

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

September 27, 2021

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The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Select Board Chair Marguerite Willis. Select Board members Dan Girard and William Harker, along with Administrator Sarah Reynolds also attended the meeting. This meeting was conducted via telephone conference and in person 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.

1. Administrator S Reynolds reported that National Grid has reached out to the Town regarding changing out the streetlights to LED. This change is at no cost to the Town and depending upon the wattage chosen, savings to the Town is estimated to be between \$2,307.25 and \$2,112.03. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to switch to LED streetlights at 50 wattage bulbs.
2. Administrator S Reynolds reported that the IT Grant has been filed.
3. Administrator S Reynolds reported that she would like to set up a meeting with the emergency services departments to set up a map for the signs along the river purchased through the sign grant.
4. Administrator S Reynolds reported that the Town does not have to put out an RFP for the Elevator Study Grant but does need to obtain three quotes.
5. Administrator S Reynolds reported that per MassDOT the West Oxbow Road bridge grouting in the soil will need to be done by a specialty company and the grouting will be starting soon.
6. Administrator S Reynolds reported that the repair of the Laurel Lane bridge has started but it has been found that there is more cracking in the bridge than originally thought.
7. Administrator S Reynolds reported that she has found the deed to the Town owned "old box shop" property located on Avery Brook Road. She will be conducting a site visit to that property in the future. This is regarding a suggestion to sell the property.
8. Ms Willis reported that she and Jay Healy attended the school roundtable meeting at the Mohawk School. During the meeting, a chart was displayed showing the financial troubles of the Hawlemont School District. Ms Willis stated that she was disappointed with the meeting.
9. Ms Willis stated that the Charlemont School Committee for the Hawlemont School District will be meeting with the Finance Committee and Select Board on Wednesday, 9/29/21.
10. Ms Willis explained that the various studies (2015 Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and the 2018 MVP Resiliency Plan) displayed on the meeting room table require continuous updating. People do not have the energy, time nor funds to keep creating/updating the same plans that keep repeating themselves. Certain

11. Grants require an updated plan before applying. As an example, a resiliency grant through the FRCOG regarding forest fire vulnerability requires all studies to be updated before applying. Ms Willis will draft a letter to Senator Hinds and Representative Mark, copying Linda Dunlavy, FRCOG, stating that all studies should have a longer life span.
12. A meeting with the Town Boards will be scheduled by Administrator Reynolds to discuss an economic development plan for the Planning Grant received by the Town.
13. Bob Handsaker, Broad Band Committee, attended the meeting to report that Tri Wired has filed for Chapter 11 with a sale arrangement. Tri Wire will continue operations and will honor their contract with the Town Mr. Handsaker has discussed this with the Town Attorney who will be seeking clarity . Counsel states that it is not an unusual activity when a sale is involved.
14. Mr. Handsaker stated that Tri Wire did not issue a performance bond that was a condition in the RFP. Per the contract with Tri Wire, the Town still owes them \$281,000
15. It was agreed that the public should be informed of this development and the Select Board will put out a press release.
16. The Board will contact Town Counsel regarding the need to obtain a performance bond from Tri Wire.
17. The Board met with Byron Gilchrest at 7:15 P.M. to discuss the position of the Charlemont Inn. Ms Willis provided the history between the Town and the Charlemont Inn.
18. Mr. Gilchrest asked the Board if they received a letter dated January 18<sup>th</sup> from Town Counsel that presents an update regarding the court case for the Charlemont Inn. The Board had received the information. Mr. Gilchrest stated that he was the receiver for the Inn but a clear title for the property could not be obtained to Mr. Gilchrest resigned as receiver. A deal was made to sell the Inn to Mr. Gilchrest with a clear title for \$100,000, minus taxes, Now the deal can not go through because the bankruptcy was released, and the Town is moving forward with Tax Taking the property. The Board did not have any knowledge about this deal.
19. Mr. Gilchrest suggests all Boards write to the land court to move this tax title taking case along. The Town Administrator will collect the letters and send them collectively to the land court along with Senator Hinds and Representative Mark. Ms Willis will draft the letter for the Select Board.
20. Mr. Girard presented the Board with his calculations regarding the cost to the Town for the Police Department to comply with the new Police Reform laws. Mr. Girard stated that the laws were written for large cities and does not take into consideration the small Towns west of Interstate 495. With the required tests, insurance, training, and 2 weeks of 10- hour days at the Hudson Academy, older and part time officers will resign. Once an officer has been certified, at the cost to the Town, the officer is under no obligation to stay with the Town but is able to take his certification with him/her. Mr. Girard feels the Town needs to voice our

21. opinion to the legislature and feels Charlemont is not the only small Town under duress and feels these are unreasonable requirements.
22. The Police Reform calculations showing the cost to the Town, and a letter drafted by Ms Willis, will sent to Senator Hinds and Representative Mark.
23. The Berkshire East MassWorks Grant updated Recreational Use Tax Commitment and MOU, Septic Construction and Maintenance Agreement and Purchase and Sale Agreement were reviewed by the Board. The Board voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Harker – yes (Mr. Girard abstained) to approve with the Chair to sign the documents.
24. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to appoint Ms Willis Representative, and Administrator S Reynolds as Alternate, to the Regional Animal Control Advisory Committee.
25. Administrator S Reynolds reported that Police Chief Jared Bellow will be the contact person available 24/7 for Animal Control emergency situations. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to appoint Chief Bellows as emergency contact for Animal Control.
26. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to schedule a half hour meeting on Monday, October 4, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. at the Town Hall meeting room to discuss with Katie and Patrick Banks their concerns regarding permitting for their business.
27. The Board confirmed changing their meeting that was scheduled for Monday, October 11 (holiday) to Tuesday, October 12 at 6:30 P.M.
28. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to approve and sign:
  - Payroll warrant #2211 for \$13,549.24, #2010 for \$10,826.55, #2212 for \$30,750.20.
  - Vendors warrants #2212 for \$120,879.43, #2211 for \$159,778.93, #2213 for \$511,273.24.
  - 9-13-21, 9-9-21 meeting minutes
  - Letter of reference for Cody Ryder
  - Payment of a KP Law invoice
29. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

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 Select Board.

Documents viewed by the Board.

2015 Local Multi—Hazard Mitigation Plan  
2018 MVP Resiliency Plan  
Police Reform calculations  
Recreational Use Tax Commitment and MOU  
Septic Construction and Maintenance Agreement  
Purchas and Sale Agreement  
Warrants  
Minutes  
Letter of reference  
KP Law invoice