

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Town of Charlemont

January 7, 2013
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The meeting was convened at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Jean Brisson. David Cunningham and Vaughn Tower also attended the meeting.

1. The warrants were approved and signed.
2. A letter supporting School Superintendent Buoniconti's action in response to the School shooting tragedy was approved and signed.
3. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to approve and sign a letter to the Hawlemont School reminding them of the Town snow removal bylaw.
4. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to approve for payment a Kopelman & Paige bill.
5. The Board discussed an e-mail from a Town employee that berates the Highway Department for the lack snow removal at the Town Hall. Ms Brisson will speak with the Town Hall Custodian regarding maintenance of the handicap ramp and stairs at the rear of the Town Hall. Mr. Cunningham will reach out to the employee and follow up on the e-mail.
6. It was brought to the Board's attention that not all departments are included in the group e-mail address used by the accountant when sending monthly departmental reports. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, that Mr. Cunningham will work with the webmaster in creating a list serve address that will reach all departments that have a budget line item.
7. Shane Furlon attended the meeting to speak with the Board regarding the Assistant Fire Chief appointment voted during the December 17th meeting. Chief Ken Hall and firefighter Kevin Crowningshield also attended the meeting. Mr. Furlon asked the Board for an explanation regarding the Board appointing Michael Walsh as Assistant Fire Chief.
8. The Board explained that six months ago the Board realized the Fire Department needed improvement and appointed Fire Department personnel on a 6 month trial. During the last 6 months, nothing significantly changed. The Selectmen had several options to assist and improve the Fire Department.
9. Mr. Furlon stated that he admitted he was 13 months behind in sending reports to the State but stepped up the last 6 months and did what he was assigned to do. He has sent paperwork to the State, kept the fire truck maintained, knows his responsibility is to the residents, admitted he cannot please everyone. Mr. Furlon acknowledged that Mr. Walsh is an asset for the Fire Department but does not have enough experience that might put the Town in a liable position. Mr. Furlon feels Mr. Tower being liaison to the Fire Department is unethical/
10. Ms Brisson stated the Mr. Walsh has phenomenal leadership skills and the Board hopes he will bring the Fire Department to acknowledge and respect the chain of command.
11. Mr. Cunningham stated that the Board did not bring Mr. Walsh on board for his fire experience but for his leadership qualities. His appointment is not permanent but a temporary solution to bring the Fire Department out of chaos.
12. The Board agreed that action must be taken regarding the conduct of the Fire Department employees.

13. Mr. Furlon stated that he will be continuing as a fire fighter because he loves the position.
14. The Board commended Mr. Furlong for staying on the Fire Department.
15. The Board received and noted a Selectboard essentials workshop notice from the FRCOG.
16. After reviewing several requests for the All Board meeting agenda, the Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, items on the agenda will be: 122 Main Street, EMD update, Creation of a new Board.
17. The Board received an e-mail from the FCSWMD requesting a Transfer Station gate key be given to the company who accepts the Town recyclables. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, not to give out the key but to instruct the Transfer Station Attendant to meet the recyclers when they arrive at the Transfer Station.
18. Michael Kain attended the meeting to discuss his request for an investigation as to what happened to the funds allegedly held aside for future ATB cases. Mr. Kain stated that the Town needs an Administrator to oversee any and all future ATB cases and suggested the Board look into hiring a professional Town Manager.
19. The Executive Secretary submitted recap printouts for FY 2006 forward that can be found on the DOR website. The printouts show funding was not set aside for future ATB, as alleged by Mr. Kain.
20. Mr. Kain was satisfied with the information presented.
21. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Cunningham, the Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, not to support the Community Software Consortium.
22. Mr. Cunningham reported that the Highway Superintendent is concerned that the Town may be liable for repairing the old State owned sidewalks along Main Street if the Traffic Calming recommendations are acted upon as submitted.
23. Mr. Cunningham recommended the Town move forward with the recommendations as submitted by the Committee. The Executive Secretary will draft a letter to MassDOT approving of the recommendations.
24. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to meet on the following dates: February 11, February 25, March 4, March 18, and March 25.
25. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to ask Grant Writer Steve Ferguson to see if the re-pointing of the Town Hall can be funded through the Mass Preservation Project fund.
26. The Board received a notice from ambulance collection agent ComStar that the Medicare revalidation forms require more information. Mr. Cunningham will research this notice.
27. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, not to response to the 2013 FRCOG Technical Assistance request form.
28. The Deerfield Forum follow up meeting information will be e-mail to Ms Brisson.
29. Ms Brisson reported that the Police Department is over budget on gas and will be meeting with the Finance committee regarding this issue. The Police Officer in Charge had no way to keep track of funding as he has not received a budget report.
30. Ms Brisson reported that Police Officer in Charge Jared Bellows will be keeping daytime hours on Tuesdays, noon to 8:00 P.M. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to approve the daytime hours with a review of hours in July.
31. Departmental monthly reports will be placed under action of the Selectmen's agenda for the next meeting.

32. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by
Charlemont Board of Selectmen

Kathy A. Reynolds
Executive Secretary

This document is to be considered a draft until approved and signed by the Board of Selectmen.

List of documents reviewed by the Board

Warrants
Letter of support to Superintendent Buoniconti
Snow removal letter to the Hawlemont School
Kopelman & Paige bill
E-mail letter regarding Town Hall snow removal
Selectboard essentials workshop notice
All Board Meeting agenda requests
E-mail from the FCSWMD requesting a Transfer Station key
Request for an investigation regarding ATB funds
Town recap forms from FY 2006 through FT 2012
Community Software Consortium letter requesting support
E-mailed request regarding additional information request for the Medicare revalidation
FRCOG Technical Assistance request
Deerfield forum follow up meeting information