

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

January 3, 2022
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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 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 the December court date for the Charlemont Inn was to begin the process of notifying interested parties (15 parties) of the Town's intention to take the property, allowing interested parties to respond by February 7th, their intention to redeem their interest. A hearing on February 8th will set a fixed price to redeem. The Town will receive another update after the February 8th court hearing.
2. Ms Willis stated that since her last e-mail report on the 12/27/21 Hawlemont School Committee meeting nothing has changed. The Board will consult with the Finance Committee regarding placing an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The Hawlemont budget with level services as it stands is a 22% increase from last year.
3. Administrator S Reynolds will distribute a questionnaire to the Boards and Departments asking for their thoughts regarding communication to the Community.
4. The Town will schedule a public meeting regarding Economic Development once available dates are received from the planner.
5. Mr. Girard stated that he does not feel the Town is in a position to take up the Fire Salary Step Program that was submitted by the Fire Chief. The Town would need to create a Step program of all Town positions which would increase the total Town budget and potentially drive a wedge with other Departments. Administrator S Reynolds stated that the Program came from the Town of Rowe, a Town that has more revenue and more employees than Charlemont. Ms Willis agreed and stated that she feels the need to speak on the workforce crisis with the Finance Committee. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to table the Step Program for a year.
6. Mr. Girard stated that the Assistance to Fire Fighter Safer Grant is all inclusive including insurance costs. The Grant is to hire two full time Fire Fighters/EMTs for the length of the Grant which is 3 years. The Town will need to notify the staff that the position will end in 3 years and the Town will need to create the job description. Ms Willis is concerned that there will be an expectation from the public at the end of the 3 years and suggested the Town look at how an on call EMT will mesh. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard –

- yes, Mr. Harker – yes to apply for the Grant with no requirement to accept if the grant is awarded.
7. Mr. Harker and Administrator S Reynolds will schedule a meeting with Mr. Coli to assess his property that he is voicing his concern. Mr. Harker will schedule the meeting sometime next week.
 8. The Board received a response from Jonathan Winfisky regarding an e-mail sent to him stating that the sand shed is for residential use and not for contractors. The Highway Superintendent has ordered a sign to place on the shed and has the cooperation of the Police Department. Mr. Girard will draft a sand shed policy and guidelines with possible punishments. Placing cameras pointing at the sand shed was discussed. Ms Willis will draft a response to Mr. Winfisky.
 9. Bob Handsaker, Broad Band Chair attended the meeting for his 7:00 P.M. standing appointment. Mr. Handsaker stated that he does not have any updates to provide at this time and asked the Board if they have any questions for him. Mr. Handsaker was asked if he had a timeline of when the fiber optic will be fully operational. Mr. Handsaker stated that it is too risky to make predictions due to current COVID situation.
 10. Mr. Girard reported that there is \$75,000 to be distributed to Franklin County towns to pay for the required Bridge Academy police training. This will be approximately \$6,338 per officer or \$2,113 for 3 Charlemont Officers that will be required to take the training this year. Charlemont will have a total of 7 Officers needing the training, three this year and the rest next year. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to approve and sign the FRCOG Bridge Academy Memorandum of Agreement.
 11. The Board received confirmation from the Planning Board that the CCC notice of the proposed Marijuana Establishment on Mountain Branch Road meets the criteria of the establishments special permit. Mr. Girard stated he feels in the long run, backwoods marijuana establishments will cost the Town additional emergency services. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to confirm compliance and sign the notice.
 12. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to schedule their regular meetings on January 18 and 31, February 14 and 28.
 13. Ms Willis notified the Board that the joint budget meetings with the Finance Committee will take place on Wednesdays at 4:00 P.M.
 14. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to schedule a meeting with the Planning Board to review draft zoning changes on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.
 15. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve and sign:
 - Payroll warrant #2225 for \$13,678.60, #2224 for \$22,513.22
 - Vendor warrant #2225 for \$133,992.62
 - KP Law invoice

16. Business being concluded, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Approved by:
Charlemont Select Board

Kathy A. Reynolds
Executive Secretary

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

Documents reviewed by the Board.

Vendor and Payroll warrants
KP Law Invoice
CCC notice
Bridge Academy Memorandum of Agreement
E-mail from Jonathan Winfisky
Fire Department Step program