

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 17th, 2025, 6:00 pm

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

Members in attendance: Jared Bellows, Wilder Sparks

Members on phone: Kim Blakeslee

Others in attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Anthony Ostroski, Karen Rau, Carlene Hayden, Andrea Santos, Madison Schofield, Star Atkeson, Jim Galeas

Jared Bellows called the Charlemont Select Board meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Appointments:

6:00 pm- Charlemont Board of Assessors - Annual Tax Rate and Classification Hearing

Carlene went over the Board of Assessors' process in deciding what to recommend. She went over the different options laid out in the 3-page handout of Fiscal Year 2026 Tax rate shift options. As with previous years they are being conservative with the tax rate and the levy limit. They recommend the single tax rate and to levy below the limit. Sarah noted that if they levied at higher levels, which would raise taxes, there is no policy currently in place (from Town meeting) on how to deal with the excess pot of money.

Jared Bellows made a motion to close the hearing at 6:15 pm. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor, Kim Blakeslee—Aye.

Agenda items:

(Discussion/Vote):

1) Vote the FY 26 Tax rate

Jared Bellows made a motion to accept the Board of Assessors' recommendation to do the single tax rate option at \$16.81. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor, Kim Blakeslee— Aye.

2) Edits to the minutes of October 20,2025

Wilder regrets having signed off on the October 20th Minutes at the November 3rd meeting (they were submitted last minute) and would like to revisit. One of the points he would like to add, was the mention of Foundational Enrollment, he believes it will come up again. He said Martha said it was "fair" and acknowledged it was not in the agreement. Also, he wanted the participants on the phone to be named: Rachel Gammel, Liz Bouyea, Ashley Sparks and Ilyza Mann. He didn't agree with what was stated about the Statement of Interest, that it was about building an elementary school within the middle school wing at the Mohawk Campus. He and Star discussed the SOI mention a bit. He said he had seen the Statement of Interest, and it wasn't about that. He thought that the participants on the phone had expressed more dissatisfaction with the answers they got from Martha Thurber and Sheryl Stanton than what was written in the minutes. Jared told Wilder to submit his edits to Star and they would reread and reapprove the Minutes.

Approve and Sign:

1) Minutes of November 3,2025

Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign the minutes from November 3rd, 2025. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor; Kim Blakeslee —Aye.

2) Recycling Dividends Program Grant for Transfer Station in the amount of \$8,400.00

The RDP fund can be used to offset the transfer station costs.

Jared Bellows made a motion to accept the grant. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor; Kim Blakeslee—Aye.

3) Payroll and Vendor Warrants

Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign all payroll and vendor warrants. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor; Kim Blakeslee—Aye.

****Unforeseen in the last 48 hours. FEMA Flood plain maps**

Wilder went to the meeting at FRCOG to preview the new FEMA floodplain maps. He was advised that the Town should talk to Jim Hawkins, as the FEMA 50% rule will surely be in effect as pertaining to Hawlemont (the cost of damage being greater than 50% of the value, the *entire structure* must be brought up to current floodplain management standards)

Sarah will do follow up with Jim Hawkins.

Jared Bellows made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor, Kim Blakeslee —Aye.

Documents reviewed in meeting

- Agenda for November 17, 2025
- Minutes from November 3rd, 2025
- Town of Charlemont Fiscal Year 2026 Tax rate shift options (3 pages)