



Submitted by _____

Date _____

Received by _____

Date _____

TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of Regular Selectmen's Meeting
February 26, 2008

Present: Chairman – Peter J. Boria, Vice-Chairman - Scott D. Brown, Clerk – Kathleen W. Walker and Members – Frederick C. Swensen and John R. Bacon. Also present, Town Administrator - Robin L. Craver and Student Selectperson – Katie Walsh.

NOTE: Some matters may have been taken out of agenda order but were typed up in agenda order for ease of locating information when necessary.

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Boria called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence for Ray Moulton, a long time resident in town and a past Selectman.

II. Consent Agenda:

- Chairman Boria read the agenda.
- Minutes of Special Selectmen's Meeting – February 11, 2008. **Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes of February 11, 2008.** Ms. Walker asked for a correction. She was at the meeting, she had just entered late. **Seconded by Mr. Swensen with the modification, motion carries.**
- Minutes of Regular Selectmen's Meeting – February 12, 2008. **Motion by Ms. Walker to approve the minutes of February 12, 2008, seconded by Mr. Swensen, motion carries.**

III. Community Relations, Announcements and Open Forum:

- Chairman Boria read the announcements.

IV. Appointments/Resignations:

Appointment to Senior Center Building Committee – Caryl Sprague-Cloutier. Mrs. Craver stated that Mrs. Cloutier had originally submitted her letter to be appointed to the Fire Station Building Committee. She had spoken with her and asked if she would be interested in this committee as the Fire Station Building Committee is full. Mrs. Cloutier had agreed. **Motion by Mr. Bacon to appoint Caryl Sprague-Cloutier to the Senior Center Building Committee, seconded by Mr. Swensen, motion carries.**

V. Scheduled Appointments:

6:45pm – Pole Hearing – Lelandville Rd. Chairman Boria opened the hearing by reading the notice as sent to the abutters. Verizon New England, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric Company are requesting permission to place two new jointly owned poles on the easterly side of Lelandville Road beginning at a point approximately 454 feet northerly from the centerline of Potter Village Road at its intersection with Lelandville Road and placing new pole number VZ-3/MECO-20, thence running northerly 150 feet +/- and placing new pole number VZ-4/MECO-19. **Motion by Mr. Brown to close the hearing, seconded by Mr. Swensen, motion carries.** Seeing no questions or objections, **motion by Mr. Brown to approve the request as submitted, seconded by Mr. Swensen, motion carries.**

6:50pm – Alteration of Premises – Oxbow Variety – Chairman Boria opened the hearing by reading the notice as posted in the paper and sent to abutters. Oxbow Variety is seeking permission to demolish and rebuild their premises by expanding the building to 62 X 40 from 24 X 33, relocating a delivery door from the front to the right side and increasing parking. The owners of Oxbow Variety have agreed to have all alcohol returned to the vendors they purchased it from until completion of the project. They will also hand in their present liquor license to the Selectmen’s Office for safekeeping. **Motion by Mr. Brown to close the hearing, seconded by Mr. Swensen, motion carries. Motion by Mr. Swensen to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Brown, motion carries.**

7:00pm – Charlton Cable TV Ascertainment Hearing (second hearing). Chairman Boria opened the hearing by reading the notice as posted in the paper. Eric Borgeson, Chairman and Carl Ekman, member of the Cable Access Committee were present. Mr. Borgeson has two items to submit for the record. One is a list of the surveys received and what the comments were and the other is an item that will need to be used for executive session when the time comes. Mr. Swensen had asked why we couldn’t go out and get other companies to compete. Mr. Borgeson said that there is an opportunity to bring other companies into town. The competing companies would have to build suitable facilities which would be very costly for them. An accurate statement as of today is that other companies are not interested in coming into town at this time. Mr. Borgeson said that the contract expires in April of this year. After the last hearing, a question was asked about the length of the contract. Presently we have a 10 year contract and it can be renegotiated for 5 years. Mr. Borgeson reviewed some of the survey answers. Most indicated that they wanted to see more government offices televise their meetings such as the Board of Health and Planning Board. Surveys can still be filled out. **Motion by Mr. Brown to close the hearing at 7:12pm, seconded by Mr. Swensen, motion carries.**

VI. Old Business:

1. Casella Site Assignment Modification. Mrs. Craver asked to pass over this item as the request was withdrawn.
2. FY08 Budget update (see attached) Mrs. Craver provided the Board with budget info and suggested that we have it scanned and put it on the web due to a possible deficit for this year mainly on behalf of the economy. This will continue to ripple with the FY09 budget. All departments have been asked to level fund at this time.
3. Library Custodian – Mrs. Craver stated that they have brought forth a recommendation for a custodian but due to budget constraints as we’ve just heard, she is asking the Board to make the decision of whether to hire or not. Mr. Brown stated that he could not support hiring a custodian with what we just heard. Ms. Walker had expressed her objection of cutting the library custodian as it is greatly needed. Cheryl Hansen, Library Director came forward and agreed that if there is not enough funding, that we should hold off right now. **Motion by Mr. Brown to postpone, that we not fill this position now or in the immediate future, seconded by Mr. Swensen. After discussion, vote taken: Ms. Walker – opposed, Mr. Bacon – aye, Mr. Swensen – aye, Mr. Brown – aye and Chairman Boria – aye. Motion passes.**

VII. New Business:

1. Scholarship question. Mrs. Craver noted that each year the Board is charged with awarding scholarships to eligible students from the Town of Charlton. The Board chooses a question which is to be answered in essay form by the students applying for the scholarships. A sample question for this year is – It’s election time and you need to decide whom you would choose to place in different offices within the town such as Selectmen, Water/Sewer Commissioner, Board of Health, etc. Explain what you would look for in that candidate. What qualities or character strengths would you look for? There is also a separate question for the cooking

scholarship that has been the same for the past several years. The Board would need to decide if they should keep the same question or change it. Mr. Bacon posed a different kind of question. If you were addressing a freshmen class with regards to furthering their education past High School, what three points would you advise them and why? After discussion, **motion by Mr. Swensen to accept the question submitted by Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Brown, motion carries.**

2. Senior Center Feasibility Proposals – Mrs. Craver noted that the proposals received for the Senior Center Feasibility study have been reviewed by Council on Aging. They have listed the candidates and ranked them in order of preference. 1. Catlin & Associates Architects, Inc. of Quincy MA, 2. Reinhardt Associates of Agawam, MA and 3. Richard C. Alvord Architects of Roslindale, MA. The next step would be for the first choice to be sent a letter requesting a cost proposal, then a committee acting as the designer selection committee would interview and agree on a price. Mrs. Craver asked the board if they wish to have the Senior Center Building Committee act as the Selection Committee or do they wish to interview and set a fee? **Motion by Mr. Swensen that we authorize the Senior Center Building Committee to meet with Caitlin & Associates to come up with a cost estimate, seconded by Mr. Brown, motion carries.**
3. 4 Dresser Hill – Ball Fields. Chairman Boria noted that the Charlton/Dudley Football League would like to be able to expand some of the property there for a football field. He would like to discuss it further at the meeting next week with Recreation, Council on Aging, Fire Station Building Committee and any others that might be interested. Chairman Boria had stated that it is slated for a practice field and would also include more parking if needed. Meeting is March 6, 2008 at :6:30pm in the Senior Center.
4. Survey for Highway Barn Site – Mrs. Craver has provided the Board with a proposal for land surveying services from Allen & Major Associates, Inc. to survey the proposed site at the landfill for a highway barn. This is the same company that has been providing surveying services for the landfill and BATG. The project cost is \$7,200. The Board is being asked to approve the survey proposal from Allen & Major Associates and to authorize any additional funds as outlined in the contract such as meeting or reimbursable expenses. **Motion by Mr. Bacon to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Swensen.** Ms. Walker stated that we just took away about this same amount of money for the Library. She doesn't understand why we would approve this. **Vote taken on Mr. Bacon's motion: Ms. Walker – opposed, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Swensen, Mr. Brown and Chairman Boria – aye, motion carries.**

IX. Town Administrator Report (see attached)

X. Other Business

1. Ms. Walker stated that we had discussed having a workshop meeting to review the BOS policies and she would like to be able to put a date on it. Date set for March 18, 2008 at 6:30PM.
2. Ms. Walker asked the Board if they want to participate in the dodge-ball tournament at Shepherd Hill. Mr. Bacon will be out of town but all others agreed. The team to be Ms. Walker, Mr. Swensen, Mr. Brown, Chairman Boria and Town Administrator Robin Craver. Volunteers from the audience are Fire Chief Charles Cloutier and Police Chief James Pervier.
3. Mr. Bacon noticed that there is a hole in the handicap ramp and he would suggest we try and fix it right away.

XI. Adjourn/Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Brown to enter into executive session at 8:00pm under MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, #3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective

bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel, seconded by Mr. Swensen. Ms. Walker has a problem with one item being #2 on the executive session agenda. She is not comfortable with going into executive session for this purpose. Vice Chairman Brown stated they could discuss it in executive session and if at that time it is decided not to discuss it, then it will not be discussed. **Roll call vote taken: Ms. Walker – nay, Mr. Bacon – aye, Mr. Swensen – aye, Mr. Brown – aye and Chairman Boria – aye.** Chairman Boria stated that the Board will reconvene to open session for the purpose of adjourning.

XII. Next Meeting Announcement:

- Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – March 11, 2008

The Board resumed regular session for the purpose of adjourning at 9:00pm. **Motion by Mr. Swensen to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Walker, motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted by:
Mary C. Devlin
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by:

Peter J. Boria, Chairperson

Scott D. Brown, Vice-Chairman

Kathleen W. Walker, Clerk

John R. Bacon, Member

Frederick C. Swensen, Member