

Town of Charlemont
Joint Finance Committee and Select Board Meeting Minutes
May 23rd, 2025
Town Hall and via Conference Call

Board Members Present: Ron Smith, Jay Healy, Lynn Hathaway

Member on phone: Amy Wales

Others present: Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson

Lynn Hathaway called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

1) Review/ Approve minutes from 5/12/2025

Lynne Hathaway made a motion to approve the March 12, 2025, minutes as written. Ron Smith seconded the motion. All in favor.

Discussion Items:

1. FY 26 Budget Recommendations

The Board talked about the school budget. They don't like it but assume it will pass. Rich could hold the line, they could say that they recommend it but are concerned that they cannot continue in this trajectory.

Amy Wales made a motion to recommend all line items except the school related budget line items. Jay Healy seconded the motion. All in favor.

They talked again about the school numbers, the Hawlemont and Mohawk numbers. They spoke about enrollment. Sarah read the school choice information. They decided to make another motion.

Jay Healy made a motion to recommend the school budget line but with the note that it wasn't sustainable for the long term. Ron Smith seconded the motion. All in favor except an abstention from Amy Wales.

2. Review of Warrant articles, and discussion of Freightliner replacement

The board talked about the freightliner. Scott, HWY super, is fine that they won't recommend it this year. He talked about getting something used. He had gotten quotes, but they are moving targets. They will talk on town meeting floor about it.

Amy said that extra after-school buses will be an annual expense which could be added to the budget line.

There is sufficient free cash, except for the Fire Engine, without the Freightliner, some money can be put into stabilization. At this point, Ron clarified that nothing would be taken out of stabilization.

Lynn Hathaway made a motion to adjourn at 4:35 pm, Ron Smith seconded the motion. All in favor.

Documents viewed at meeting:

Agenda of 5/23/2025

Minutes of 5/12/2025

Final FY 26 Budget

Warrant 2025 Annual Town Meeting Town of Charlemont