

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 15, 2024, 6:30 pm
in person, Town Hall Meeting Room, 157 Main Street, Charlemont

Members in attendance: Jared Bellows, Kim Blakeslee
Members Absent: Valentine Reid
Others in attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Thorne Palmer, Madison Schofield
On phone: Star Atkeson

Jared Bellows called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Appointments:

6:30 PM – Thorne Palmer Re: appointment of election workers.

Thorne recently learned that the election workers need to be appointed by the Select Board.

Jared Bellows motioned to appoint all of the people Thorne read from the list of election workers.

Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

Administrator reports:

1) Effects of Massachusetts emission standards legislation on medium and heavy-duty vehicle (highway trucks) availability starting in model year 2025 production.

In 2021 Massachusetts adopted California Motor Vehicles emissions standards to start in 2025, for heavy and medium duty trucks. As of January 1st, 2025, diesel trucks are not supposed to be purchased. Emergency and public vehicles are exempt from this. The plows and dump trucks are included. The problem is that 0 emission trucks are not available. Also, the charging infrastructure is not there yet. The Rural Director is talking to the DEP, many states have delayed the enactment because of non-availability of vehicles and the hope that the technology will advance. Multiple towns have large obstacles. Sarah gave the Select Board the information so that they can read up on it.

2) Budget Program Grant from DLS, quotes and next steps

The Town was awarded the grant. Jared asked to postpone the topic for the next meeting when Val will be present.

3) Response from Shelburne about bottles and cans collections at transfer station

The can receptacle building at the transfer station was built by the Mohawk Athletic Program, so the proceeds will stay with the Mohawk Athletic program. It was good to have the conversation. They will be better about emptying it and have provided a contact person.

4) Colonial and Aflac Quotes for accident insurance

Town employees who pay into retirement do not pay into social security. If someone gets hurt, they will be without coverage, as they are not eligible for social security disability. Sarah asked around to other towns to see what they are doing and got quotes from Colonial and Aflac. Val and Sarah decided on Colonial as it's user-friendly and the reps are more local. Employees can choose a plan from different tiers. The plans need a few subscribers to start. if people withdraw later it wouldn't mess up the run for the other employees. They will bring the topic up with the finance committee next year to

discuss the employer contribution. **Jared Bellows made a motion to grant Sarah Reynolds the authority to do that. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.**

Liaison reports and actions:

1) Town Hall Telephone System quote received

Val emailed Jared that he met and worked with Microsoft phones and was exploring the challenges and the new equipment. He has not billed the time to the Town.

2) Council on Aging **item not foreseen last 48 hours.

Kim Blakeslee attended the Council on Aging meeting. There were many questions regarding Senior Housing and what the Select Board is doing to address and communicate regarding the need for housing for the elderly in Town. Kim told them she would bring it up at the meeting. Kim will call Linda Wagner to see who manages the budget.

Agenda items:

1) Discuss a new tax title taking process policy to incorporate statute changes.

State Legislature changed the Tax title taking process. Charlemont's parcels are usually vacant land. KP Law sent an update with bullet points on how it would affect the town. Sarah talked to Lynn Hathaway and Val and printed an email based on the KP Law update, it will be edited for Charlemont, then sent to the attorney, to be voted at the next meeting. Lynn has okayed the policy. The Board are thinking that the only way to afford the new process, which requires a real estate agent, is to batch them and do them annually in October. It will impact the people who are in tax title. The interest rate is currently 16% and will drop to 8% for new cases after November 1st. Previous balances will remain at 16%. **Jaren Bellows motioned to send the policy to the attorney. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in Favor.**

2) EV Chargers at Hawlemont – update and paperwork for National Grid make ready application

This paperwork is to authorize National Grid to do the make-ready preparations ahead of the chargers being installed, there will be no cost to the Town. **Jared Bellows motioned to move ahead with the National Grid make ready work and to sign the paperwork. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.**

3) Letter from Shelburne Falls Fire District about ambulance service to Hawley, and letter from Hawley about exploration of a regional Paramedic Ambulance Service.

The Board reviewed the letter and spoke about the most likely causes for Shelburne to stop taking calls in Hawley, staffing and cost. The Board reviewed the request from Hawley to form a regional paramedic ambulance service in Western County. Jared will work with Sarah to get Dana (Ambulance director) to the next meeting, with Hawley, to address the issue quickly.

4) Letter about United States of America's 250th Anniversary and possible commemoration activities for Charlemont.

The Board read the letter from Marguerite Willis. The 250th anniversary will happen in 2026. Kim Blakeslee will reach out to Marguerite.

5) Request for Proposals for Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall and Parking Upgrades- review and next steps. The RFPs have not changed since the last version. Mike Hayden brought it back to Parks and Rec; everyone had a chance to see them. Sarah let the Board know that she has a request in for the DCR bathroom plans and info and hasn't heard back yet. **Jared Bellows motioned to move forward the Requests for Proposals. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.**

6) Town Cori Procedure for hiring employees.

Val and Sarah chose a model CORI policy from the State. Town departments can fine tune the policy for their purposes. The Board, including Val, are good with the policy. (Kim read from an email that Val sent.) **Jared Bellows motioned to accept and make this Charlemont's policy. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.**

7) Bridge over Deerfield River "Long Bridge" proposal for park/bench type area on Department of Transportation property at end of Bridge. Val wrote a letter and sent it to MassDOT that a suggestion came up to put a park bench on their property.

Approve/sign/approve and sign:

1) Payroll PR 2511-2514 and vendor warrants AP 2511-2514

Jared Bellows made a motion to sign the payroll and vendor warrants. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

*** 2) Minutes from October 7, 2024

Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign the Minutes of October 7, 2024. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

3) Warrant for November 5, 2024 State election for ward 0 precinct 1

Jared Bellows motioned to sign the warrants for the November 5th election. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion, all in favor.

Jared Bellows motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

Documents viewed at the meeting:

- Minutes of October 7, 2024
- Agenda for October 15, 2024
- Warrant for state election for Ward 0, Precinct 1 for the November 5th 2024 election
- List of election officials provided by Thorne Palmer, dated 10-08-2024
- Letter dated Sept. 26, 2024, from Hussain Hamdan, Hawley Select Board re: Regional Full time Paramedic Ambulance Service
- Letter dated September 18, 2024, from the Shelburne Falls Fire District to The Town of Hawley Board of Select men re: Shelburne Falls Ambulance to cease responding to Hawley calls
- Page with "CARB notes from DEP"
- Packet dated 10/10/2024, A proposal for Charlemont Town of, prepared by Advantage Truck Group, Jason Page provide by Scott Sullivan

- Memo: Board of Select, From: Marguertite Willis, Re: U.S.A. 250th Anniversary, with Marshfield Annual Town Report insert: *Revolutionary War Honor Roll Committee*
- Charlemont Tax Title Taking Policy
- DLS Bulletin: Recent Legislation, dated September 2024 from: Kenneth Woodland, Chief, Municipal Finance law Bureau, August 30, 2024
- Massachusetts Municipal Association memo: re: FY24 Closeout Supp Budget – Technical Language to Recent Tax Title Foreclosure Changes (via Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, Sections 80-99, 250)
- Town of Charlemont DCJIS CORI POLICY
- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Acknowledgement Form (Blank Form)
- Request for Proposal (RFP) for Parking Lot and Driveway Improvements
- Request for proposal (RFP) Weatherization, Window installation, Electrical upgrades, and bathroom renovation for the Exhibit Hall
- East Coast renewable Energy Authorization Form
- Letter from Valentine Reid dated October 15th, 2024, re: parcel IDs for 10 school Street
- Same letter as above, signed by Sarah Reynolds
- Email dated October 4, 2024, from Nick Valorie to Sarah Reynolds re: Process: Donation of Level 3 Charging stations to Charlemont
- Packet from East Coast Renewable Energy Authorization form; EV Charging Solution Estimate; East Coast Renewable Energy Donation Program (Donation vs: ECR Ownership); Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station Electrical Infrastructure Application; Sample ROI/NPV
- ClearGov service order dated October 18, 2024