

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

February 14, 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. Jeffrey Brisson had scheduled an appointment with the Board for 6:30 P.M. to discuss the sand she policy but unfortunately, he was not able to attend. In his absence he sent a letter and requested it be read aloud during the meeting. Also on the agenda was the subject of Sand Policy which the Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to move up on the agenda. Mr. Girard read the letter from Mr. Brisson aloud. Mr. Girard stated that at the 2002 Annual Town Meeting, it was voted to direct the Select Board to establish and enact a policy regarding road sand. The article as voted was read. Mr. Girard went on to explain that the Town is not allowed to sell sand as the Town would have to charge tax and pay tax on the sand sold. Also, sand would need to be deemed surplus and go out to bid. The additional barricades put in place are to deter commercial vehicles from using Town sand paid for by taxpayers to be used for a profit. Frank Mooney attended the meeting and explained that his driveway is exceptionally long, and the amount of sand allowed for residents would not be enough to sand his driveway. He also uses Town sand for his other properties and for his business. Mr. Girard also stated that no one is sitting around monitoring the cameras that have been installed. Ms Willis stated that as she sees it there are two issues, sand for commercial use and the possibility of purchasing a sticker from the Town for residents to get sand for their driveways. Mr. Girard stated that the Board want to bring a bylaw to Town Meeting that focuses on commercial entities so fines may be issued. Ms Willis stated that commercial sanders will not have access to the Town sand and the Board will need to formula a bylaw for Town Meeting. Administrator S Reynolds will respond to Mr. Brisson.
2. Robert Handsaker, Broad Band Committee Chair, attended the meeting to give the Select Board updates regarding the fiber optic network. Another section of the build has been opened for installations. The Committee is working with other Towns to create a connection to reduce blackouts and reduce cost to the Town. The Committee will be applying for a Community Compact grant with the Town of Colrain as the lead Town. The Select Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis - yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve applying for the Community Compact Grant. Mr. Handsaker stated that sustainability of the network is good, and the Committee is looking at the budget for FY23.

3. Ambulance Director Dana Johnston attended the meeting with Kristen Martin to request the Board appointment Kristen to the Ambulance Department. Mr. Johnson stated the Ms Martin is an assistant to the Fire Department in Vermont, has taken the VTEMT course and is also on the Charlemont Fire Department. Ms Martin has also taken the Mass EMT. exam. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to appoint Kristen Martin to the Ambulance Department. Ms Martin was sworn in during the meeting.
4. Administrator S Reynolds reported that the Budget and Policy Committee has reported favorably on the Rec Tax. Senator Hinds office will be sending updates to the Town regarding any movement.
5. Administrator S Reynolds reported that she received a pamphlet from Senator Hinds and Markey’s office regarding infrastructure investment and jobs act-grants that includes project lists for roads, bridges, and dirt roads. The Long Bridge project is on the TIP. Priority bridges in Town include South River Road, Burnt Hill Road, and Avery Brook Road. Shared Streets program has radar signs and sidewalk equipment. Wildfire Projects is also in the pamphlet.
6. Administrator S Reynolds reported that she has met with Jessica Atwood and the person doing the CIS mapping for the river signs. Mile marker signs are being placed along the river above the Gap area Sections of the river will have color coded signs.
7. Administrator S Reynolds stated that she has found speakers for a microphone system that are priced at \$99.00 each. It was agreed to purchase two speakers for Town Meeting use.
8. Administrator S Reynolds reported that the Town can apply for a new furnace for the Town Hall through the Green Communities Destination Grant. It is suggested that National Grid review the radiators. Grid has been contacted and has agreed to review the radiators. Sandri is coming the week of Presidents Day to review the current furnace.
9. Administrator S Reynolds reported that she has reached out to find a cost to replace the current telephone system. Bob Handsaker will be contacted to see if he may be aware of an internet business phone system.
10. Administrator S Reynolds reported that the current Hazard Mitigation Plan will be updated for free as the Town has received a grant for this project.
11. Administrator S Reynolds reported that the STOP Program for rural and small-town grant program for the subdivision roads has a maximum award of \$400,000. This could enable up to 22 lots to be sold and developed. The Board instructed the Administrator to go for it.
12. Administrator S Reynolds reported that a person of interest in the Court case with the Charlemont Inn has passed. Now the heirs of that person of interest must be found and notified. The case has been pushed back to April.
13. Ms Willis submitted a letter to Senator Hinds and Representative Paul Mark regarding the Same Day Registration Legislation. The Board unanimously voted,

- Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to approve and sign the letter.
14. Ms Willis reported that not all residents are returning their Street Listing forms and not all people are being reported for each household. Ms Willis will write a press release urging the return of the forms.
 15. Ms Willis reported that dog walkers on the sidewalks of Main Street are not picking up after their pets, leaving the sidewalks littered with dog poop. This is not the jurisdiction of the ACO and questioned the Board if a bylaw should be created so the Police Department would be able to hand out tickets for not picking up after their dog. Ms Willis will draft a letter to be sent to all dog owners in the village. The letter will be sent once approved by the Board.
 16. Ms Willis reported that she has met with a member of the Woodland Partnership and is working on getting the Partnership to work on economic development of wood products.
 17. Mr. Girard submitted and read an update regarding the speeding on Main Street. The State Police Truck Team and the State Police will be in Town at various locations from time to time. The Charlemont Police will continue with enforcement activities. Mr. Girard has consulted with Lieutenant Bakey regarding actions that can be taken if issues arise in court.
 18. Mr. Harker suggested the Town place an advertisement for the Highway Superintendent position in The Recorder and the Berkshire Eagle with a deadline to apply of March 18th. The pay range will be \$24 to \$30 per hour depending on the qualifications of the applicant. This will be a working Superintendent position with computer skills. The ad will be for 2 weeks. Administrator S Reynolds will report the cost of the ads to the Board.
 19. The HRA Annual report will be placed onto the Town website and in the Town newsletter.
 20. Ms Willis will draft a letter to Senator Hinds and Representative Mark regarding the inequity in state Transportation Reimbursement for Vocation students.
 21. Administrator S Reynolds will create a collage of the Emergency Services Departments for the Annual Town Report Dedication. This collage will be reviewed at the next meeting.
 22. A copied letter to Senator Hinds regarding renting of a space for a tourism office was so noted.
 23. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Girard – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve and sign:
 - Payroll warrant #2231 for \$12,463.18, #2230 for \$13,540.03
 - Vendor warrant #2231 for \$65,792.91 and #2230 for \$38,712.55
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning Memorandum of Understanding
 - 1-19-22 minutes and 1-26-22 Joint Board & Finance Committee minutes
 - Vacation request from the Executive Secretary/Town Clerk
 24. Business being concluded, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 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
Hazard Mitigation Planning MOU
1-19-22 and 1-26-22 minutes
Vacation request
Letter regarding rental space
HRA Annual report
Speeding on Main Street update
SDR Letter
Sand policy letter
2002 Annual Town Meeting vote