



TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of Regular Selectmen's Meeting
June 17, 2008

Submitted by _____

Date _____

Received by _____

Date _____

Present: Vice-Chairman – Peter J. Boria, Clerk – Kathleen W. Walker and members John R. Bacon and Scott D. Brown. Also present, Town Administrator - Robin L. Craver. Absent: Chairman – Frederick Swensen.

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:

Vice-Chairman Boria called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with the pledge to the flag followed by a moment of silence for Ernest G. Tucker – a long time resident and the father of our Selectmen Assistant, Laurie Degnan, for Clifford P. Shedd – also a long time resident of the town who lost his life in a terrible car accident and for our previous Dog Officer, Donald Chase – who was stricken ill at home.

II. Consent Agenda:

- Vice Chairman Boria read the agenda.
- Minutes of Regular Selectmen's Meeting – June 3, 2008. **Motion by Ms. Walker to approve the minutes of June 3, 2008, seconded by Mr. Bacon. Vote taken: Ms. Walker and Mr. Bacon – aye, Mr. Brown and Vice-Chairperson Boria – abstained.** Motion carries.

III. Community Relations, Announcements and Open Forum:

- Vice-Chairman Boria read the announcements.

IV. Appointments/Resignations:

1. Monument Committee – Mrs. Craver stated that at the Board's last meeting, discussion took place of forming a new monument committee to recognize the service men and women being deployed overseas and who have served in the Middle East. A notice was also placed on cable seeking volunteers. At this time we have received one request for appointment from Joe Pranaitis. **Motion by Ms. Walker to appoint Mr. Pranaitis to the Monument Committee, seconded by Mr. Brown, motion carries.** The second item that Mrs. Craver asked for was to ask the board to consider the number of members for this committee. **Motion by Ms. Walker that this committee have three members, seconded by Mr. Brown for discussion.** Mr. Brown is not opposed to three but feels that it might be better to have five. With three members, it's sometimes hard to get a quorum. Mr. Bacon and Vice Chairman Boria agreed with five. **Ms. Walker changed her motion to be five members. One member from this Board, one member from the American Legion, one member from the VFW and two citizens at large, seconded by Mr. Bacon, motion carries.** Vice Chairman Boria would like to volunteer to serve on this committee. He also noted that Gordon Pike would like to serve on this committee. **Motion by Ms. Walker that we appoint Gordon Pike and Peter Boria to the Monument Committee, seconded by Mr. Brown, motion carries.**

2. Re-appointment for terms expiring June 30, 2008. (see attached list) Vice Chairman Boria read the list. **Motion by Mr. Brown to make the appointments as presented, seconded by Ms. Walker, motion carries.** Ms. Walker thanked all for their hard work and dedication. The rest of the Board agreed.

V. Scheduled Appointments

6:40pm – Treasurer, Keith Arsenault – signing of notes. Mr. Arsenault stated that bids for the water connection project borrowing were received recently. The lowest bid was 2.34% submitted by the Bank of Western Massachusetts. It is expected to receive permanent financing for this project from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Trust. He is asking the Board to approve the bid as submitted. Mrs. Craver would recommend the Board approve Mr. Arsenault's request. **Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the request, seconded by Ms. Walker, motion carries.**

6:45pm – Pole Hearing – Buffum Road. Vice-Chairman Boria opened the hearing at 6:45pm by reading the notice as mailed to the abutters. The Charlton Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 6:45pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA 01507 to act on a request from Verizon New England, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric Company to locate poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures to be owned and used in common by petitioners, along and across the following public way or ways: Buffum Road: Place one (1) new jointly owned pole numbered T7 ½ /E9-50 on the southwesterly side of Buffum Road at a point approximately 211 feet southeasterly from the centerline of Jordan's Way at its intersection with Buffum Road. Anyone wishing to be heard on this matter should appear on the date and time specified or submit concerns in writing. Seeing no questions or concerns heard, **motion by Mr. Bacon to close the hearing, seconded by Mr. Brown, motion carries. Motion by Mr. Bacon to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Brown, motion carries.**

VI. Old Business:

1. Smoking policy reconsideration. Mr. Bacon had asked that this be placed on the agenda for reconsideration. He agrees with what the policy is trying to do. He has a problem with number 9 as far as someone seeking employment for the town. He feels that this would be detrimental to our personal freedom. He would ask the Board to reconsider the vote taken the other night and vote it down. Vice Chairman Boria stated that since this is an adopted policy, the procedure would be to make a motion to change it. **Mr. Bacon made a motion to strike number 9. Vice Chairman Boria said that we should strike #8 also, Mr. Bacon agreed, seconded by Mr. Brown.** Vice Chairman Boria asked how this policy came about? Mrs. Craver stated that the Municipal Building Committee had some complaints regarding smoking in front of the building. After researching with other towns, this is what they came up with. Another component for this policy is for insurance purposes that the town pays for. Vice-Chairman Boria agrees with the first part of this policy as it is a legitimate concern. The second part, he feels that as far as insurance purposes, we should help to assist with programs to those where needed. **Ms. Walker understands the concerns but would offer a friendly amendment to the motion to strike #9 but to amend #8 to no smoking will be allowed for people hired after July 1, 2008 during working hours, seconded by Mr. Brown for discussion.** Mr. Brown and Vice Chairman Boria feel that would be hard to make it work. Ms. Walker stated that people that currently smoke will be grandfathered in. This will only affect new people coming in. Mrs. Craver has concerns regarding morale and unions. She would recommend that it be all or nothing. **Motion on amendment: Mr. Bacon, Mr. Brown and Vice Chairman Boria – nay and Ms. Walker abstained, motion fails. Vote on main motion: carries.** Ms. Walker would request that this revised smoking policy be sent back to

the Municipal Building Committee in case there are any other changes they would like to make.

VII. New Business:

1. End of year Department transfer requests. Mrs. Craver stated that the Municipal Relief Act of 2003 has been extended permanently and allows the Selectmen with the concurrence of the Finance Committee to make line item transfers during May and June. Total transfers may not exceed 3% of the department budget from which the transfer is made or \$5,000.00, whichever is greater. The requested list is as follows:

Amount	Transfer from:	Transfer to:
\$5,000	Highway salaries account	Highway expense account;
\$1,700.00	Group Health Insurance	Municipal Building Telecommunications
\$5,000.00	General Insurance	Municipal Building Telecommunications
\$3,000.00	Group Health	Environmental
\$5,000.00	General Insurance	Environmental
\$250.00	Treasurer – Certify notes	Treasurer – Banking Services
\$650.00	Treasurer – Certify notes	Treasurer – expenses
\$3,500.00	Police Salaries	Police Maintenance

Mrs. Craver would recommend the Board approve all of these requests. **Motion by Mr. Brown to approve these requests, seconded by Mr. Bacon.** Vice Chairman Boria would like to know if there was a cost for canceling the phones that we had and changing to the new ones. Mrs. Craver said she will confirm that for the Board. **Motion carries.**

2. CHPT received Green Valley Institute 2008 Green Neighbor Award. Mrs. Craver stated that CHPT and the Town of Charlton are the proud recipients of a Green Valley Institute 2008 Green Neighbor Award! The award was presented at the Last Green Valley Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc.'s annual meeting Friday, May 30th. The 2008 Green Neighbor Award was presented to the Charlton heritage preservation Trust (CHPT) and the Town of Charlton for coming together to build a strong working relationship that has resulted in the recent preservation of 142 acres of open space set aside in flexible subdivisions; and for forging other partnerships for trail creation, maintenance and stewardship and for helping to keep the Last Green Valley green. Vice Chairman Boria thanked them for working with the Planning Board and congratulated them.
3. Approval of site survey for Highway Barn. Mrs. Craver would ask the Board to pass over this item at it is not necessary at this time.

VIII. Town Administrator Report (see attached)

IX. Other Business:

1. Mrs. Craver stated that she has been asked to announce the NIMS training for the Board. Dates are June 24th or July 8th. Next Tuesday, June 24th, 6:30pm at the Library. Training would take about one hour and a half.
2. Chief Pervier stated that last weekend they were handing out info on buckling up at Ted's Citgo and Dunkin Donuts. They will be doing it again this weekend at McDonald's and Honey Farms.
3. Mrs. Craver announced the winners of the first Annual Town Report contest. Deb Ceccarini and Bridgette Groh. Congratulations and we look forward to the contest next year.
4. Ms. Walker complimented the Town Administrator about a letter she wrote for the Town Report contest which is in the Board's folder.

5. Ms. Walker cannot continue to participate in the LEPC anymore and would suggest putting it on the next agenda for another Board member to step in.
6. Ms. Walker congratulated the Water/ Sewer Commission and Mrs. Craver for interviewing and hiring a new Water and Sewer Administrator, Steven Wandland.
7. Mr. Bacon asked if there was any progress on the disposal area for yard waste? Ms. Walker said that it was discussed at the last Recycling meeting and Mr. Foskett said he would go look at what they have in Webster.
8. Ms. Walker mentioned that the tour that Mrs. Craver announced, they have quite a few wonderful places to show. Is there any places that anyone can think of that we should show these people? Bay Path, other schools, Camp Foskett, Nature's Classroom, Buffumville, the hanging tree, Grizzly Adams grave, the Highway Barn.
9. Ms. Walker stated that there was a letter in the Board's folder from a student and she read it. (see attached). She would like to see a response given. Mrs. Craver to work on creating a response. Ms. Walker would like us to come up with a policy on how these are handled.

X. Adjourn/Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Brown to adjourn at 7:22pm, seconded by Mr. Bacon, motion carries.

I Next Meeting Announcement:

- Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – July 1, 2008

Respectfully submitted by:
 Mary C. Devlin
 Administrative Assistant

Accepted by:

 Frederick C. Swensen, Chairperson (absent)

 Peter J. Boria, Vice-Chairman

 Kathleen W. Walker, Clerk

 John R. Bacon, Member

 Scott D. Brown, Member