

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 3rd, 2025, 6:00 pm

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

Members in attendance: Jared Bellows, Kim Blakeslee, Wilder Sparks

Others in attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson

Jared Bellows called the Charlemont Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Administrators Report:

- 1) Update on Surplus Fire Truck Disposal The Highway Super would like the truck and chassis from the firetruck that was deemed surplus to turn into a HWY truck. This would be instead of putting it out for bid. Jared will meet and talk to Scott Sullivan and bring it back. The value of Highway using it is greater than what the town could have gotten by trying to sell it, because of the age of the vehicle.
- 2) Open Space Plan Revisions, letter ready for Chair to Sign The revisions of the Open Space Plan have been completed and the letter that says the Select Board approves of the plan should be signed.
Jared Bellows made a motion that he would sign and submit the letter. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 3) Report from Small Town Administrators meeting, and follow up meeting on health insurance
Sarah went to the small-town administrators meeting in Bernardston with a discussion on health insurance. The 20-member -- *Hampshire Group Insurance Trust* may or may not survive, they will need to see what the next round of projections is. They will continue in the holding pattern, other options are more expensive.
- 4) Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 Project update
The town is starting the process of updating the MVP plan with Colrain and would like people who would be especially affected by climate change (people from underserved groups— from Ag, or small business, living paycheck to paycheck, vulnerable, elderly etc.) to be at the table for discussions. They need two more members. The core group is comprised of Sarah Reynolds, Thorne Palmer, and Dennis Annear. The consultants are from Dodson and Flinker. Sarah distributed the job description to the board for help in recruiting 2 members.

Liaison Reports:

- 1) Update on follow up with Police Chief on officers and detail pay
Kim met with Jason Pelletier as liaison to Police; they spoke about detail pay rate as well as a potential revolving fund for help with third party detail payment. The current town rate is \$46.48, the only recent detail work they have done is with Whip City Fiber. Jay spoke about being concerned to ask for the revolving fund, when he is planning to ask for the pay increase from the town for the Police Department. Kim thinks it would be fine to ask for both and spoke with Jay about approaching the Finance Committee and presenting it to town. She suggested compiling the figures for detail pay that have occurred in the past few years, and to have that amount in a revolving fund.

Agenda items (Discussion/Vote):

- 1) Vote to hold a Special Town Meeting for dedicating Tennis Court land to a park for recreational purposes and accepting Parc Grant Funding, approve warrant article wording and spending for Tennis Court Rehabilitation project.
Sarah showed the board the draft warrant language for a Special Town Meeting. It will need to go to Town Counsel for edits.

Jared Bellows made a motion to accept the wording of the warrant with provision that after approval from Town Counsel Jared will sign the warrant; and, to hold a Special Town meeting on December 9th at 6 PM for dedicating Tennis Court land to a park for recreational purposes, accepting Parc Grant Funding and spending for Tennis Court Rehabilitation project. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approve and Sign:

1) KP Law Invoice 155631

For Pole Hearing question and Charlemont Inn. (The town will hear from bankruptcy court this week. There are 2 proposed sales, both to fix up the place.)

Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign the KP Law invoice. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

2) Minutes of October 20,2025

Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign the October 20, 2025 Minutes. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

3) Payroll and Vendor Warrants October

Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign the October Payroll and Vendor warrants. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

Documents reviewed in meeting

- Agenda for October 20, 2025
- Minutes from October 6th, 2025
- Letter to accompany the Open Space Plan
- Warrant wording for Special Town Meeting re: Tennis Courts