

## MINUTES OF THE WEEKLY SELECTMEN'S MEETING

### Town of Charlemont

May 19, 2009

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The meeting was convened at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Winston Healy. Also attending the meeting were Jean Brisson and Paul Fantucchio. It was announced that the reporter for the West Count Independent was tape recording the meeting.

1. Earl Bowen came to the meeting to extend an offer to meet with the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen, with Counsel present, to come to a resolution, through mediation, of the gravel pit special permit. The Board informed Mr. Bowen that they are not empowered to make decisions concerning Planning Board special permits. The Board also stated that they are not willing to incur additional Counsel fees concerning the gravel pit permit.
2. Steven Ferguson came to the meeting to inform the Board that he did not receive the necessary information from the Fire Department in order to apply for a grant for turnout gear. The Board apologized to Mr. Ferguson for the Fire Department's lack of cooperation and Mr. Healy and Ms Brisson will draft a letter to the Fire Department stating their disappointment. Mr. Healy and Ms Brisson will draft the letter. Fire Department letter will be placed under old business of the agenda.
3. Mr. Ferguson discussed searching and applying for grants for the Town Hall. The Board unanimously voted to pay Mr. Ferguson any out of pocket expenses incurred researching and writing grants for the Town Hall. The Board also unanimously voted to pay Mr. Ferguson a 2% administrative fee of a grant that is awarded to the Town.
4. Eric Dean came to the meeting to discuss with the Board renting a lift to view the Town Hall roof. Mr. Dean stated that he will be renting a lift that will go higher than the last lift. The Board unanimously voted to reimburse Eric Dean up to \$1,500 to rent the appropriate lift. The cost to be expensed out of the the Town Hall repair account.
5. The weekly warrants were signed.
6. The Board approved and signed the minutes.
7. The Board signed the minutes for the May 12<sup>th</sup> dog hearing. Mr. Fantucchio reviewed the minutes Ms Brisson recused herself from this issue. Mr. Healy and Mr. Fantucchio agreed that the dog is a nuisance to the public and the Animal Control Officer. The dog was found to be in violation of the Selectmen's order of the June 2008 hearing. (The owner did not attend the June 2008 hearing when the decision of the Board was banishment of the dog if found at large, but he did receive a copy of that order). The Board also received a written recommendation from the Animal Control Officer. Mr. Healy and Mr. Fantucchio unanimously voted the following decision for the May 12, 2009 Betinis dog hearing.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted, Mr. Fantucchio – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, to support the recommendation of the Animal Control Officer and uphold the original dog hearing decision of June 16, 2008 and ordered that the dog named Tippet, owned by Jason Betinis, be banished from the Town of Charlemont. The Animal control Officer will deliver the dog to a residence of the owner's choice in Buckland or elsewhere upon payment by cash or money order of all current fees, charges and monies owed to the Town. The Board also ordered that if the dog is found within the Town of Charlemont after receipt of the order, the dog will be come the property of the Town to do with as it sees fit.

A letter with this order will be delivered to Mr. Betinis, in hand, by a Charlemont Police Officer. He will be advised of his right to appeal this decision.

8. The Board unanimously voted to grant the Animal Control Officer permission to purchase any gear or mechanism he feels is necessary for protection, even if the Animal Control expense account is overdrawn.
9. The Board reviewed a curb cut application for Ledge Land. The application was granted by a unanimous vote of the Board.
10. The Board received a note from the Librarian stating the Town Hall back door was found unlocked, with the hallway lights left on, on Saturday morning. The Board will send a note to the Librarian thanking her for making the Board aware of her findings.
11. The Board reviewed the Annual Town Meeting warrants. The Board was informed of five new articles, which were discussed. A letter will be drafted by Ms Brisson to the Finance Committee conveying the Board's displeasure with the un-timeliness of adding last minute articles. Mr. Healy and Mr. Fantucchio voted to sign the warrants. The letter to the Finance Committee will be placed under old business of the agenda.
12. Mr. Fantucchio reported that the propane needs of the Town were awarded to H.A. George at .27 above the cellkirk price with no limit on the number of gallons that the Town is able to order. The propane tanks at the Fire station will need to be replaced with tanks from H.A. George. For budgeting purposes, \$2.00 per gallon will be used.
13. The Board unanimously voted the Executive Secretary to back up the Board of Health files in the computer in the meeting room once every two weeks. The thumb drive will be kept in the Board of Health file cabinet.
14. The Board reviewed a report of the Town Hall fire alarm inspection. Eric Dean will be replacing a battery and re-hanging the detector in the museum.

15. The Board unanimously voted not to request employee raises on the budget at this time, but as soon as the FY 2010 free cash has been certified, the Board will revisit employee raises, retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup>.
16. Dan Hall, DEP, requested a meeting with one Select board member from the Towns of Heath, Hawley, and Charlemont to discuss the filtration system installed in the McCloud residence. Mr. Fantucchio was chosen as the representative for Charlemont and will return a meeting date to the Executive Secretary.
17. The Board reviewed an e-mail from a townsperson suggesting that a statement concerning emergency calls be made at the introduction of the new telephone system. Josh Bellows will be contacted to add to the introduction “if this is an emergency please hang up and dial 911”. The Executive Secretary will write an e-mail to thank the townsperson for bring this issue to the Boards attention.
18. The Board reviewed a bill for unemployment benefits from the Treasurer. As an account has not been set up for unemployment expenses, the Treasurer is asking to pay the bill out of the Reserve Fund. The Board unanimously voted to grant the request.
19. The Board reviewed and discussed questions from the Accountant on how the Town will be handling the overdrawn winter highway accounts. Other overdrawn accounts were discussed as well. The Board members decided that “end of the year transfers” will be sufficient to cover the current overdrafts, but they will be keeping a very close eye on all Town accounts until the end of the year.
20. A non criminal dispositional by-law will be added to old business of the agenda.
21. The Board discussed future plans for the accountant position. The Board voted, Ms Brisson and Mr. Fantucchio – yea, Mr. Healy – nay, to request \$600 be added to the FY 2010 budget for accountant training. Ms Brisson will bring this request to the Finance Committee.
22. A draft letter of nomination for the Doc Streeter award was reviewed and approved. The letter will be placed on letterhead and ready for signatures at the next Selectmen’s meeting.
23. The Board unanimously voted to draft a letter of gratitude to Palmer Paving for giving to the Town millings from their construction on Route 2.
24. The Executive Secretary reported that she has been approached by someone who would like to have a “hot dog” cart in the summer in multiple places within the Town. Since the Selectmen have never issued a permit for such an activity, the Executive Secretary asked what procedure would be needed. The Selectmen stated that they will need a written proposal for the activity for them to examine before deciding if they would need to issue a permit.

25. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Approved by:  
Charlemont Board of Selectmen

Kathy A. Reynolds  
Executive Secretary

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