

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

December 5, 2022

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The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Select Board Chair Valentine Reid. Select Board member Daniel Girard (via telephone) with Administrator Sarah Reynolds, also attended the meeting. Select Board member Marguerite Willis was absent. This meeting was conducted in person and via telephone conference.

1. Chair Reid called the Tax Classification Hearing to order at 6:30 P.M. Assessor's Jacqueline Cashin, Karen Rau, Anthony Ostroski and Assessor's Secretary Carlene Hayden attended the hearing. The hearing posting was read by Chair Reid. Secretary Hayden explained the different taxation scenarios. The hearing was tabled until 6:35 due to a telephone scammer. The hearing resumed at 6:40 P.M. It was explained that the override vote was not necessary as the Assessor's realized a higher new growth than anticipated. The Assessor's recommended the Select Board vote a single tax rate with a levy below the limit. This will give a tax rate of \$20.63 per thousand which is a rate \$.10 lower than last year's rate.
2. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, a single tax rate with a levy below the limit.
3. Administrator S Reynolds reports.
 - The 8A North Road project is completed until spring when the top course of pavement and grounds work will be completed
 - Mohawk Regional High School is starting their FY2024 budget process and encourages more participation from the District Towns. There will be an increase in SPED, but the school will not have ESSER funds for new positions. Also, this is a teacher negotiation year.
 - Asks the Board for permission to receive an opinion regarding the Meeting Room floor as to what will be the best action to take regarding its renovation. The Board agreed and gave permission.
4. Robert Handsaker, Broad Band Chair, attended the meeting to introduce Laura Fulton to the Board. Mr. Handsaker would like the Board to appoint Ms Fulton to the vacant position on the Broad Band Committee. Ms Fulton stated that she purchased her home in August and learned there was an opening on the Committee. Ms Fulton stated that she has a background in cyber security operations. As this appointment was not on the agenda, the Board agreed to conduct the appointment at their next meeting on December 19th. Mr. Handsaker reported the Committee is working on cold drops and finishing connections and should be receiving a new Whip City contract.

5. Administrator S Reynolds report continued:
 - Tighe & Bond is conducting a study for the FRCOG regarding water and waste-water systems and feel the Village could benefit from a public water supply. Tighe & Bond would be doing the feasibility study which will be paid for by grants. The board agreed to proceed with this study.
6. Anne Kaplan, Hawlemont School Committee, attended the meeting to report:
 - She erred when she reported the \$100,000 funding was received, it has not
 - The quote for a boiler for the school is for oil
 - School is holding a read-a-thon celebration
 - 5th and 6th graders are participating in a play at Mohawk
 - A strategic plan is being worked on
 - Ms Kaplan is to find out why the school is looking at oil boilers instead of other alternative boilers
7. Continued Administrator S Reynolds report:
 - The FRCOG likes the draft IT policies but there has not been any response from the State. The local police receive information regarding Cyber security incidents then forwards a report to the State Police but is not sure where else this report should go. Ms Reynolds will contact our State Representatives to ask what to do with this information.
 - Northfield Ambulance sent a counteroffer in response to receiving the Charlemont Ambulance contract. The counter contract is for \$350 per call. The Ambulance Director does not support entering into this contract as it sets a bad precedence with the other ambulance companies. A letter will be drafted to Northfield Ambulance by the Charlemont Ambulance Director and Administrator asking why they are not happy with Charlemont's contract.
8. Appointment of Randy Prostack to the Agricultural/forestry Commission was continued to the next meeting so Mr. Prostack can attend the meeting.
9. The Board reviewed the job description for the Animal Inspector. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Reid – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, to approve the document. Mr. Reid stated he intends to take the job description to the Transfer Station to actively pursue filling the position.
10. The Board unanimously voted to approve/approve and sign:
 - Vendor warrant 2320 for \$75,692.18
 - Letter to the FRTA regarding bus signage
 - 4 Special Town Election Warrants
 - KP Law invoice
 - Yearly licenses for:
Alcohol licenses:

Crab Apple Whitewater, Charlemont Pizza, Berkshire East, 133 Warfield
LLC, Cold River Package, 4 Family, Wicked Awesome Events, Wells
Provisions

Class II Auto: Matt's Automotive, Stage Coach Auto

Class III Junk dealers: Frank Taylor, A.J. Sparda

11. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Approved by:
Charlemont Select Board

Kathy A Reynolds
Executive Secretary

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

Documents viewed by the Board:

- Weekly warrants
- Special Election Warrants
- Letter to the FRTA
- KP Law invoice
- Yearly licenses
- Animal Inspector job description
- Tax Classification options