

## Meeting of the Charlemont Select board

May 23, 2022

Town Hall and via phone

Present: Marguerite Willis, Dan Girard, Bill Harker, Sarah Reynolds, Cheryl Handsaker, Pari Hall, and Bob Handsaker via telephone.

### Administrator Report

1) The Administrator reported on the elevator documents sent out via email earlier in the week, the only comment back to the architects is that the board is impressed with the parking idea presented. Everything looks good for the architects to wrap up.

2) West Oxbow Bridge is open! Marguerite Willis asked about how long the process took, Administrator would say at least 4 years from design phase to completed project.

3) Planning project meeting to be June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, Eric Halvorsen has made contact with Hyytinen Hollow tubes, and they keep good records of visitors. Still trying to get calls back from a few others, the administrator is trying to help with that.

4) Lawn mowing and Janitor for town hall was discussed, administrator will ask the Dan and Doug Hoyt and others for lawn quotes. It was also brought up that the town will need to figure out mowing the village cemetery as the current volunteer cannot keep going forever. The Janitor position will be re-advertised around town.

5) Rte. 2 progress is slowed because of the lack of crosswalk materials. Maxymillian guessed 4 weeks last week. Maxymillian has put some pavement around the structures to make the bumps less of an impact. Administrator top check on the area by the Long Bridge, the bump there is still quite harsh.

6) A grant possibility for dry hydrants that mount on bridges, and a fire tank and piping system from the fairgrounds to Main Street that would be used for fire suppression was discussed. The Fire chief had sent an email about this to the administrator, select board would like the administrator to pursue this. Also tell the fire chief thank you for bringing it forward.

7) Selling transfer station stickers at Aubuchons was discussed it was agreed to try it and see how it goes, Bill Harker was concerned the town would sell to nonresidents, administrator will check in with the attendants and make sure that they are not overwhelmed. This will also follow the same process as sales to neighbors and Cold River

8) Dan Girard and the administrator sent a letter requesting funding to the state police for river patrols and also speeding in the village. This is similar to the letter sent in March for the speeding enforcement. We should hear back soon

9) There was an issue with the expansion joint that was damaged last year by a trailer on the long bridge. Gordon Hathaway and the administrator called Mark Devylder at District One DOT and then sent a letter to Francisca Hemming requesting help with the bridge deck. Francisca Hemming responded that she would assess, provide expertise, and discuss further assistance.

10) The administrator has signed up for the Cybersecurity Statewide Contract Kickoff Event in June, she will report back.

Meeting dates were then discussed it was decided that the board would meet, June 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> as well as August 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

7:00 pm Broadband appointment, Bob Handsaker reported that all of the FSA's are currently able to be scheduled. The select board was also asked to officially vote that the drop subsidies would "go away" in August, on a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker the select board voted to end the subsidies in August. Bob Handsaker also asked if the board thought that the broadband budget would be discussed in the first night of town meeting because he will not be able to attend the second night of town meeting if there is one needed. It was explained that the moderator is not able to be at town meeting and the board was going to suggest no new business after 9:30 pm.

#### Liaison Reports:

1) KP Law update on flags. - It was discussed that the administrator had looked up policies from other towns as a result of the bulletin. While some towns do allow Flags, they have a request form that the public fills out and allow the flags to be flown for a specific period of time. The problem with this is in order to not exclude anyone they have to allow for flags that may be offensive to certain groups of residents. Towns that do not want to offend the residents have policies where the Flags Allowed are only the US flag, the state flag, the town flag, the school flag and military flags (at the memorials towns have).

On a motion from Dan Girard and second from Bill Harker it was decided Charlemont's policy would be the US flag and the POW MIA flag that are already out front of Town Hall.

2) Highway Superintendent proposal: Dan Girard had met with Gordon twice for about 3 hours each time, the proposed scenario is that Gordon works 8 hours a week, roughly 2 hours per day to get the jobs going and do paperwork. He will also be showing the Foreman how to do the paperwork. The Foreman will get \$3.00 more per hour for the additional duties he will be taking on. The other 2 men will get \$2.00 more per hour. There will need to be a new Winter Worker hired that drives one of the large trucks they would start at \$18.00 per hour. Sidewalks would still be done by the current crew.

On a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker the proposal passes.

3) Dan Girard, Marguerite Willis and the administrator went to a meeting in Colrain about Mohawk. Marguerite called Howard Phelps the next morning to discuss, she was not interested if the group does not include the superintendent. It was also made clear by the school committee members present that they build a budget based on what the administration feels the students need. It was brought up by Dan Girard and Marguerite Willis that the issues going on are the same things they have been hearing about and things like the bullying and low academic standards at Hawlemont, make it hard to support. Cheryl Handsaker spoke and wanted it to be clear that the broad sentiment in the room is not what she took away from the meeting. The meeting was about Mohawk not Hawlemont. It was also brought up that the school committee is confined as to what they can actually do to help the situation at the School. The general consensus though is that the board does not want to participate in meetings that re-invent the wheel- they were interested in the old MMAC group.

4) FRCOG after action report meetings, it was decided to try and sign up for the June 1<sup>st</sup> 2:30-4pm meeting

5) Marguerite Willis brought up the Deerfield River study that was approved when she and Ellie Vaniderstine were select board members, recently the Deerfield River association sent an email about

acquiring land, the study that the Select board approved did not have land acquisition, and the board felt the study should be completed before acquisition was discussed.

On a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker, the warrants, meeting minutes of 04/25/22 and 05/05/22, vacation request from the executive secretary/town clerk, special one day liquor license and the \$500,000 contract for the tourism infrastructure were approved.

**Recognition:**

The board recognized Thorne Palmer for his thinking and problem-solving skills, recently used to fix a chair in town hall, Tim Merrigan for mowing the town hall lawn, and also Mac Haskell for mowing the village cemetery.

On a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker the board entered into executive session for reason #7 to review Comstar disposition reports. The board will be adjourning from executive session and not returning to open meeting- Marguerite Willis – yes, Dan Girard, - Yes and Bill Harker, - Yes.