

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 13th, 2024, 6:00 pm

in person and via conference call, Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Charlemont MA

Members in attendance: Kim Blakeslee, Valentine Reid, Jared Bellows

Others in attendance: Sarah Reynolds

On phone: Star Atkeson, secretary

Appointments:

~~6:30 Pm — Park and Recreation/ Luke Torrito Re: Pump Track proposal for Fairgrounds~~

The appointment did not happen at this meeting.

Administrator Report:

1) Picking out Flooring for Town Hall

Kim got some wood samples that were within the budget, from Booska— a hard maple, a few red oaks and a yellow birch. The Select Board chose the 4” rock maple because it looks good, has a 50-year residential warrantee (the longest of the wood sampled) and was made in the USA.

Valentine Reid made a motion to choose the Rock Maple flooring for Town Hall. Jared Bellows seconded the motion, all in favor.

2) Update on Fire Truck Earmark Funding Request from Congressman Neals Office.

The update was that the earmark for the fire truck was part of a USDA agriculture bill, part of the budget, waiting to get voted on.

3) Traffic Count information from Franklin Regional council of Governments

The Board went over the high speeds in each area listed in the traffic count sheet. They talked about the speeding solutions they had discussed in the past, possibly painting center lines on some roads. One of the speed signs meant to collect speed data doesn't work consistently. An electrician is troubleshooting it. Valentine asked about using the speed data to ask the DOT to lower the Village Center Speed limit to 25. Val suggested petitioning the State to install rumble strips on Route 2.

There was a FRCOG survey of all the towns which Sarah and Scott filled out. It was good information to have (Road miles vs HWY Budget.) Not all the towns did it.

4) Rural Roads Funding Amount for Charlemont

The Fairshare allocation of \$111,335.39 for rural roads came in. This is in addition to Chapter 90 money.

5) Bridge on East Oxbow Road near Windy Hill, letter from Mass DOT.

A letter came from Mass DOT that East Oxbow Road Bridge over Oxbow Brook was approved for a replacement and MASSDOT has begun project development.

Liaison Reports:

- 1) New Town Hall telephone System update
Val hasn't had a chance to deal with it because of illness.

Agenda items:

- 1) Tri State Fire Mutual Aid Agreement, Discuss and Approve
There was no opposition to renewing the 3-yr agreement. **Jared Bellows made a motion to renew and sign the agreement. Valentine Reid seconded the motion. All in Favor.**
- 2) Policy for Disposition of property valued at less than \$10,000
The new policy would make more sense than the current sealed bid auction way of disposing of town property. The Town Administrator will be named Chief Procurement Officer (CPO). Items valued under \$2,000 can be disposed of with CPO approval. Items above \$2,000. Will be disposed of with Select Board approval. Values are determined using price new and then the depreciation book. The devaluation will follow DAAP. Val will retype and bring back the next meeting. Any money from disposition will go into the general fund/miscellaneous non-reoccurring revenue.
- 3) Letter to Legislators about Vocational Bussing Cost.
There is a letter that the legislators are writing about the cost of Vocational bussing, and they ask that municipalities also write a letter. The Select Board will write one about the impact on Charlemont. Val would also like to send a letter about the Massachusetts Education Fair Share allotment not covering elementary school transportation.
- 4) District Local Technical Assistance Forms from Franklin Regional Council of Governments, discuss projects.
The Board went through the list and crossed off the projects that were not relevant to Charlemont, or at least not highest priority. They will bring it back to the next meeting to make the final choice.
- 5) Master Plan Vendor Recommendation and Contract for approval from the Planning Board
Kim Blakeslee made a motion to accept the proposal to the Town of Charlemont from Dodson and Flinker for the Master Plan update and to sign the contract. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in Favor.
- 6) Tree Warden proposal for policy to complete tree removals in right-of-ways for large projects
Andy Mueller, Tree Warden had emailed the Select Board and asked about the procedure for pole projects. Sarah let him know that they would have to make a policy about it and could not single one project out since it is not a procedure in the shade tree law. Val thinks that they should unify a process across the board to align with the pole hearings.

Val and Kim are surprised that National Grid is clearing vegetation ahead of the Select Board approving the poles.

Jared said that they do have a right to maintain their right of ways. Val thinks they should start with an email from the Select Board to National Grid asking how they determine when to contact the Tree Warden within a pole upgrade project and whether they have a policy about it.

**** Unforeseen within the last 48 hours.** There was an inquiry into the State's farm producers to inventory any damage from weather related events. It's linked to the ability to claim loss. They will check with the Ag Comm.

Approve and sign:

1) Payroll and vendor warrants

Valentine Reid made a motion to sign the payroll and vendor warrants. Jared Bellows seconded it. All in favor.

2) Minutes from 11/25/2024, 12/16/2024

Valentine Reid made a motion to approve and sign the minutes of 11/25 and 12/16. Jared Bellows seconded it. All in favor.

3) Department of Environmental Protection Recycling Dividends Programs Fund Grant Paperwork

Valentine Reid made a motion to sign the DEP recycling dividends program paperwork. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

Valentine Reid made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:34PM and not to return to Open Meeting. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in Favor.

Documents reviewed in meeting

- January 13, 2025 Select Board Agenda
- Roadway count 2022-2024 sheet
- Letter dated De. 17, 2024 to Sarah Reynolds from Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner, DEP re: ToC Recycling Dividends.
- Email to The Select Board dated Jan 5th, 2025, from Andy Mueller, Tree Warden, re: National Grid Pole Hearing
- MGL Excerpt Part I Title XIV Chapter 87 Section 14 re Shade Trees
- Tri State Fire Mutual Aid Inc Membership Agreement, 6 pages
- Letter to Jared Bellows, from Francisca R. Heming dated December 17, 2024, re: East Oxbow Road Bridge
- Tri State Fire Mutual Aid Inc. to: Chief Elected Officials of Member Communities Fire Chiefs of Member Communities, from: Officers of Tri State Fire Mutual Aid Inc., dated November 25, 2024 re: Renewal of the Mutual Aid Agreement
- Email from Reilly Lee, Office of Congressman Richard E. Neal, re: FY 2025 Community Project Funding Request Update
- Rural Roads Sheet FY2025 Rural Apportionment
- Charlemont Disposition Procedures
- Email to Town Administrator and others from John Sears re: State Reimbursement of OOD Vocational School Transport. Attachment Hawley to the Governor re Vocational School Transportation
- Select Board FY2026 Budget
- Memo dated 12/23/2024 to All Town Departments from Select Board re: Mandatory Town Buy Recycled.
- 2025 District local technical Assistance request Form