

## Charlemont SelectBoard Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021

Charlemont Town Hall and Via phone

Present: Marguerite Willis, Dan Girard, Bill Harker, Bob Handsaker, Jan Ameen, Thorne Palmer, and Sarah Reynolds

### Administrator Report

- a) Ambulance- The administrator shared a chart going over the first attempt at doing an on-call schedule for the ambulance, the hours covered are the ones that the ambulance is currently the most active. The Cost comes in a little under \$50,000 and assumes we use one EMT and one first responder to try and get the coverage needed. The Administrator is to share the chart with Berkshire East, so they know we are ready to try out the on call. Bill Harker will talk to the different campgrounds and see if they would like to contribute to the Ambulance on call idea.
- b) Transfer Station stickers were discussed, the idea for the stickers is to sell for \$1.00 each and require one sticker on a kitchen sized bag (up to 20 gal) two stickers on a regular 30-33-gal trash bag and 3 stickers on the contractor bags. Will add to next agenda for a vote
- c) The elevator study grant is in the getting architect quote stage. So far there has been a few firms who said they are too busy to do the work or even quote it. This is going to be a concern in other areas as well.
- d) Oxbow bridge started the grouting of the soil today, will keep updating the timeframe as we get notified.
- e) The long bridge lights are up but now need the power to be fixed. The solution that seems the best is to move the current power to the pole across the road and run the wire under the road, this eliminates the equipment currently on the Boat House lawn. Dan Girard also mentioned the lip Where the bridge was recently repaired needing some attention.
- f) Succession study was discussed, will have a report by next selectboard meeting in the meantime Dan Girard will meet with Gordon with the job description and find out what we need to be learning and doing to be ready for his retirement. Marguerite Willis explained that she would be suggesting a 10% raise across the board for the town employees because of the current culture for jobs. The wage and salary schedule from FRCOG is available for review, this will be on a future agenda.

### Broadband Appointment 7 Pm

- a) TriWire update, they are working on splicing and turned over FSA05. Our Attorney talked to their Bankruptcy attorney, and it feels like everything is moving and going ok so far.
- b) Financing was recently gone over with David Eisenthal and the notes will roll over to a new one-year note. This will be working capital for the project. If it continues on its current path and we receive the ARPA monies, we could have a 1.1 million debt.
- c) General status update is that when FSA05 is released from testing the general installs can start. Hoping that TriWire picks up on the timeframe with their current push. Timeframe got a little behind with the Bankruptcy lead up.

We are currently 85% constructed

Liaison Reports:

Insurance meeting went well, there is a moratorium on new members for the next 18 months. VEAC committee meeting working on bussing routes, Hawley had complained that it was not fair that Charlemont not get charged for seats on the bus from Rowe.

7:15 Appointment

Jan Ameen explained that the Compost Cooperative would provide two sixty-four-gallon wheeled carts that would be picked up weekly. It would cost \$1,500 a year and can be paid from the RDP fund. It would also be covered for the town to purchase the homeowner pails with lids to put the composting in. Marguerite Willis would like to test the pail weight out, to see if they would be too heavy for the residents to want to deal with. There was also discussion about where to put the carts as to not attract wildlife- they could be wheeled into the box truck body by the recycle dumpsters at night. Marguerite Willis stated if the composting is done properly there may not be too much issue, things like grass clippings and coffee and fruit peelings belong but meat, bones etc. do not.

There will be a little more research done and the board will discuss at the next meeting.

Liaison Reports:

Hawlemont has two meetings coming up related to the budget and the norther Berkshire option.

The economic development project needs to be wrapped up by June 30, 2022, would like to give the consultants a deadline of the end of March of next year to get a report if that is adequate also would like to have the business meeting possibly in November. Administrator is sending out the quote request and will see what they say as far as turn around times. November 17<sup>th</sup> works if they can do a meeting that early.

Agenda Items:

- a) Transfer station position is advertised at the post office, the transfer station and on the website. Will proceed with it and see if we get any responses by next selectboard meeting
- b) The Board voted on a motion by Dan Girard and Second by Marguerite Willis to hire Susan Vight at a rate of \$16.00 per hour. Bill Harker abstained.
- c) On a motion by Marguerite Willis and second by Dan Girard the ap warrant dated 10/05/21 and the payroll warrant dated 09/29/21 were approved for signing
- d) The board recognized Bunny Healy for work done cleaning the Little Red Schoolhouse for the Columbus Day event held there.

On a motion by Bill Harker and second by Dan Girard the meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

