

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

March 8, 2021  
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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chair Marguerite Willis. Select Board member Elizabeth VanInderstine and Administrator Sarah Reynolds also attended the meeting. This meeting was conducted via telephone conference pursuant to the Governor's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

1. Bob Handsaker, Broadband Committee Chair, reported that Tri Wire has completed overhead along Main Street.
2. A letter to DTC on Charter application to become Eligible Telecommunications Carrier was presented. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes to approve and sign the letter.
3. The Board Band Committee stated they are ready for the info session on March 16<sup>th</sup> and will be sending the text for a robo call. WG & E will run the info session.
4. At 7:15 P.M. the Board opened a hearing for an all-alcohol package store application for 159 Main Street, Wells Provisions LLC, Levi Janssen Manager. Mr. Janssen introduced himself and explained his plans for the future of the property. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes voted to approve and sign the application.
5. Administrator Reynolds reported the following:
  - attended a phone meeting with USDA regarding the elevator grant.
  - Federal economic grant and loan grants are being researched.
  - working on the Community One Stop expression in interest
  - Grants for car charging stations are beyond what the Town is ready for
  - FEMA will be taking over for some CARES ACT expenses which will reimburse 100%
  - The Town needs to plan for audits for FY 2020, 2021, and 2022 and will need to know if the Town will require a yearly audit going forward
  - No one is interested in the ACO position and research is being conducted into joining the Sheriffs Kennel Program for ACO services
6. Police Chief Jared Bellows attended the meeting to give the Board a report regarding the mandated Police training. Chief Bellows stated there is a requirement of 250-300 hours of training for all officers and she is trying to spread out this required training for 3 years. The Town will probably lose officers as the hours of training necessary is more than some Officers work within a year. The Town should try to find a way to compensate Officers for training to keep the Officers on the roster. The cost would be approximately \$5,000 to 46,000 per Officer to pay them for training, along with the training expenses. With current constraints, Chief Bellows is concerned with the future of small

- Police Departments. The training could have an extreme impact to the Town. Chief Bellows will update the Board as new information arrives.
6. Administrator Reynolds stated that Broad Band will need to present their budget to Town Meeting each year and it should be placed onto the warrant right after the Town budget. Administrator Reynolds will research with the Accountant and the Broad Band Committee regarding funding for the additional hours for the Accountant and Treasurer.
  7. Ms VanInderstine suggested the Board draft a final letter for Mr. and Mrs. Coli that states the winter maintenance matter is closed. Ms Willis stated no and referenced Town Counsel's opinion on the matter.
  8. The Town has not received a response from the Town of Hawley regarding the offer of a 1-year fee for ambulance service. If the Town of Hawley were to accept the offer, the Hawley Select Board was to sign and return the bill and remit payment by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  9. Ms Willis reported that the Mohawk Trail Regional Central Office is looking to create a capital plan.
  10. The Board discussed the Annual Report written by the Chair Marguerite Willis. Ms VanInderstine suggested expanding some subjects with more detail and possibly adding more on Grants to the Report. Ms Willis disagreed. The report will be submitted as written.
  11. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes, to approve and sign:
    - Payroll warrants #2132 for \$13,499.93, # 2131 for \$13,081.18, # 2133 for \$21,513.26.
    - Vendor warrants #2133 for \$14,138.57, #2134 for \$41,245.00, # 2132 for \$187,971.87.
    - Payment for a KP Law invoice
    - 2-22-21 meeting minutes
  - 21 Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully transcribed

Kathy A. Reynolds  
Executive Secretary

Approved by:  
Charlemont Select Board

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

Documents viewed by the Board.

Letter to DTC

Alcohol license application

Annual Report