

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

March 25, 2003

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

1. The first appointment of the meeting was with the Finance Committee who came in to present different employee salary scenarios and go over a partial working budget plan. The Finance Committee is proposing an across the board pay increase of \$.40 per hour for most employees. The Secretary to the Boards rate will be increased by \$1.29 bring the hourly rate to \$11.00 per hour. The Town Hall Custodian position receiving a \$.10 increase and the Crossing Guard receiving a \$.20 increase. Mr. Gariepy stated that the Police Administrator's contract does not include an increase in salary. He suggested requesting no increase. Mr. Bellows suggested that the Part Time Highway Laborers receive a \$.20 increase. The Finance Committee would like a realistic number of hours for the Secretary of the Boards. The Adm. Asst. will collect this information for the Committee. Annie Rancourt brought to the Selectmen the fact that the Fire Department has an international truck that was left for scrap. The Highway Department is in need of a truck and can fix the Fire truck, purchase a new sander, and save the Town money for an estimated 5 years. The Fire Department had said that Highway could have the truck, but now does not want to part with it. The Finance Committee is asking Fire Department Liaison William Coli to speak with the Fire Department and convince them that this use would save the Town extra money. Mr. Coli will speak with the Fire Department. The discussion turned to creating a purchase order system for Charlemont. The Finance Committee does not want each department to submit a detailed budget request and use it as a slush fund. It was discussed that maybe setting a dollar amount that needed a purchase order might work. The Selectmen stated that if there was any miss use of appropriations the Accountant and Selectmen would notice as they go over the warrants weekly. The Finance Committee suggested that an All Board Meeting be scheduled so that this issue can be discussed with all departments. Ms Rancourt questioned the Selectmen on the status of the Three Town Landfill capping. Mr. Coli reported that Charlemont, Heath, and Hawley have requested, and received from DEP , a 120 day extension for the gas monitoring plan. A meeting is scheduled for 4/2/03 at the Charlemont Town Hall with Heath, Hawley, and Almer Huntley & Assoc. to work on that plan. Another meeting has been scheduled for 4/18/03 in North Adams with Heath, Hawley, DEP, and Legislatures to discuss funding. Mr. Coli stated that more funds will need to be set aside for

the project. The Selectmen are suggesting that \$30,000.00 to \$35,000 might be appropriate for the Town Council Account.

2. Perry Schwarzer was the second appointment for the meeting. Mr. Schwarzer asked the Selectmen to approve and appoint the Charlemont Deerfield River Impact Committee. The Committee would gather information concerning summer use of the river and how it impacts the Town. The information gathering would last around 6 weeks with 4 to 5 Committee meetings. A final report of their findings would be submitted to the Selectmen and the Open Space Committee. The Selectmen approved the Committee and appointed Committee members Perry Schwarzer, Mitch Coburn, Mary Malmros, and Carrie Banks. The vote went as follows:

Mr. Bellows - yes

Mr. Gariepy - yes

Mr. Coli - yes

3. Mr. Coli stated that the Selectmen have had some discussion concerning creating a Town fee or tax on ticket sales for entertainment. In order to create the fee/tax, it would have to be put in place by referendum and then through special legislation. Ms Rancourt stated the it is worth looking into. Mr. Healey thought that the Town should be concerned with collecting the current fees/tax before creating a new one. He is also concerned that by creating the fee/tax, the Town will somehow be liable. A legal opinion will be sought for this concern. The Finance Committee asked the Selectmen if FRCOG is really necessary and what actually is the "Core Assessment". It was decided that FRCOG is a necessary service and Mr. Coli will investigate what actually makes up the "Core Assessments".
4. Douglas Dean was the third appointment for the evening. Mr. Dean is concerned that not everyone is reporting nor paying personnel property taxes. Forms of list do not go out to all Town residents and he feels that the Town should collect from everyone or do away with the tax. Mr. Coli stated that he agrees. Mr. Dean also stated that Shelburne does not have a Personnel Property Tax and Charlemont should do the same, or at least exempt farmers/agriculture land from the tax. Mr. Dean was informed that an article for the Annual Town Warrant can be submitted to the Selectmen with 10 signatures of registered voters. The Adm. Asst. will contact the Board of Assessors and schedule a meeting with the Selectmen and Finance Committee to try to answer these questions.
5. Mr. Bellows reported that the Winter Highway Account is currently overdrawn. The extreme mud season will add additional expenses for that account.
6. The Selectmen signed the warrants.
7. The minutes were approved and signed.
8. The Selectmen agreed to place two warrant articles from FCIIP on the Annual Town Warrant. William Stephens, representative to FCIIP, will be reminded that the articles will be on the warrant and he should attend the meeting to explain any questions that

are asked.

9. The invitation to join the Zoning Reform Coalition will be forwarded to the Planning Board.
10. A rough draft of the Selectmen's Annual Report was presented to the Selectmen by Mr. Coli. The Adm. Asst. reminded the Board that the Annual Town Report will be going to the printers next week. The Selectmen promised to have their report in at least by Friday.
11. The Selectmen took a roll call vote to go into executive session to sign minutes and discuss pending litigation at 9:45 P.M..  
The vote went as follows:  
    Mr. Bellows - yes  
    Mr. Gariepy - yes  
    Mr. Coli - yes
12. The regular meeting reconvened at 10:00 P.M..
13. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 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.