

TOWN OF CHARLEMONT
Select Board Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2014

Select Board members in attendance were David Cunningham and Beth Bandy; Vaughn Tower, Chair, was absent. Also in attendance were Russell Kelley (Transfer Station), Jared Bellows (Police), Gordon Hathaway (Highway), Dana Johnson (Ambulance).

David Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Russell Kelly met with the Board to discuss holiday hours at the transfer station. On a motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Bandy, the Board unanimously voted to close the transfer station on December 24th and December 31, 2014.

Mr. Kelly also reported about a complaint he received regarding the Shelburne transfer station attendant. Jared Bellows reported he also had received and has on file a complaint from the same individual about the Shelburne transfer station attendant. Both Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Bandy agreed that this matter is outside the jurisdiction of the Charlemont Select Board and should be handled instead by the Shelburne Select Board.

Mr. Hathaway asked the Board to increase the winter plow rate from \$11 per hour to \$15 per hour. Reasons for increasing the rate included attracting more qualified personnel who would be able to do their work faster with greater care of Town plowing equipment. During an average winter with 20 storms per year, each requiring 10 hours of part-time help from three people, the cost to the Town would be \$7,050 at the current \$11-per-hour rate and \$9,000 at the proposed \$15-per-hour rate (a difference of \$1950). Mr. Hathaway noted that Massachusetts General Law allows overspending on winter budgets. Ms. Bandy wanted to be sure that this change would be allowed under the law. On a motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Bandy, the Board unanimously approved changing the winter plow rate to \$15 per hour, effective immediately, but contingent upon Massachusetts General Law. Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Hathaway to bring up this change as part of the annual budget planning process, which is about to begin.

Mr. Bellows introduced Henry Dandeneau as a potential Charlemont Reserve Officer. Mr. Dandeneau was Police Chief in Rowe for 38 years. Mr. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy and unanimously passed, to appoint Mr. Dandeneau as a Reserve Officer.

The Board took note of the date scheduled for the Charlemont Café liquor license hearing.

On a motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Bandy, the Board unanimously approved and signed the FY2015 Elder Affairs Grant paperwork.

Dana Johnson met with the Board to discuss progress of the Ambulance Workgroup and related issues. He listed several issues to be considered, including financing EMT training, finding ways to encourage retention, such as paying EMTs for a minimum number of hours on each run (such

as 4 hours), raising the hourly rate from the current \$13.01, and the possibility of offering bonuses. Mr. Johnson will draft a progress letter to the Office of Emergency Services.

Mr. Johnson described recent ebola-related regulations and training for ambulance services. He noted that the Town's N-95 masks, which are needed for EMT safety in a wide range of situations including ebola response, have not been fitted to ambulance personnel. Fit testing costs \$54 per person. Mr. Johnson said this fitting should be done. The overall budget implications for new supplies required for ebola response is not clear, as the official supply is list not yet available. He would like to apply for a MIIA grant to cover these costs.

Tom Campbell met with the Board to talk about the Town Hall clock tower. He explained that he used to be responsible for ringing the bell but stopped approximately 8 to 10 years ago. He asked the Board to explore what would need to be done for him to start ringing the bell again.

Mr. Campbell also discussed water coming down South Street. He stated that the problem has to do with a break in the line, not recent work in the area.

Mr. Campbell further noted that the new transfer station trash bags have weak strings. The Board agreed to look into this issue. Mr. Cunningham will check on where the Town buys trash bags.

Ms. Bandy will ask Kathy Reynolds to post Thursday's MBI/ WiredWest meeting as a Select Board meeting, in case a quorum of Select Board members is present.

Ms. Bandy reported that Mary Vilbon, executive Director of the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association, needs additional details in order to begin work with the building inspector regarding new "welcome to Charlemont" signs. The board discussed these details. Ms. Bandy will follow up with Ms. Vilbon.

On a motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Bandy, the Board unanimously agreed that the Chair of the Select Board will have a key to the front office.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy, that the Town keep its existing hearing notifications to 300' of effected properties.

The Board took a letter requesting support for solar energy under advisement.

Following a written recommendation from Amy Wales, Chair of the Finance Committee, and on a motion by Mr. Cunningham seconded by Ms. Bandy, the Board unanimously agreed to divide a recent bill received by the Highway Department between four departments.

Ms. Bandy asked to have a mental health care protocol placed on the agenda under old business for discussion in the spring, when the Town Administrator has arrived.

The Board will review a capital expenses worksheet in preparation for its November 17, 2014 meeting.

The Board decided to postpone discussion of the website policies document until the next meeting.

Ms. Bandy will ask Kathy Reynolds to have Russell Kelly post a Town Hall announcement sign message about the upcoming coffee chat with Senator Benjamin Downing and Representative Paul Mark.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.