

**MINUTES OF THE WEEKLY SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF CHARLEMONT**

April 22, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Chairman William Coli. Also attending the meeting were James Gariepy and Charles Bellows.

1. Since the first appointment had not arrived, the Selectmen continued with agenda items.
2. The warrants were signed.
3. The ATM Warrants were signed (4).
4. The letter to the Hawlemont School principal concerning putting the preschool request for funds on the ATM Warrant as a warrant article and not in the School Budget was signed.
5. The Adm. Asst. reported that the Town had received a Certificate of Inspection from the Building Inspector that is contingent upon hardwiring the emergency lights at the top of the stairway. Mr. Gariepy will speak with Inspector Hawkins on this issue as he does not believe the lights are required to be hardwired.
6. The Selectmen agreed to rescheduling the Bissell Bridge meeting with Senator Nuciforo, Sec. Of Transportation, and others to June 4, 2003, 10:00 A.M., at the Town Hall.
7. The Adm. Asst. will create another leash law letter to Kenneth Rice as there has been another complaint received.
8. Winston Healy, Finance Committee member, arrived to speak with the Selectmen concerning warrant articles and the Town budget. Mr. Healy stated that he hopes the Town will not vote for any budget articles, including the budget, as State receipts have not been received for the Town along with the School Districts. This means that a balanced budget can not be prepared. Mr. Healy is asking the Board to make, or stand behind, a motion to continue the ATM, budgetary items, until the end of June. The Selectmen agreed. Mr. Healy questioned the Selectmen if the entertainment ticket fee/tax was dead in the water or if the Board intended to pursue. The Board replied that they intend to pursue if it is passed by the Legislature and more research is done. Entertainment fees will be placed under Old Business of the agenda. Mr. Healy recommended that a committee be formed to look at creating a salary schedule for the Town, at least to compare with other Towns. Salary schedule committee will be placed under Old Business of the agenda. Mr. Healy questioned that since a motion will be made at ATM to postpone voting for any budget items, will a budget need to be prepared. Mr. Bellows stated yes as the Town may vote to go ahead and vote budget items, even though assessments for the schools are not in yet. Mr. Coli noticed that on the ATM Warrant, the Finance Committee does not support the purchase of an historical building, with grant money, for an information center and public bathrooms. Mr. Healy stated that yes it is wonderful that the grant money is available for the purchase, research into the cost to the Town for electricity, heat, an attendant, sewer, liability insurance, etc. has not been done. Mr. Coli questioned Mr. Healy if he would be willing to support the articles if a contingency clause were included, such as "contingent upon Town approval of yearly added expenses". Mr. Healy stated that if that was included in the articles he would lean more to supporting it. Mr. Willard stated that the Finance Committee was not in support of the purchase of the new Police cruiser this year as they are worried about funding the preschool. Mr. Gariepy stated that if the Police Department did not use the grant money for the cruiser this year, the Town would lose that money. Mr. Willard questioned that if the cruiser does not pass ATM, can the grant money be used for other equipment. Mr. Gariepy will find out.
9. Ursula Nebiker attended the meeting to ask the Selectmen if they would consider putting a sign at the beginning of Riddell Road that read it is a Dead End street. Mr. Bellows will inform the Hwy. Super of the request.
10. Melody Whelden, Main Street Tree Committee Chair submitted the final bill for the purchase of the Trees for Main Street. Ms Whelden stated the Woody would be digging the holes for the trees on Thursday and would a police traffic detail be needed. Mr. Bellows stated that since the holes would be dug off the road the police would not be necessary. Ms Whelden reported that the Town tennis courts are disgusting and was wondering if they could be turned into a skate park. Mr. Coli stated that there would be liability issues with a skate park and that the deed restricts how that land is to

be used. Discussion ensued concerning enclosing the tennis courts with a fence that could be locked during certain hours. Mr. Coli suggested that purchase and placement of such a fence would be costly, and perhaps this might bring about another fund raising idea for Ms Whelden.

11. Resident Norma Coli spoke with the Board about the hemlock trees on her father-in-laws property that had been ruined during the winter by the Town snow plows. Mr. Bellows stated that he will ride up Warner Hill to look at the damage and measure for the Towns right of way. Mrs. Coli stated that herself and Mr. Coli had spent a goodly sum of money to dig up stumps and in doing so had indeed widened the road. Mrs. Coli went on to state that this needs to get resolved and that she had priced replacement trees at \$45.00 each, figuring 6 replacement trees are needed. Mr. Bellows will contact Mrs. Coli after he has had a change to look at the sanitation. Mrs. Coli reported to the Selectmen that the Moses Rice Cemetery fence will be installed by the prisoners from the Franklin County House of Correction. Mr. Coli questioned if the Highway Department could rid the cemetery of two big stumps in the corner of the cemetery. Mr. Bellows replied that the Highway Crew have their hands full as it is. Mrs. Coli asked if the Highway Crew might cut some brush that is starting to grow in the cemetery. Mr. Coli replied that the Highway Department will not be able to help in this tough year.
12. The Selectmen read the letter of resignation from BOH member Dennis Rancourt. The Adm. Asst. will draft a letter of thank you for the Board to sign.
13. The petition from S.T.A.R. will be given to the Town Clerk so that it will be available to voters at the ATM to sign.
14. Mr. Gariepy stated that he has spoken with several Board members and the various Boards would like another All Board Meeting to be held soon. The Selectmen chose June 10, 2003.
15. The Selectmen decided to give the Town a choice of dates that the ATM could be continued. The two dates are June 23 or 28, 2003.

Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M..

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:
Board of Selectmen

Kathy A. Chadwick
Administrative Assistant

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