The Board believes this is time well spent.

5) New Budget Software grant possibility

Sarah spoke about a Municipal software that is available. The budget sheet would live on the website and would be a live document. Departments can update their numbers right into the document. You can buy the pieces that the Town needs a la carte. There is a community grant for funding for the first two years. If, once the funding runs out, the town does not want to keep the software, they can abandon it. Sarah will send links to other towns who use it. Kim likes the idea of being able to see the data in various ways.

They spoke about the cost of the current accounting software, which is \$10,000. Once the funding runs out, this software would cost \$5,000. a year.

Val suggested scheduling a demo with FinComm, Lynn Hathaway and Carlene Hayden.

Agenda items:

1) End of year budget transfers- budget lines that are overdrawn

They went over the handful of lines that were overspent. There were not any surprises. There will be a July 15th meeting with FinComm 6:30-7:00 to do the budget transfer.

2) Town Road Speed Limit Project – speed study information

There are regulations in place regarding speeds of different categories of roads. Otherwise, one would need speed studies. They have speed studies for Legate Hill Road, 8A North, South River Road and Avery Brook Road. There hasn't been one on Tower Road in the last 5 years. They can adopt a bylaw for roads whose speed studies are already done, and work with MassDOT and then take to Town Meeting. 8A North and South should be marked. The Board would like a count done on Tower Road before the bridge project, would like Sarah to ask Mass DOT and FRCOG for help with that. Would be nice if they could have that info in time for public info meeting on West Hawley Bridge. Val suggested adopting 17 C for the Village center bringing the speed limit down to 25 mph from 30mph. Val asked Sarah to add 17C for signs "Village roads 25 mph" to the list of potential Town Meeting items.

Kim would like wildlife signs at **Zoar Rd to the bottom of Legate Hill Rd.** Avery Brook Rd also has a lot of accidents with deer. Sergeant Duga can give them reports of the top 5 spots where accidents with wildlife occur on town roads.

3) Housing Presentation from Selectboard Chair

Val presented a PowerPoint on housing goals and strategies for Charlemont. Val would like to explore ways the SelectBoard can limit short term rentals as one of his points. They spoke about a

way to cap the number of commercial short-term rentals that would be fair to residents who want to make some extra money renting out extra space in their homes.

Approve/sign/approve and sign:

1) Payroll and Vendor warrants

Valentine Reid motioned to approve and sign the payroll 2447,2448 and vendor 2448, 2449, 2450 warrants. Jared Bellows seconded the motion.

2) Minutes from June 10

Valentine Reid motioned to approve the June 10th Minutes as written. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

Valentine Reid motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20. Jared bellows seconded, all in favor.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on July 1st, 2024.

Documents viewed at the meeting:

- Minutes of June 10, 2024
- Agenda for June 17, 2024
- 133 Warfield Realty, LLC Waiver of right of first refusal dated June 17th
- Department of Energy and Environmental affairs, program opportunity Notice (PON) Energy Efficiency Block grant)
- Mass.gov DOT speed limit information
- Underutilized properties program and information guideline FY2025
- Mass DOT Public Information meeting re: the West Hawley Road Bridge, July 11 2024 6:30-8:30 Hawlemont.
- Housing Presentation
- Fiscal year 2024 Allocated Summary Expenditure ledger
- Budget Cycle Management Suite product brief, ClearGov
- FY24 MIIA Grant Application
- Valentine Reid's Housing presentation slides