

Joint Select Board and Finance Committee Meeting

February 14, 2018 Charlemont Town Hall, 7pm

In attendance: Select Board Chair Sarah Reynolds, and member Beth Bandy and Marguerite Willis; Finance Committee Chair Rich Filoramo and members Amy Wales, Lynn Hathaway and Vaughn Tower.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.
2. The Select Board met with Ambulance Director Dana Johnson for his 7pm appointment to review his FY19 budget. Dana announced he is recording the meeting. Dana reviewed his budget, moving \$300 out of ambulance mileage and adding it to maintenance due to recent expenses and as a precautionary measure, reminding all that the body of the ambulance is 2010. As an example, Dana is having the fuel filter changed because they ran into fuel problems over the past year. The request for 1400 gallons of fuel has pretty much been the standard.
3. There was a broader discussion of how the Town can handle vehicle fuel going forward. It was explained that there will be a Town vehicle fuel account.
4. The Ambulance billing service account was created last year but Dana mentioned that he was unaware of it until recently.
5. Dana made mention of his capital improvement planning requests that have been submitted to the Capital Improvement/ Planning Committee, mentioning that the Ambulance made 88% of its calls last year. The Ambulance's last inspection was a year ago; Dana reported that they did well on it, mentioning that we have provided OEMS with a letter from MedCare. This letter came out of Dana contacting MedCare, who was willing to come meet with the Town to discuss serving the Town. Though the Town didn't meet with MedCare, Dana had a conversation with them about providing a letter stating they provide backup for the Town, as required by OEMS. MedCare did so, and in turn OEMS went back to relicensing every two years. Dana mentioned that there are an increased number of responders now on the crew.
6. Dana also mentioned that he was directed by the Board to start negotiating with neighboring town to share services, such as Shelburne Falls and Colrain. Dana has started those conversations. Recently Shelburne Falls helped the Town with response, coming to Charlemont.
7. The Select Board and Finance Committee would like expense and revenue reports from The Accountant similar to the consolidated format he was previously providing in 2015 and 2016.
8. Dana left at 7:30pm.

9. The Select Board met with Bob Handsaker at 7:31. The purpose of his visit is to address questions about the amended Westfield Gas & Electric contract. The amended contract will need to be signed by the Select Board electronically.
10. **Select Board Action:** Beth Bandy made a motion that the Select Board approve the amendment to the Westfield Gas & Electric contract. Sarah Reynolds 2ndd the motion. There was discussion about from where the current and upcoming phases' funds are coming. There will be funds available for eligible additional make-ready costs, that would trigger the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development contract with the Town being revised if the Town meets the eligibility requirements being laid out by the State. There was discussion about whether the Town should be concerned it will go over. Once the guidelines to be eligible for additional make-ready costs are released the Town can better consider the question. It is important to emphasize that we have a cap that we cannot exceed. There was a discussion about whether there would be enough workers available to get the work done. Based on previous conversations with Wired West and WG & E, yes. Ms. Bandy – yes, Ms. S. Reynolds – yes, Ms. Willis – yes, voted unanimously. The Select Board members will sign the contract electronically.
11. Meetings with Comcast and MBI will be on February 26, 2018 at 7pm and 8pm. There was a question whether Matrix will be given an opportunity to present; they met with the Broadband Committee. Matrix hasn't been provided funding from the State to date, causing some concern from the Broadband Committee.
12. There was discussion about the WiValley model, and how having tower signals cross town lines significantly impacts Charlemont.
13. There was a discussion about the value of the detailed design and how regardless of the path Charlemont chooses it is a good use of funds.
14. Regarding the hut location, the Broadband Committee is considering the basement as its best location. They need to meet with the Capital Improvement/ Planning Committee to discuss further and then will present to the Select Board. There were suggestions how to prevent moisture in the basement.
15. Marguerite reminded all about the amount of time it has taken to see through major projects in the past.
16. The Finance Committee postponed approving the 10-6-18.
17. **Finance Committee Action:** Amy made a motion to approve the 1-5-18 meeting minutes, 2ndd by Vaughn. Voted unanimously.

18. Marguerite asked if we could discuss OPEB. The Town needs the actuarial formula to determine the potential liability.
19. The Recreation Tax legislation was discussed. **Action:** Beth Bandy would like a motion for the Committees to approve the recreation tax legislation amendment. Ms. Willis moves that the Select Board accept the revised language of the recreation tax legislation, H2623 Charlemont Redraft v4, Ms. Bandy 2nd’d the motion. The question was asked whether the recreation businesses were notified of the revised language. It was also mentioned that we need to have good procedures to safe guard the Assessors’ information. Ms. S. Reynolds recused herself. The motion was voted favorably, Ms. Bandy – yes, Ms. Willis – yes. Ms. Bandy will report the vote to Senator Hinds’ office.
20. Adjourned at 8:38pm.

Draft minutes until approved by the Select Board

Respectfully submitted by Peg Dean

Documents viewed:

Ambulance FY19 budget request

WGE_Amendment_Comparison_2018Jan15.xlsx

Finance Committee meeting minutes from 10-6-18 and 1-5-18

H2623 Charlemont Redraft v4