



TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of Regular Selectmen's Meeting
May 19, 2009

Submitted by _____

Date _____

Received by _____

Date _____

Present: Chairman – Frederick C. Swensen, Vice Chairman – Kathleen W. Walker, Clerk – Scott D. Brown and Member – David M. Singer. Also present, Town Administrator - Robin L. Craver. Absent – member Peter J. Boria.

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 Swensen called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with the pledge to the flag.

II. Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of May 5, 2009 @ 6:00pm minutes. **Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Walker, motion carries unanimously.**
2. Approval of May 5, 2009 Regular minutes. **Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Walker** with a clarification to a sentence on page 5, first paragraph. In the sentence, Ms. Walker questioned the ability of the Library to hire this temporary person to fill in. Her intention was not to question their ability. She would like it to read Ms. Walker asked if the Library could hire this temporary person to fill in. No objection. **Motion carries unanimously.**

III. Community Relations, Announcements and Open Forum:

- Chairman Swensen read the announcements.
- Stefan Sage from Lincoln Point Road came before the board with two items. The first was to revisit a comment that was made for an override at town meeting last night. He did some research with the Assessors office and it came out to be an average of \$.16 per thousand for a total of \$47 for an entire year for an increase in a person's taxes for a \$250,000 override. To do an override, the only persons qualified is the Board of Selectmen and it must be a 2/3rds vote. He asked what it would take to get the board to agree with this which would be one way to help with the budgetary issues. Ms. Walker reviewed the law and explained that the board could not advertise this at all. There would need to be a group of people advocating for it. Chairman Swensen stated that he would support it but feels during the economic times, it would be more challenging than ever. Mr. Brown is not opposed of doing this but would like to see what the numbers are going to come in at first, he would not want to throw another tax increase on the people. Mr. Singer would say at this time due to the economy as it is, he would not be in favor. The second thing Mr. Sage said was that an article was printed in the Southbridge Evening News in regards to the dams. It was reported that the dam being considered in this issue is Prindle Lake and the property is Nature's Classroom. He wanted to clarify that Nature's Classroom does not own any property, it belongs to the Santos trust.
- Linda Davis and Erin Anderson came forward to give an update on how the Earth Fest went. There was a lot of positive feedback from the people in town. They would like to thank all that were involved and that attended. They are hoping to do this again next year. There is a wrap up meeting Thursday night at 6:00 here on the common if anyone would like to join.

- Chief Pervier came forward and gave an update on the Charlton idol contest at the Charlton Middle School. There have only been 11 students as of today and they are extending the deadline until next Tuesday. They need at least 25 students to run the program. Sign up is in the Middle School office.

IV. Appointments/Resignations:

1. Municipal Building Committee – Selectmen appointment – Mrs. Craver stated that with the recent election, there is a need to fill one seat on this committee with a member of the Board. At this time, there are no Board members that can step forward.
2. Charlton Police Auxiliary – Mrs. Craver stated that two resignations were received from the Charlton Police Auxiliary from Jessica Chickering and Elvin Nieves. **Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the resignations of Jessica Chickering and Elvin Nieves, seconded by Ms. Walker, motion carries.**

V. Scheduled Appointments

VI. Old Business:

1. Highway Bid Award correction – Mrs. Craver stated that at the Board’s last meeting, the Board was asked to award the Highway Bids as recommended by the Highway Superintendent and herself. After further review of the bids received for the 3/8” cold mix asphalt, you are being asked to change the award of this bid from Aggregate Industries to Mass Broken Stone. The difference from the original bid was due to the price adjustment. Mass Broken Stones bid was \$84.44 per ton compared to Aggregate Industries at \$86.00 per ton. **Motion by Mr. Brown to award the bid to Mass Broken Stone, seconded by Ms. Walker.** Mrs. Craver stated that it is her understanding that Aggregate Industries has been notified of the mistake. **Motion carries.**

VII. New Business:

1. Municipal Building Committee – Curtis Meskus was present on behalf of the Municipal Building Committee. This committee voted to forward a request to the Board of Selectmen to allow solicitations for proposals for designer services for Accessibility Modifications to the George C. McKinstry III building. Mr. Brown is concerned about the list of improvements that was previously brought up. There were a number of smaller items on that list where we would be better off in spending the \$50,000 to fix these instead of using them for plans. Mr. Meskus stated that when this building stopped being a school, it should have been fully made to be ADA compliant. The Municipal Building Committee had discussed the use of the funds and feel that if there are any opportunities for grant money, then we should get the plans in place. Mr. Brown doesn’t feel that we should go out to bid on something that the money could be used on already. He understands the intention, but feels with the dollars, we can fix the little things which also shows we are making progress. Mr. Meskus stated that the transitional plan sets out all the issues needed. Mrs. Craver stated that having the plan done, will be what we can work off of for this building, such as electrical, plumbing, etc. **Motion by Ms. Walker that the Town of Charlton, acting through the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator moves to advertise and solicit proposals from licensed, professional architects to serve as project architect/designer for the Accessibility Modifications to the George C. McKinstry, III Building, 37 Main St, Charlton MA, seconded by Chairman Swensen. Vote taken: Ms. Walker, Mr. Singer and Chairman Swensen – aye, Mr. Brown – opposed.**
2. Scholarship Award – Mrs. Craver stated that every year the Board is charged with reviewing the applicants for scholarships as they come in. Scholarships are given out for the Jessie Smith, Nehemiah Stone and the Edwin Philips Cooking scholarship by the Board. The Colby

family chooses the recipient of the Colby scholarship. This year there are no applicants for the Edwin Phillips Cooking fund. There are no District 2 resident applicants for the Nehemiah B. Stone Scholarship and no applications were received from any Bay Path students. There are only two applicants that qualified for the Jesse Smith Scholarship since they reside within the required School Districts of #3 & #4. You are asked to make the award by using the # that was assigned to the applicant. Shepherd Hill's graduation will be on June 7th where the student will be presented with it by the Chairman of the Board. **Motion by Mr. Brown to award the Jesse Smith scholarship to applicant #1, seconded by Mr. Singer, motion carries unanimously.**

VIII. Student Selectperson Report - Timothy Nikopoulos was not present due to having to study for final exams this week.

VIII. Town Administrator Report – Mrs. Craver did not have a report due to town meeting

IX. Other Business: Ms. Walker asked about the email going around about the \$50.00 discretionary on spending for departments. Ms. Walker remembers the discussion but not the amount. Mrs. Craver will find the motion and forward it to the Board. Chairman Swensen will look into it.

Mr. Singer would like to ask the Board if they would entertain the idea of producing a video for Town Meeting. Once the warrant is completed, the Town Administrator along with any Department Heads needed would review each article and give a description of what it is. They would not take questions. Mr. Singer mentioned other towns that have done this and they feel that the attendance at their town meetings have increased. Ms. Walker suggested that Mr. Singer put it in writing for the next meeting. Chairman Swensen asked to put it on the next agenda when we have a full board.

Mrs. Craver stated that there was an incorrect reporting on the sex offender bylaw that was voted last night. The actual motion that was made and approved was to reduce it from 2,000ft to 1,000 ft. The paper noted that it was 2,000ft to 500ft.

XI. Adjourn/Executive Session: **Motion by Mr. Brown to go into executive session under MGL, Chapter 39, sec 23b, #3 at 7:29pm, seconded by Ms. Walker. Roll call vote taken: Mr. Singer – aye, Mr. Brown – aye, Ms. Walker – aye and Chairman Swensen – aye.** Chairman Swensen stated that the Board would return to open session for the purpose of adjourning.

XII Next Meeting Announcement:

- Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – June 2, 2009

Respectfully submitted by:
Mary C. Devlin
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by:

Frederick C. Swensen, Chairperson

Kathleen W. Walker, Vice-Chairman

Scott D. Brown, Clerk

David M. Singer, Member

Peter J. Boria, Member (absent)