

Minutes of the Charlemont Selectboard

August 16, 2021

Present: Marguerite Willis, Bill Harker, Dan Girard, Bob Handsaker, Andy Mueller, Sarah Reynolds, and Mary Aicardi

Chair Marguerite Willis opened the meeting at 7 pm. This meeting was conducted via telephone conference pursuant to the Governor's March 12, 2020, and consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to the Open Meeting Law suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Broadband Appointment:

A) Bob Handsaker discussed the Heath IGA, on a motion by Dan Girard and Second by Bill Harker the IGA was unanimously approved

B) Bob Handsaker then explained the business policy change that was being proposed, due to Whip City not being able to meter the service for dedicated bandwidth, the solution for now would be to average the use, the committee has spoken to some businesses, this is only the larger businesses. On a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker the changes pass unanimously.

Bob Handsaker also mentioned that there was more than 29 people lit up in fsa 01 and they are at a 60% take rate.

The Condos on south river road were then discussed. The resident who questioned the drop cost had attended the broadband meeting earlier this evening and the cost breakdown was explained. Bob Handsaker also mentioned there are 6 condos but as of right now only 5 signed up, he will be putting together a document that explains the process should the 6th unit want to connect down the road.

Tree Warden Appointment:

It was explained that Andy Mueller had received enough votes in the recent election to be second. Andy is willing to be appointed to the position until the next election. On a motion by Bill Harker and second by Dan Girard, Andy Mueller will fill the vacancy for tree warden. Sarah will send Andy the list of roads with high priority trees she was given by Lanoue Tree- the roads are East Hawley, North River, West Oxbow and Zoar.

Administrators Report:

b) RDBG grant update- the town received a \$20,000 grant for the elevator feasibility study for town hall, Administrator Reynolds has talked to Brian Devriese who gave the original quote, once go ahead is received will send out a request for proposals and get project underway.

c) Security trust fund applications for police training and the fire department video equipment was turned down. The Program had received 270 applications totaling well over 5 million dollars in requests and was only able to award a little over 340,000 dollars. This program is now offering the Body worn camera grants that the administrator is currently working on for the police department.

D) the cares act monies were received the school will be receiving a check for the chrome books and ventilation system upgrades

e) technology grant can be applied for in September, Dark fiber option that was discussed previously is related to security reports and some networking equipment needs. On a motion by Dan Girard and Second by Bill Harker we will pursue the dark fiber and have Town Hall, the Fire Station, Highway Garage and the Fairgrounds eventually on the same dark fiber loop

f) Audit was discussed, Administrator Reynolds has contacted the firms that were contacted for quotes on the 2017 audit file and Melanson gave 20,000 the first year's audit 20,500 the second year and 21,000 for the third year, the second company was in line with Scanlon who has been doing the Towns audits the last several times

g) The possibility of sharing fire services with the town of Rowe was discussed, it was recommended that the administrator and Dan Girard as the liaison set up a meeting with Rowe to discuss, the other selectboard members to email/give Administrator any questions, ideas they wanted to have brought up

h) The cemetery work was discussed; thank you cards to be sent out to the Sheriff's department and Mac Haskell

a) Mary Acairdi then joined the Board in a discussion of the interim memo she had sent it was decided that the Highway succession would be the focus and things such as contracting out, department of public works and a "working superintendent" as well as someone doing the administrative paperwork would be looked at.

Liaison Reports:

Marguerite Willis then discussed the water and sewer study that FRCOG was doing, Marguerite will be writing a letter that the selectman can send to Jessica Atwood at FRCOG about the need for a water system in Charlemont and advocating on the town's behalf

It was also discussed that Administrator Reynolds was supposed to have had an evaluation after 6 months and that Administrator Reynolds will be doing a write up on her observations from doing the position so far and an evaluation will happen after the board goes over that

Dan Girard discussed a procedure for complaints from one department to another and the protocols, he will be writing one up for approval by the board. Noted that we are spending a lot of time on issues easily sorted out by a conversation.

Marguerite Willis then discussed Berkshire East and a letter she received about them imposing fees that would go to the town as a gift with the first priority being emergency services. There will be more discussion on a memorandum of understanding for the gift and what processes need to be put in place.

Agenda Items:

On a motion by Dan Girard and Second by Marguerite Willis the board accepted Bill Harker's Resignation from the Board of Health and the Planning Board

On a motion by Dan Girard and Second by Bill Harker, Marguerite Willis to remain Chair

The Banner for recruiting EMT's is going to come out of the Ambulance budget

On a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker the board voted to join the Franklin County Regional Dog officer program

On a motion from Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker the board appointed Erwin Reynolds to the position of Large Animal Inspector

Meetings for September and October were then discussed September dates are the 13th and 27th October dates are the 11th and 25th, meeting time will also move to 6:30 pm

On a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker the board approved the library putting a flag out front

Approve and Sign:

On a motion by Dan Girard and Second by Bill Harker the warrants, minutes, Audit agreement and Letter to Senator Hinds were all approved.

On a motion by Dan Girard and second by Bill Harker The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm

Documents Reviewed:

Bill Harker's Resignation from the planning board

Bill Harker's resignation from the board of Health

Audit Letter from Scanlon

Letter to Senator Hinds regarding planning money