

**CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 24th, 2025, 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, Star Atkeson, Madison Schofield, Cheryl Handsaker, Bob Handsaker, Robert Ide, Jackie Cashin

Valentine Reid called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Appointments:

5:30 PM- Robert Ide, National Grid to discuss Legate Hill Road

- Val let Robert know that the Board had placed a condition only on the first of the two questions raised in the questions posed to National Grid at the pole hearing, which was asking National Grid to absorb the costs of the reattachment of the Broad Band fiber on the poles that were in the Legate Rd. Pole Hearing.
- Robert cited the Aerial attachment Agreement (AAG) which stated that the community must pay for the reattachment. This is a separate case from the Bear Swamp Feeder project, 19W1. National Grid can assist in some capacity with that project, But not the Legate Hill upgrades.
- He said a new midspan does not need a new license. A new pole would need a new agreement. Robert is not sure if new mid span needs an application from Broadband to attach, he will bring to 3rd party attachers and find out.
- Val wanted in-scope reimbursement pertaining to new poles, not the existing poles which were not in the hearing, therefore out of scope. He wondered if the AAG takes precedence before a license is granted. The license is granted on condition of Charlemont not paying to attach for those poles in the scope of the petition.
- Robert would like to take the language of the motion from the pole hearing back to his people. He wants the third party attachment team to dive into the details. Cheryl wondered how long the AAG was good for, or if it ever expired. Bob Handsaker thinks it automatically renews every 5 years up to 20 years.
- Robert said whenever a pole is replaced it will be brought up to current standards. ("replace like and kind" to current standards.
- Bob Handsaker wanted to know what to expect so that they could plan for costs. Robert assured him that he will give the best advance notice that he can at least of the general scope of a project that is in the queue. Right now 19W1 feeder is the largest project. Legate Hill is the only one he knows of and he will work with the distribution engineer to ensure that.
- They mentioned again that Eversource doesn't require town to pay for reattachment.
- The MLP and Town applied jointly, the agreement went through Twon Counsel but not Town Meeting. The AAG agreement covers poles that exist. If the poles are not in the ground, they are not in scope. If they are put in t he ground they need a license. Robert will take the comments back to his people and will talk to the distribution people to see what is in the future, what is coming down the pike.

6:00 PM- Pump Track (bike Track) follow up discussion with Luke Toritto, Gabe Porter Henry, Jon Schaefer and Park and Recreation Committee

This appointment is rescheduled for April 7th at 6:30 PM.

Administrators Report:

- 1) Domain name holding for Town Website and Town Email.

A recent disruption in email service brought to light that the Town's domain is still in Cheryl's account, and she has been paying for it. There was discussion of who should own it. The Town website developer suggested he own it. They talked to Lynn and said they should convert it to the Town's name and pay. They will find a service to take it off Cheryl's hands. There are two domains in different places, one is "network solutions" she can turn that over as well to the Town of Charlemont, to have them both in the same account.

Jared Bellows made a motion to allow Sarah and Valentine Reid to do an ownership transfer of the domain and maintenance to get it into good working order. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

2) Follow up from Capital Planning meeting for town hall heat pumps

Capital Planning is okay with recommending the remaining cost for heat pump installation for town hall be a capital item on the warrant. It would be for \$10,800. Green Communities agreed to give the rest of the designation grant for the heat pumps before July. The 30,000 grant, plus incentives, and the 10,800. will complete the project. An additional electric panel has already been installed, paid for by the grant. Sarah will look for a grant to pay for a generator.

Bob is interested in cooling in the machine room with a heat pump as well, broadband can pay. Sarah will look into it.

3) Cybersecurity grant update

Sarah got two vendor estimates. They will do tabletop exercises and multifactor authentication and transfer the website to .gov. Sarah will bring to the next meeting. Compass and SecureWon were the companies. Sarah will check that the grant hasn't been interrupted by the federal funding issues

4) Update on Community One Stop Expression of Interest for Exhibit Hall and Tennis Court Area

The Fairgrounds upgrade could fall be eligible for an "underutilized property program" things like engineering report and code upgrades did qualify. She will apply for that to help pay for the exhibit hall upgrade. She will also apply for Open Space Plan Projects when that opens up. She is also getting quotes for other things like resurfacing the tennis courts which came to \$125,000. The study for the full space at Hawlemont never got done. But combining accessibility with a road project was on the table —stairs up the embankment so that people could walk from Main Street to the school.

If they decide to apply for a project, they will bring Parks and Recs in to have a conversation. December 31st, 2026, the grant money needs to be spent, so having a shovel ready project would be good.

5) Ev Chargers project on School Street Update

The EV charger people applied for the incentives. Jared would like to see a proposal that doesn't have Charlemont paying.

Liaison Reports:

Agenda items:

1) FY 2025 Budget review of completed first draft

The Board went over the first draft of the budget. It is@ 2.3% increase. Hawlemont has gone up and there are increases in Vehicle Maintenance, and a big jump in insurance (20%)

They'd like Police to get rid of the old cruiser so they could decrease the \$8,000. maintenance line.

The Board talked about reducing the legal budget and adding it to a board specific legal budget.

2) Review of draft of annual Town Meeting Warrant

- There is a rough draft of the warrant articles. The Board went through tall the articles. The trash compactor still needs language.

- Val would like to take off the abandoned housing bylaw.

- The Short-term rental bylaw would only happen if there was a conversation with the Department of Labor Services to figure out the exact number currently of Short Term rentals, to then set a cap. The DLS has a complete list of everyone that had paid, ever, whether they have an active short term rental or not. The revenue amount is confidential. The DOR would have all AirBnB's, just not properties listed on their own. They still don't have the Town membership cost number from Franklin County Vocational School. Sarah asked at the VEAC meeting.

- 3) Approve Advance Life Support Intercept Agreement with South County EMS **Valentine Reid made a motion to approve and sign the attorney edited ALS agreement with South County. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in Favor.**

Approve and Sign:

- 1) Minutes of March 10, 2025
Valentine Reid made a motion to approve and sign Minutes from March 10th with the removal of the item vendor and payroll warrants. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 2) Payroll and Vendor Warrants
Valentine Reid made a motion to Approve and Sign March 10th and 24th payroll and Vendor Warrants. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 3) Seasonal Liquor License Renewal for Amongst the Oaks, 42 Burrington Road
Valentine Reid made a motion to sign the seasonal license renewal for Amongst the Oaks. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 4) Renewal certification form for the Alcoholic Beverage Control
Valentine Reid made a motion to sign the renewal certification form. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 5) Sign over Ambulance Title for old Ambulance.
The ambulance title says 2005, and not 2010, a new title needs to be applied for.
- 1) **Items not foreseen in 48 hours Transfer Station extra day when falls on a holiday. Valentine Reid would do a policy with two choices Saturday holiday becomes Monday transfer Station Day or Saturday Holiday becomes Sunday Transfer Station Day.
- 2) Letter from Jim Hawkins Building inspector re: Oxbow Inn
The Board went over the situation at The Oxbow. **Valentine Reid made a motion to forward the letter to the Franklin Regional Housing Authority. Jared bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.**

The Valentine Reid motioned to adjourn 7:30PM. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in Favor.

Documents reviewed in meeting

Agenda of March 24, 2025

Email from Sarah Reynolds to Brian Riley dated 2/25/2025 re: FW Intercepts (from Dana Johnson dated 2/19/2025)

Email from Brian Riley to Sarah Reynolds dated 3/20/2025 Re: Intercepts

Agreement for Advanced Life Support Billing between Charlemont Emergency Ambulance Service and South County EMS, signed by Valentine Reid

Letter from James Hawkins to Shelburne Equity c/o Travis DeCere dated March 14, 2025, re R-2 application and violation of Massachusetts Building Code. Ccd to Randy Crochier, BOH and Selectboard

Quote from Johnson Asphalt Paving LLC, to Sarah Reynolds, Town of Charlemont dated March 24, 2025 re: Pickleball Courts

Draft 1 budget worksheet

Warrant Articles