

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**Town of Charlemont**  
**Goodnow Town Hall**

February 27, 2023  
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The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Select Board Chair Valentine Reid. Select Board member Jared Bellows and William Harker along with Administrator Sarah Reynolds, also attended the meeting. This meeting was conducted in person and via telephone conference.

1. Appointment with the Fire Chief, 6:00 P.M.  
As the Fire Chief was not in attendance, the Board moved forward to the Administrator's reports. The Fire Chief will be invited to the next meeting.
2. Administrator Sarah Reynolds reported:
  - Davenport will be paving the final coat on 8A North May 15 & 17 weather permitting.
  - A walk through the Town Hall was conducted by the Green Communities and D2Q regarding heating options. Waiting for their reports.
  - The contract with Colonial Power for electricity aggregation with Dynegy will be ending. Due to the short time frame between receiving a new contract and date of submission, Administrator Reynolds asked that a Board member be selected to sign the contract outside of a meeting. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes, the Chair to sign outside of a meeting.
  - Hawlemont is looking at placing a 1-acre solar array behind the sliding hill in the field behind the school. This will be a ground system and will need a Town Meeting vote.
3. Upon the request of the COA Chair, the Board voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – abstained, to appoint Agnes Newland, Betty Hicks and Linda Reynolds to the COA.
4. At 6:30 P.M. Victoria Valenti was recognized. Ms Valenti requested to be appointed to the Agricultural/Forestry Commission. Ms Valenti stated she has lived for 15 years in Town and is currently in the horse industry. She feels the Agricultural Commission needs to be revived. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes to appoint Victoria Valenti to the Agricultural/Forestry Commission. Ms Valenti was duly sworn to the position.
5. The Board will discuss with Representative Blais: Rural School funding, cost of education, police training effects to small town policing, Recreation tax, Housing and Utility upgrades.
6. Administrator Reynolds stated that the Board of Health and Conservation Commission has provided actionable suggestions regarding Town Council contact for the 169 and 180 Route 8A North properties. The Conservation

Commission would like to ask Counsel if their latest order has expired and if not can the order be enforced .or a new order written. There is not a permit for junk cars but there is a permit for selling used cars. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes for the Administrator to send all information collected to Town Counsel for review and opinion as to what actions should be taken.

7. At 7:00 P.M., Bob Handsaker, Broad Band Committee Chair was recognized. Mr. Handsaker explained that he has submitted an Access plus/Verizon backhaul contract for the Board to consider and sign. 5 Towns will be participating in this Backhaul contract and it will save the Town funding. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes to approve and sign the contract.
8. Mr. Handsaker reported that discussion regarding long-term financing for the fiber network will begin in June. He feels the 15-year financing can be solely paid out of the Broad Band enterprise fund. There is \$950,000 left to finance.
9. Kenneth Bertsch, Hawlemont Regional Elementary School Committee Chair attended the meeting at 7:15 P.M. Mr. Bertsch reported that Hawlemont will hold a budget hearing on 3/15/23 at 5:00 P.M. The Board was thanked for their signatures on the letter supporting Rural Schools. Mini splits and the boiler have been installed at the school. The Committee is working on a possible solar array.
10. Mr. Reid will draft a letter to MMA regarding the 27% funding to schools with only 12% received.
11. The Board discussed employee salary recommendations for the FY24 budget. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes to recommend a 6% COLA for paid employees (not Boards or Committee officials).
12. Brian DuPree was recognized. Mr. DuPree, 169 and 180 Route 8A North, stated he has State and Town licenses for the sale of vehicles. He discussed his situation regarding abandoned cars. Mr. Reid expressed his concern for the soil, water, and health on the properties.
13. The Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker – yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to approve and approve and sign:
  - Vendors warrant 2332 for \$109,450.63 and 2331 for \$36,800.48.
  - Payroll warrant 2332 for \$14,562.52 and 2333 for \$11,604.91.
  - 1-30-23 Select Board minutes.
  - Seasonal renewal Liquor License Certification for Wicked Awesome Events LLC.
14. Business being concluded, at 7:50 P.M. the Board unanimously voted, Mr. Bellows – yes, Mr. Harker -yes, Mr. Reid – yes, to adjourn the open meeting and to enter into executive session, not to return to open meeting for reason #2:

to consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints, or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

Respectfully submitted

Approved by:  
Charlemont Select Board

Kathy A Reynolds  
Executive Secretary

This document is to be considered a draft until signed by the Select Board.

Documents viewed by the Board:

- Weekly warrants
- 1-30-23 Board meeting minutes
- Seasonal liquor license renewal certification
- Appointment request letter
- Access plus/Verizon backhaul contract.

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