

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

April 25, 2022  
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The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Select Board Chair Marguerite Willis. Select Board member William Harker, along with Administrator Sarah Reynolds also attended the meeting. Select Board member Dan Girard was absent from this meeting. This meeting was conducted in person and via telephone conference.

1. The Board had 5 minutes until their first appointment, so the Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to approve and sign:
  - Payroll warrants #2340 for \$17,476.48 and # 2241 for \$ 9,255.96
  - Vendor warrants #2246 for \$65,496.59 and # 2241 for \$122,990.36
  - 3-21-22 Select Board minutes
2. Administrator Sarah Reynolds reported:
  - The South River Road bridge is on the MassDOT State TIP list
  - The first round of ARPA funds has been filed. The next round will be in July. So far Charlemont has received \$179,000. The Total of ARPA funds for Charlemont is \$368,000.
3. At 6:35 P.M. Police Chief Jared Bellows and Office Jay Pelletier were recognized. Chief Bellows recommended to the Board that Officer Pelletier be appointed Interim Police Chief as it will take some time to set him up to take over as Chief if the Board chooses to do so. Officer Pelletier will be eligible to join the Bridge Academy July 1<sup>st</sup> and feels if he is not the one to take over the Chief position the Town may end up with someone the Town does not want to in that position. Officer Pelletier has been on the Charlemont force since 2016 and second in command for the last 3 years. If he is appointed Interim Police Chief, he can be set up now to take over by June 30. the Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to appoint Jay Pelletier Interim Police Chief, effective July 1, 2022, with an evaluation in early January 2023, Questions for the evaluation will be forwarded to the Board by Chief Bellows.
4. If the police cruiser should stay in Town and not be brought home by Officer Pelletier will be discussed at a future meeting when the Mr. Girard, Police liaison, is in attendance.
5. Continued Administrator reports:
  - The final tubing regulations from the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental affairs was received. The regulations apply to commercial outfitters. The regulations have been forwarded the commercial outfitters.
  - The Heath Parks and Rec Commission asks Charlemont to join Heath and Rowe as a co-submitter for a three-town consortium grant under the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grant Program. The Grant is for a feasibility study to create a defined regional hiking trail through Charlemont, Heath and Rowe. The trail could be an extension of

the Mahican-Mohawk Trail. The properties in Charlemont have Conservation Restrictions. It was questioned who would be responsible for maintenance of the trail and who would carry the liability. These questions could not be answered. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to respectfully decline the offer. Administrator S Reynolds will respond to the Heath Parks and Rec Commission.

6. Ms Willis reported that the State does not reimburse VEAC for transportation costs in the year it is budgeted.
7. At 7:00 P.M. Bob Handsaker, Broad Band Committee Chair was recognized. Mr. Handsaker reported that the last two areas in Town have been released for installations. Only a few houses have not been fully validated. The make ready true-up amount is \$353,300. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis -yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve this amount.
8. Mr. Harker informed Mr. Handsaker that there is still wire left at the fairgrounds that is not on a spool. The wire is located by the Pod.
9. Ms Willis reported that the Mohawk 2D Agreement has been signed.
10. The FRCOG After Action Report meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> will include COVID. Mr. Harker, Ms Willis and Administrator S Reynolds will attend this meeting. Board of Health Chair Doug Telling will be invited to join the meeting.
11. A quote for repairing the Transfer Station Swap Shed roof was received from Donaldson Builders LLC in the amount of \$4,500. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to accept the quote and use the RDP funds to pay for the repairs.
12. At 7:15 P.M. the Board recognized Jay Healy who attended the meeting to provide Woodlands Partnership Plan updates. Mr. Healy reported that there are 17 Towns who are assisting with woodlands issues such as payment in lieu of taxes, rural economic development issues, trails, Grants. Mr. Healy informed the Board that he is submitting a Farm Grant to the Partnership for the feasibility of having wood crafters at the farm. There is already a couple of wood business at the farm and the Grant may help with keeping the Hall Tavern Farm working. Mr. Healy asked the Board for a short letter of support for his grant. Ms Willis stated that the Town needs economic development and there is a strong artesian wood market in the area. Mr. Healy stated that only 2% of the wood grown in Mass is used in Mass. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to craft a letter supporting Mr. Healy’s Grant and send it to Bob O’Connor before Wednesday.
13. Lisa Hayden from the Woodlands Partnership thanked the Board for the time and explained that the Partnership is updating their 10-year plan and will forward the plan to the Board once completed.
14. Mr. Harker reported that the Ladies Garden Club would like to plant year-round flowers along the front of the Town Hall. The Club will take care of weeding and watering the flowers. Ms Willis wants to speak with one of the Club members,

- Wesley Janssen about the plan. Ms Willis will report back to the Board at the next meeting.
15. The Board received a petition from Wells Provisions, stating that they would like to donate picnic tables, to be placed upon the Town Hall front lawn, which would be maintained and put in winter storage by Wells Provisions. Ms Willis stated that she thinks that is a great idea. Mr. Harker would like to find out more about this donation. Parking, trash, other Town businesses, liability, number of tables were questioned. Ms Willis will research further and report back to the Board at the next meeting.
  16. Cheryl Handsaker sent in a request to have all Select Board meeting materials scanned and placed onto the Town website. Administrator S Reynolds read aloud the opinion of Town Counsel regarding this request. Ms Willis stated that she is not willing to make more work with minimum employees and that copies documents can be requested on an individual basis. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, not to place meeting packets onto the Town website.
  17. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, to accept a donation of \$50.00 from Dot Giffin to be placed into the Cemetery Gift fund.
  18. The Board decided to hold a Meet the Candidates night on either Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, depending upon the candidate's availability. The event will take place at 6:30 P.M. at the Hawlemont Elementary School. Other candidates whose name appears on the Annual town Election ballot are welcome to attend. Administrator S Reynolds will see if the budget can be explained on the same night.
  19. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve and sign the DEP application for freon at the Transfer Station.
  20. The Board reviewed the draft articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. It was decided to request \$20,000 for the East Oxbow Ridge easement costs. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Mr. Harker – yes to approve the articles and send them to Town Counsel for review and opinion.
  21. Ms Willis read a letter from the Board of Assessors thanking the Board for cleaning and painting the Town Hall.
  22. The notice from Pan Am Railways regarding their herbicide application on the tracks will be placed upon the Town website.
  23. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 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.

Warrants  
Board minutes  
Tubing regulations  
E-mail from the Heath Parks and Rec Commission  
Quote for repair of the Transfer Station Swap Shed roof  
Petition  
Request from Chery Handsaker  
Cemetery donation  
DEP Application  
Town Meeting Warrant Articles  
Thank you letter  
Herbicide application notice