

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Town of Charlemont**

February 6, 2012  
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The meeting was convened at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Winston Healy. Jean Brisson and David Cunningham also attended the meeting with Mr. Cunningham arriving at 7:55 P.M.

1. The Warrants were signed.
2. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, to approve payment of a Kopelman & Paige bill.
3. The Board received a letter from Marguerite Willis regarding the Town obtaining an Opticam device during the Route 2 bridge construction projects. Mr. Healy will work with the Ambulance Director and MassDOT to explore if the Town may secure this device.
4. Scheduling a River Livery meeting was tabled until Mr. Cunningham is present.
5. The Board received a notification of a Brookfield Power Emergency Action Plan Exercise. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Healy – yes, Ms Brisson – yes, to decline participation in the exercise as the Town is without an Emergency Management Director.
6. The Board received a POI license agreement response from MBI. The Agreement was tabled until the next meeting to allow the Board time to determine fees and to ensure the agreement is correct.
7. Mr. Healy reported that he spoke with Tracey Rogers at the FRCOG regarding finding an EMD. Ms Rogers is willing to assist the Town with what the Town should consider when choosing a new EMD.
8. Kenneth Elstein representing Hampshire Power for residential customers attended the meeting to discuss the resolution to seek lower electric rates voted at the last Town Meeting. Mr. Elstein explained that National Grid will still send a bill and charge for delivery of the electricity and Hampshire Power send a separate bill for the electricity used. If residents sign up for the program, Hampshire Power must offer rates lower than National Grid and UMECO for at least 6 months. Hampshire Power charges customers an administration fee of .002/cents per kw hour. Essentially, customers will receive an “Opt Out” notice if they do not want to participate.
9. Mr. Elstein would present information at a Town Meeting and a public hearing will need to be held. Letters from Hampshire Power would be sent to all customers of National Grid stating Hampshire Power will become the default provider for electricity unless they “Opt Out”.
10. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, to send the contract to Kopelman & Paige for review before signing or making any decisions.
11. Michael McCusker and Bruce Lessels attended the meeting to discuss the Highland Pentathlon. The goal of the event is to show off Charlemont as an Adventure Capital. The participants will begin at Berkshire East and run to the Warfield House and then to Zoar Outdoor. From Zoar, Mountain Biers will ride 23 miles to Zoar Gap. Kayaks will begin at Zoar Gap and end at the Long Bridge where runners will run to the top of Berkshire East and skiers will ski down Berkshire East. There will be no more that 250 individuals entered in the race.
12. It was suggested the Fire and Ambulance Departments Be notified of the event in or to be prepared.
13. The Board met with Vaughn Tower who expressed his interest in the Emergency Management Director position.
14. Marguerite Willis, Planning Board member, attended the meeting on behalf of the Planning Board to inform the Selectmen that a developer wants to create a solar farm at the old drive in

property located on Route 2. Ms Willis stated that she has been in contact with the Town's insurance company regarding bonding requirements for this venture. Ms Willis stated that the development company is willing to buy extra panels for residents and to sell power to the Town if the Town forms a Municipal Lighting Company.

15. Mr. Healy reported that the information on the Cherry Sheet, Governor's figures, states that Charlemont will be receiving \$301,633 in State revenue.
16. Mr. Healy reported that the FRCOG wage and salary survey has been updated with the corrected information and is available on their website.
17. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, to schedule a River Livery Meeting on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 P.M. at a location to be determined.
18. The Board worked on their budgets.
19. Ms Brisson reported that the street light on the Shelburne side of the Transfer Station needs to be re-wired. This will become part of the lease negotiations.
20. The Board deferred deciding to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant that reimburses a resident for legal fees.
21. Ms Brisson reported that Joanne MacLean, Historical Society, is satisfied there is not further mold or damage to the museum.
22. The Board reviewed and unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, to approve a draft letter that will go out to 5 businesses as part of the USDA Grant.
23. The Board discussed several e-mails from Jon Schaefer regarding possible use of the gift from Berkshire East.
24. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, to place Berkshire East Gift under old business of the Agenda.
25. The Board agreed they are interested in appointing a new EMD and anyone who is interested should submit a letter of interest to the Selectmen's office.
26. Mr. Healy submitted a Disaster Response Team Review that states aspects that went well and aspect of preparedness that need further attention.
27. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully transcribed

Approved by:  
Charlemont Board of Selectmen

Kathy A. Reynolds  
Executive Secretary

**List of items viewed by the Board of Selectmen**

**Warrants**

**Kopelman & Paige bill**

**Letter regarding Opticam device from Marguerite Willis**

**Brookfield Power Emergency Action Plan Exercise notification**

**Pentathlon notice and map**

**Draft budget sheets**

**Draft letter to business regarding the USDA grant**

**E-mails from Jon Schaefer regarding the use of the Berkshire East Gift**

**Disaster Response Team Review**