

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
Town of Charlemont
Goodnow Town Hall

November 26, 2018

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The meeting was called to order at 6:45 P.M. by Chair Sarah Reynolds. Select Board members Marguerite Willis and Jay Healy also attended the meeting. No one was absent.

1. The Tax Classification Hearing was called to order at 6:45 P.M. Assessor's Jackie Cashin, Karen Rau and Tony Ostroski, along with Carlene Hayden, Secretary to the Boards were in attendance. Levy Limit calculations were explained along with a sheet showing calculations for a split tax rate verses a single tax rate. The Assessor's recommended it be in the best interest of the Town to have a single tax rate. The Board unanimously voted, Ms S Reynolds – yes, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, a single tax rate and to allow the Secretary to the Boards to electronically sign their vote on the necessary electronic forms.
2. The Board took no action regarding: Recreation Tax, Ambulance update, Accountant update, Bridge update.
3. It was reported that Fire Chief Dennis Annear is discussing shared administrative Fire Services with the Town of Rowe.
4. Phoebe Walker from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments attended the meeting to discuss shared Animal Control Officer Services. Ms Walker explained that an Officer would be stationed with the Franklin County Sheriff's Kennel services and the Kennel would be supplying a vehicle, phone, computer and ½ the salary of a shared ACO. The remaining expense of this position would be divided between the Towns that join up for the service. It was explained that if the Town joined, the Sheriff's Department would need a year's notice if the Town chose not to continue. The Board will discuss joining the Shared ACO service later during the meeting.
5. John Schaefer and James Scalise attended the meeting to discuss Berkshire East Opportunity Zone for their plans for a possible hotel and connecting Berkshire East to the Charlemont Sewer District. Ms S Reynolds recused herself from this discussion. Berkshire East is asking the Town to apply for a MassWorks Grant to assist them with connection to the Charlemont Sewer District. Although Berkshire East has not been able to discuss this plan with the Sewer District, they are asking the Town to apply for the grant on behalf of the Sewer District. The grant would be in the amount of \$1,000,000. Fire protection in the Village was discussed. It was suggested that water pipes be installed along Main Street, using the MassWorks grant funds, during the Traffic Calming construction, to later be hooked up to a water supply. Berkshire East suggested it might be able to supply the Town with raw water for fire prevention needs. The Board voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, to apply for the MassWorks grant as requested, subject to the Charlemont Sewer District's approval, the application once completed, to be signed outside of a meeting.

6. The Broadband Committee attended the meeting to discuss the Special Town Meeting Warrant Article regarding signing up with Comcast for Town wide internet services. The Committee explained that although not unanimous, a majority of the Committee voted not to support the article. Ms S Reynolds explained that she feels the Town should provide the voters with information and allow the voters to decide. Ms Willis stated that she feels the voters should be provided with the cost numbers for each option and allow the voters to decide. Mr. Healy stated he feels it is up to the voters and will support whatever the Town wants. The Board stated that the Broadband Committee has done a great job and was thanked for their service. Two robo calls will be made, one for the pre-town meeting informal session and one for the Special Town Meeting.
7. Ms S Reynolds provided an update regarding the WiValley request to use a pole in Charlemont for Hawley's broadband service. Because the pole in question is within the public way, it is not subject to zoning regulations. A pole hearing must be held by the Select Board and a denial needs to be justified. The Town can ask WiValley for an agreement for fees/charges.
8. It was suggested that the Animal Inspector Kristen Martin be approached to take on the ACO position. Currently the Police Chief is trying to address some of the dog issues in Town. The Executive Secretary will contact Kristen Martin.
9. One proposal for a Solar Array on Town property located on Avery Brook Road has been received. The proposal is from Mad River Solar.
10. An All Board Meeting will be scheduled for a Tuesday or Thursday in January.
11. The Board unanimously voted, Ms S Reynolds – yes, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, to approve and sign:
 - 11-13-18 and 11-18-2018 meeting minutes
 - Payroll warrant # 1921 for \$10,514.88
 - Vendor warrants #1920 for \$12,155.77, # 1921 for \$216,767.69, #1919 for \$24,674.59
 - Mass. Dept. of Transportation Right of Entry and Land Damage for work on Town Property during the Traffic Calming project
12. The Board unanimously voted, Ms S Reynolds – yes, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, to approve:
 - Administrator's request for a day off on December 14
 - Administrator to attend the CDBG training December 13 in Springfield
13. Camille White and Agnes Newland were recognized for volunteering to assist the Secretary to the Boards.
14. At 10:20 P.M. the Board unanimously voted, Ms S Reynolds – yes, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, to adjourn the open meeting and enter into executive session for reason # 7 and to approve executive session minutes, not to return to open meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy A. Reynolds
Executive Secretary

Approved by:
Charlemont Select Board

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

Documents reviewed by the Board

Tax Rate and Levy Limit calculations
11-13-18 and 11-18-2018 meeting minutes
Payroll and vendor warrants
Mass. Dept. of Transportation Right of Entry and Land Damage forms
Shared ACO information
Mad River Solar Array proposal