

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 15, 2024, 6:30 pm
Via Conference call and in person, Town Hall Meeting Room

Members in attendance: Valentine Reid, Kim Blakeslee, Jared Bellows, Ron Smith, Lynn Hathaway, Amy Wales,
Members on phone: Jay Healy
Others in Attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson, Michael Suter, Wendell Rheinheimer, Jonathan Mirin, Sam Ferland

Valentine Reid opened the meeting at 6:30 PM

Appointments:

6:30 PM Finance Committee RE: end of year budget transfers

Sarah read out the transfers. The departments did well with staying within their budgets this year.

Amy Wales motioned to approve the listed transfers as both to and from. Ron Smith seconded the motion. All in Favor.

Valentine Reid motioned to accept the year end transfers as written. Jared Bellows seconded the motion, All in favor.

7:00 PM Residents from Avery Brook Road RE: National Grid Project

- Jonathan Mirin, Wendell Rheinheimer and Michael Suter came to talk about 25-foot single phase poles being replaced with 45 foot 3 phase poles along Avery Brook Road. Extra poles are being added.
- Sarah clarified that a previous Select Board had asked for 3 phase power for the McCloud property, when there was talk of having a solar array there. This installation may not be because of that request.
- Sarah let them know that there will be project plans available after July 23rd.
- There has been a communication disconnect that Sarah will try and help remedy. The engineer's name is Riordan Hoffman. He hasn't responded since March but seemed willing to talk about it.
- They spoke about Utilities' easements, there are a lot of trees that are marked. They do need to stay within the easement.
- They will check in after the 23rd for an update. They would like to have residents' voices be heard in Pole hearings.

Administrator reports:

1) Traffic Calming Follow up letter

For the most part massDOT said they will continue to monitor the cracks in the sidewalk. They have said some cracking is normal and said some areas have been repaired. Sarah noted that there was a large chunk missing near the post office which should be documented. Val volunteered to walk the sidewalks and document cracking as he had before. It should be done annually.

2) Bissell Bridge Fire Alarm System

During the car show the fire alarm box got pulled. It was noted that the last inspection of the box was in 2009. It is now disabled. The battery needs to be replaced every so many years. Control is not automatically notified. The sprinklers are not set up. As of now it is just an audible alarm. Sarah will get a quote from the company that does the town hall fire alarm system to inspect the system.

3) Fire Truck Earmark Status

The Town received a notification from Senator Markey's office that the Agriculture and Rural development Food and Drug Administration and related Agency appropriation bill has been sent to committee in May.

Val suggested sending a letter from the Board to the Committee. Sarah and Jared will work on the letter.

4) Town Hall Flooring Project – Pick Flooring Type?

Sarah got some samples and printed up some pictures of different materials that the Select Board can look at. The original wooden floor is worn and very damaged in a few spots and covered with carpeting. The board will also shop around and get quotes. The budget for the job is \$12,500 for the three offices.

Kim would like to keep the historical integrity of the building in mind while choosing the material.

They would like to get a quote from Hall Tavern Farm as well but would have to check the conflict-of-interest threshold amount.

Liaison reports and actions:

1) Zoar Picnic Area- Discussion about what power company takes care of.

Val found a part of the environmental agreement with FERC that the Zoar picnic area is regulated under. Upon being licensed in 2020, there was supposed to be a special recreational facilities management plan for the space. Val would like to request a copy and is asking permission to speak on behalf of the Board.

Valentine Reid motioned to give himself permission to pursue more information on Zoar picnic area and to speak with the authority of the Board. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda items:

1) Recall Bylaw Selectboard Submittal Document

Val went over the recall bylaw process. The Select Board should submit a letter and the proposed special act to rep Blais and Sen. Mark. and to the General Court.

Valentine Reid made a motion to sign the letter Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

2) Transfer Station Rigid Plastics Agreement

This agreement comes every year. The money Charlemont gets from metal pays for a dumpster (\$87 -\$92 per year.) Shelburne does not reimburse. Metal and plastic dumpsters have been hard to manage during Shelburne days at the Transfer Station (other refuse being added while unsupervised, causing Ch. Transfer Station workers to have to pull it out) although the fencing is helping a lot.

Jared Bellows motioned to sign the agreement. Valentine Reid seconded the motion, all in favor.

3) Conway School Plans- Next steps schedule meeting with Parks and Rec and committee

A meeting date of July 31st at 6 PM at the fairgrounds has been floated. An alternative date could be August 14th, 2024.

** 4) Request for Conflict-of-Interest exemption for David Conlon a Mohawk Trail Regional School District Employee

All the Selectboards in the Mohawk Trail District were asked. It is procedural.

Valentine Reid motioned to accept David Conlan's conflict of interest exemption request. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approve/sign/approve and sign:

1) Payroll and Vendor warrants

Valentine Reid motioned to sign the payroll and vendor warrant. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

2) Minutes from July 1

Valentine Reid motioned to accept the July 1st Minutes as written. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

3) ESC Bike Event Application

This is the same application as at the last meeting, but with the HWY and services approval in place. This event has always gone well.

Valentine Reid motioned to approve and sign the ESC Bike event application with all the department head signatures on it. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

4) KP Law Invoice# 14872

Sarah needed to sign this to get it on the budget for last year. **Valentine Reid motioned to approve the KP Law invoice. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.**

* 5) Cybersecurity Grant Documents

A grant that Sarah and Val applied for came in for \$45,000. It will include multifactor authentication, training and a look at the incident response plan.

Valentine Reid motioned to sign the grant paperwork for the cyber security grant. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

At 8:47 PM the Select Board prepared to enter Executive session

- 1) Reason #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: attorney question about Charlemont Inn Case, and;
- 2) Approve Executive session minutes from June 10,2024.
- 3) **Unforeseen in the last 48 hours: Reason #5. To investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints

Valentine Reid motioned to Adjourn the public portion of the meeting at 8:47, not to return. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on July 29th, 2024.

Documents viewed at the meeting:

- Minutes of July 1, 2024
- Executive session Minutes of June 10th, 2024
- Agenda for July 15, 2024
- Letter dated July 1st, 2024, from Select Board to Senator Mark and representative Blaise re: Recall election vote and article as voted.
- Letter dated July 2 2024 to Select Board Chair Valentine Reid from Francisca Heming, massDOT re: acknowledging receipt of May 13th letter re:Route 2 project and responding to concerns.
- Kim Blakeslee Direct Deposit form dated 6/18/2024
- Letter dated July 12, 2024, from Conservation Commission to Select Board answering Select Board query re: 180 8A progress with enforcement order
- Town of Charlemont FY24 end of Year transfers dated 6/30/2024
- Earmark Status from Markey's office dated May 8, 2024, re: fire truck
- Zoar picnic area/ Fife Brook Dam/ Bear Swamp power application excerpt pp19-29 7/31/2020
- July 11, 2024, Emailed request of Conflict-of-interest exemption from David Conlon
- KPLaw eUpdate re: Marijuana Host Community Agreements update
- Recycling services agreement, July 1, 2024
- Cyber security grant paperwork, signed 7/15/2024
- Letter from Office of Governor's dated July 11, 2024, notifying Charlemont's receipt of cybersecurity grant
- Letter from Massachusetts executive office of public safety and security office of grants and research dated July 11, 2024, notifying Charlemont's receipt of cybersecurity grant
- KP Law June 30th re: Professional services through June 30, 2024