

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

April 20, 2021  
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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chair Marguerite Willis. Select Board member Elizabeth VanInderstine and Administrator Sarah Reynolds also attended the meeting. This meeting was conducted via telephone conference pursuant to the Governor's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

1. Bob Handsaker, Broadband Committee Chair, reported that the Broadband Committee is recommending the Town pay \$500 towards the drop for the last house located on Bassett Road Ext. and the Town of Heath will be servicing that property through the governmental agreement. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes, to accept the Broadband recommendation.
2. Mr. Handsaker reported that the EOHEH/WG&E tactical acceleration IGA will speed up construction of the fiber-optic, but the WG&E will charge extra. Ms VanInderstine will review the IGA further. This will be placed onto the May 3<sup>rd</sup> agenda.
3. Mr. Handsaker reported that the project is on tracked with 41% sign ups. The Committee is working on placing signage throughout Town. Administrator Reynolds will work with Mr. Handsaker regarding a robo call notifying residents to sign up for the service.
4. The Board next voted to move #F on the agenda up so it can be discussed while the Broadband Committee was in attendance. The Administrator will work with the Broadband Committee to come up with a cost for underground fiber optic connections to the Fire and Highway buildings.
5. Administrator Reynolds reported:
  - The Fire Fighter Grant and Police Security Grant will be filed this week. The Fire Grant is for equipment linked to training at the Fire Station and the police grant is for training of 10 Officers.
  - The CARES Act is now with the American Rescue Act. The DLS Bulletin has instructions that cover the enterprise fund accounting information. This Bulletin will be forwarded to the Accountant and Treasurer.
  - A series of meetings with stakeholders regarding the use of the Deerfield River are taking place. The last meeting discussion was to change the law. Ms VanInderstine stated that she agrees with the suggested changes. A letter will be drafted and submitted stating the Town is ok with the changes but that the individual tubers are not addressed in the changes.
  - The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes to deem the list of items submitted by the Highway and Fire.

Departments surplus and to instruct the Administrator to move forward with scheduling an auction for these items.

6. Ms Willis stated that she is not sure the Town of Heath will join the Hawlemont School District and that she does not agree with the Hawlemont budget. Ms VanInderstine stated that she agrees and feels the increase in the school budget is to much for the Town.
7. Ms Willis reported that she is going to attend a walk about with Planning Board members along South River Road to discuss making this section of Town zoned for businesses.
8. Ms Willis reported that the Tyler Memorial Library Trustees are hiring a new Librarian.
9. Ms VanInderstine agreed that the Town needs to be reinforcing the Town personnel on the budget and that the Board should be thinking about what to do with Free Cash.
10. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes, to approve and sign a letter to the legislators regarding the Bills to provide essential workers an additional 3-year retirement benefit. The letter is opposing the bill.
11. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes to dedicate the Annual Town Report to the People of Charlemont for your cooperation, understanding, compassion, neighborliness, and resourcefulness during Covid19.
12. Discussion of the Secretary to the Boards job description was moved to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
13. The Board took no action regarding the Mosquito spraying Opt-Out program.
14. The Board will review the Board stipends for the FY 23 budget.
15. The Board unanimously voted to request traffic counts to be conducted by the FRCOG for the following sites: Zoar Road by the train underpass, North River Road by Sunburn Beach and 8A South. Administrator Reynolds will contact MassDOT to ask for a traffic count on each end of the Town on Route 2 on a summer weekend.
16. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes to place an article on the FY 22 Town Meeting Warrant asking for \$28,000 for 2 years of audits. Due to borrowing for the Broadband project, the Town will need to conduct 3 consecutive years of audits. The amount for 1 year audit has already been set aside. The article will cover the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year required audits.
17. The Board next discussed a letter from William Coli regarding the cutting of shade trees and a request for records. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes to send the request for records to the RAO. Ms VanInderstine stated that she does not know what trees Mr. Coli would like to remove and that are hazardous or dangerous. Ms VanInderstine will reach out to Mr. Coli and the Tree Warden to review the trees in questions.

18. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes, to schedule the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, June 12, 2021 to commence at 1:00 P.M. and to be held at the Charlemont Fairgrounds.
19. The notification of the Pan Am Vegetation Management Plan will be posted to the Town website.
20. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Willis – yes, Ms VanInderstine – yes, to approve and sign:
  - Payroll warrant #2138 for \$10,910.31, #2139 for \$10,129.95.
  - Vendor warrants #2139 for \$5,529.10, #2140 for \$12,469.69.
  - 3-8-21, 4-5-21, 2-1-21, 6-22-20 meeting minutes
  - Ms VanInderstine stated that she is not ready to sign the MassWorks contract for a Town owned Sewer District for \$1,000,000 and will need to conduct more research into the contract. A meeting will be set up at a later date to discuss Ms VanInderstine’s questions.
  - Fire Department Grant for gloves, helmets, and portable radio support equipment for \$8,469.83.
21. The Fire Department was recognized for their efforts in putting out a chimney fire and for their response to a sawmill fire. All Fire Departments for the other Towns that responded to the sawmill fire were also recognized.
22. Ms VanInderstine suggested the Board vote to give the Police Chief time off due to the recent devastation and loss of his sawmill. Ms Willis thanked Ms VanInderstine for this suggestion. It was decided that the Chief would not accept the time off.
23. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully transcribed

Kathy A. Reynolds  
Executive Secretary

Approved by:  
Charlemont Select Board

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

Documents viewed by the Board.

EOHED/WG&E tactical acceleration IGA	Pan Am Vegetation Management
Surplus equipment list	Minutes
Letter to legislators regarding 3-year retirement benefits	Warrants
Mosquito spraying Opt-Out program	MassWorks contract
FRCOG traffic count request	Fire Department Grant
Letter from William Coli	

