

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

April 11, 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 in person and via telephone conference.

1. Chair Marguerite Willis opened the alcohol license hearing at 6:30 P.M. The hearing was scheduled upon the application of Wicked Awesome Events LLC d/b/a Amongst the Oaks, Brandon Long, Manager for a seasonal all alcohol section 12 license at 42 Burrington Road in Charlemont. Mr. Long explained that the license will be for his wedding events venue that is already permitted through the Planning Board. As no one attending the meeting had any comments, the Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve the application. The hearing was closed at 6:45 P.M.
2. Administrator Sarah Reynolds reported:
  - The 25% design hearing for the East Oxbow Bridge occurred last week. Comments regarding the design will be taken for 10 days after the hearing. The slides presented at the hearing have been placed upon the Town website.
  - Meetings regarding the Hazard Mitigation updates are scheduled with the Seniors and Town.
  - The Town is officially using stickers on Trash bags and have been sold to Cold River and Neighbors in 200 sticker bundles.
3. Frank Carcio, Veterans Representative was recognized at 6:45 P.M. to discuss the closing of the VA Hospital in Northampton/Leeds MA. Mr. Carcio explained that he frequents the VA, and the buildings are currently be renovated. Many Veterans use the VA in Northampton/Leeds, young and old alike. Mr. Carcio requested the Board to write to the Legislature to ask them to contact the Federal Legislature regarding the concerns with closing of the facilities. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willi s- yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to write to Senator Hinds, Representative Mark and Blais regarding the closing of these facilities and referencing an article from the Greenfield Recorder and from The New England Public Media report.
4. Bob Handsaker, Broad Band Committee Chair attended the meeting ad 7:00 P.M. Mr. Handsaker reported that the last two areas of Town have been lit up and are ready for installations. The make ready true up with the State was approved. The final spreadsheet will be ready to be voted by the Board at their next meeting. It has been reported that there are some people driving around Town looking at the Broad Band set up, but it is nothing to worry about, they are conducting a survey.

5. Mr. Harker stated that there are still five reels of wire at the Fairgrounds that has been left for repairs if needed. The reels will be placed behind the Highway Garage.
6. Continued Administrators report:
  - The Elevator study conducted by Jablonski regarding adding an elevator to the back of the Town Hall has been completed. Jablonski would like to meet with the Board to discuss the study. The Board chose Wednesday, April 27 at 6:00 P.M. to meet with Jablonski.
  - Mr. Girard will work with the Administrator regarding setting up an internet system with a firewall/equipment needed and a proper e-mail system for the Town. Several quotes were received but will need to be vetted.
  - Several quotes for a new telephone system were received. The Board will review the quotes and the Administrator will present the costs to the Finance Committee.
7. The Board received information regarding the process for an addition to the Fire Station or for a new Public Safety Building from the Fire Chief. The current Station is in the flood plain, along with all the emergency equipment. A new building can be up to \$1.5 million or more. The proposal submitted by the Fire Chief also suggests that the building might be able to hold Town Offices and common area as well. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to create a search/recommendation Committee and to announce the creation of the Committee at the Annual Town Meeting.
8. An e-mail was received from Chris Smithers explaining that he is unable to find an NCCR online course that works with his schedule will result in his EMT status to expire. Credits are hard to maintain due to work and course schedules. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to accept his resignation with the hope that he will be able to come back in the future. Mr. Girard will send Mr. Smithers and e-mail stating the same.
9. Ms Willis reported that the Town budget has enough funding for the Voke/Tech tuition. The busing contract does not have a fuel adjustment clause but the cost of busing will increase approximately \$67,00.
10. Mr. Girard reported that he met with Police Chief Jared Bellows. Currently there are 9 officers in the Police department. The town be down to 3 officers if they all pass the Academy. There is a need for an Interim Police Chief for a 6-month trial basis with a 2-month review with the Board. An Officer in Charge is no longer recognized. The Interim Chief will be to transition over to the Chief's duties. The only person for the Interim position is Jay Pelletier. Chief Bellows will be leaving in 11 weeks. Officer Pelletier will be 32 hours per week as Interim. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes. Mr. Harker – yes to start the transition with Officer Pelletier.

11. The Board read a letter of resignation from Michael Walsh, Hawlemont School Committee member. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to accept the resignation.
12. The Board received a recommendation from Beth Flaherty for the new vacant Hawlemont School Committee seat. The recommendation is for the Board to appoint Cheryl Handsaker to the position until the next Annual Election. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to appoint Ms Handsaker as recommended. Ms Willis explained that the Select Board would like the Hawlemont School Committee members to communicate with the Board frequently. Ms Handsaker was sworn in during the meeting.
13. The Board unanimously voted Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to include on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant:
  - East Oxbow Bridge layout and authorization to acquire property
  - Amendments to the Mohawk Trail Regional School district Agreement
  - Petition for a Recall Bylaw
14. The Board decided an article to work with the Town of Hawley towards sustaining the Hawlemont Elementary School can be conducted without a Town Meeting vote. It is not necessary to be on the Warrant.
15. The Board next discussed the Federal and State Holiday Juneteenth. Ms Willis stated that the FRCOG took Patriots Day away from their employees and gave them Juneteenth in its place. Mr. Girard made a motion to instead of Juneteenth as a holiday, the Board give employees an extra personal day per year to be taken as needed. This motion was unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to begin July 1, 2022.
16. Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve and sign:
  - Payroll warrant #2239 for \$9,787.73, #2238 for \$13,040.02
  - Vendor warrant #2239 for \$25,956.12 and #2238 for \$36,716.49
  - 3-28-22 Select Board minutes
  - Thank you letter to Michael Walsh
  - East Oxbow Road Bridge Layout
  - Hawk Hill Road Order of Alteration of Layout
  - Comstar 2022 rate change form
  - Bone Frog Special Event Application (Mr. Girard recused)
  - NCC Annual Bicycle Race on June 25, 2022
  - Engineering contract with Gill Engineering for the 8A North project.
17. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 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.

3-28-22 Select Board minutes  
Warrants  
Thank you letter to Michael Walsh  
East Oxbow Road layout  
Hawk Hill Road Order of Alteration of Layout  
Comstar rate change form  
Bone Frog Special Event Application  
NCC Bicycle Race notification  
Gill Engineering Contract  
Liquor license application  
The New England Public Media report  
Greenfield Recorder article  
Elevator study  
Telephone quotes  
Process for an addition/building  
e-mail from Chris Smithers  
Letter of resignation  
Letter of recommendation  
Town Meeting Warrant Articles

