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TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of Regular Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday – July 23, 2013

Submitted by Med
Date 8/7/13
Received by dlx
Date 8-7-13

Present: Chairman – Frederick C. Swensen, Vice-Chairman – David M. Singer, Clerk – Joseph J. Szafarowicz and Members – Kathleen W. Walker and Brent Sellew. Also present: Town Administrator – Robin L. Craver.

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 with the pledge to the flag.

II. Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting – June 11, 2013. **Motion by Mr. Szafarowicz to accept the minutes of our Regular meeting of June 11, 2013 as printed, seconded by Mr. Sellew, motion carries.**
2. Minutes of Special Meeting – June 18, 2013 @ 6pm. **Motion by Mr. Szafarowicz to accept the minutes of June 18, 2013 as printed, seconded by Ms. Walker, motion carries.**
3. Minutes of Special Meeting – June 18, 2013 @ 6:30pm. **Motion by Mr. Szafarowicz to accept the minutes of June 18, 2013 at 6:30pm as printed, seconded by Mr. Sellew, motion carries.**
4. Minutes of Special Meeting – June 26, 2013. **Motion by Mr. Szafarowicz to accept the minutes of June 26, 2013 as printed, seconded by Mr. Sellew, motion carries.**

III. Community Relations, Announcements and Open Forum:

Chairman Swensen read the announcements.

Ms. Walker stated that the Old Home Day Committee is meeting almost every week and everyone is welcome to attend.

Terri Gough, representing the Charlton Fire Fighters stated that the fireworks will be coming up soon and the fundraiser will begin this week. The company is from out of town that will be calling residents. On October 4th, hopefully at the Charlton Middle School they will be having a childrens' comedy and magic show and presentation for all the children in Charlton. Ms. Gough was asked to provide the Police with the company's information that will be doing the fundraising and to post something on cable and the town's website so residents will know.

IV. Appointments/Resignations:

1. Re-appointments for terms expiring June 30, 2013. Mrs. Craver stated the following would like to be re-appointed to their committees:

Kathy Meskus	Old Home Day Committee	Term exp. June 30, 2014
Roger Meskus	Old Home Day Committee	Term exp. June 30, 2014
Bradford Howard	By-law Committee	Term exp. June 30, 2014
Quentin Kuehl	Boston Post Cane Committee	Term exp. June 30, 2014
Peter Parker	Memorial Day Committee	Term exp. June 30, 2014
Cathy Kuehl	Old Home Day Committee	Term exp. June 30, 2014

Mrs. Craver stated that Don Fortin would not be seeking re-appointment to the Old Home Day Committee. **Motion by Mr. Szafarowicz to approve these re-appointments as printed in this memorandum, seconded by Ms. Walker, motion carries unanimously.** Chairman Swensen asked that we send a letter to Don Fortin thanking him for his time on the Old Home Day Committee.

V. Scheduled Appointments:

6:45pm – Rep. Peter Durant – State Budget Update. Representative Durant came forward and provided the board with a handout. (attached) He is here to provide the board with where we are at with the state budget and what it means on the local level. He stated that in talking about the budget in the local level, we are really talking about four separate bills. The state budget for 2014 starts with the governor's budget, then the house budget, senate budget then the conference committee. The main budget bill is the one that was discussed. The transportation bill is where the state actually raised its revenues. The toll booths are slated to come down in 2018. There has also been discussion on the Chapter 90 monies. At this time, the Governor has only released half of the monies. He reviewed what was handed out to the Board. Chairman Swensen thanked Rep. Durant for coming and asked if the Governor was required by law to disperse all Chapter 90 monies during the fiscal year? Rep. Durant stated that he is not required to but traditionally when we put Chapter 90 money forward, that's the purpose of it. Chairman Swensen said that Rep. Durant stated that he didn't see any Legislatures willing to cut local aid by 20%, is there any Legislature willing to cut local aid period? Chairman Swensen stated that was probably not a fair question and restated it as do you see local aid being level funded or fully funded? Rep. Durant stated absolutely. Ms. Walker asked Rep. Durant if he voted to support this budget and his response was no. He feels that we need to reprioritize on how we spend the money. It doesn't mean he doesn't agree with everything in the budget. Ms. Walker asked Rep. Durant what changes he would like to see in the budget. Rep. Durant stated that one of the things that he helped work on is transportation. Ms. Walker stated that she knows that Rep. Durant supported the ban on plastic bags. Mr. Singer pointed out that the election for the state rep is over and this to him, is campaigning. Ms. Walker stated that she is not running for state rep and stated to the Chairman that she would like to finish. She stated that there is another one coming up about Styrofoam and wanted to know how Rep. Durant felt about that. Rep. Durant stated that he had some questions about that. He has not studied the bill yet. Ms. Walker thanked Rep. Durant and stated that's all she had despite Mr. Singer's fears. Mr. Singer pointed out that they are not fears. He will point out that the questions had nothing to do with why Rep. Durant was here and he feels that the we, the people of Charlton and government representatives of Boston coming here and getting blindsided with questions. We should be welcoming and appreciate of the information that they are providing. There is a time and place for debates. Ms. Walker thinks it's the responsibility of the Board members to take advantage of the opportunity to talk to our state rep. She doesn't think he really minds and she thinks they are just simple questions. As Chair, Chairman Swensen thanked Representative Durant for coming out and thanked him for the update. He asked if there were any other questions from the Board. Mrs. Craver asked, as the Board has talked about it, on state owned land, she's not exactly sure what's engrossed in that, that we get paid for. We've had conversations about whether or not the Mass Pike and the exits could be included if they are not. Would your office be able to take a look at that and see what we might need to do to lobby to get that into state owned land. Rep Durant stated that he only knows a little about the PLOT from being a Selectmen in Spencer but he will certainly look into this and let Mrs. Craver know.

7:30pm – Proposition 2 ½ override discussion. Mrs. Craver stated that at the Board's May 28, 2013 regular Selectmen's Meeting, the Board voted an intention to place an override question on a ballot on Monday, September 9, 2013. In an effort to illicit community input, you have also held two community hearings on June 18th and July 9th. Mrs. Craver did not attend those meetings but is of the understanding that it is the Board's desire to finalize the warrant tonight by voting on a ballot question.

She had provided the Board with material regarding the types of overrides and it appears that the Board's preference is to have one amount. The format for that type of question could be:

“Shall the Town of Charlton be allowed to assess an additional \$ _____ in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operating budgets of the Town and the Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014?” Mrs. Craver has worked with the Town Clerk and have set it up for a date of September 9, 2013 from 12:00noon to 8:00pm at the Charlton Middle School. Mrs. Craver provided the Board with information on a snow and ice deficit history from 2006 to 2014; school enrollment and transportation; a personnel comparison from 2005 to 2014 and lastly, a comprehensive spread sheet that was put together by the Treasurer. She also acknowledged Joan Walker for all her work in this as well. Chairman Swensen stated that the goal of the Board tonight is to hopefully come up with a number. He said for the sake of discussion, he would throw out some numbers for proposals to start but before he does that, he would like to discuss what he went through to come up with this process. The sheets that we have been working from, we asked input from Department Heads to provide what they need to get them on a good comfortable level. The number that was on that sheet was 1.29 million dollars. He went back and looked at it to see if it could be cut anywhere and he came up with 1.25 million dollars. Our general government budget for just running the town hall has decreased. The intent behind the prop 2 ½ is to be able to go to the people to approve it. The next step that was done is to start at ground zero and explained it. In his opinion, and from people he's talked to is that we need to hire one more additional dispatcher and cover training for police and fire. There was discussion of reducing taxes for seniors. If you add up all the items just stated, it adds up to \$800,000 broken down as: restore stabilization - \$600,000; Increase training for firefighters and police - \$50,000; full time dispatcher and benefits - \$65,000; restore various general government expense accounts - \$40,000; increase number of spots for senior tax work of program - \$20,000 and veterans agent - \$25,000. Ms. Walker thanked Chairman Swensen and asked if the 1.25 million includes the increase for the senior tax work off and he stated no, that's included in the \$800,000. Mr. Szafarowicz stated that we need to put a number out there that has a chance to pass that is realistic. He doesn't think it should go over \$1,000,000. Chairman Swensen stated that it should cover the dire needs of the town. He would also point out that this number does not include any capital improvements. He thanked the Finance Committee for working so hard on this as well. Frank Morrill, Chairman of the Finance Committee came forward. He stated that his board has discussed the needs over the past few years. He stated that the number will not satisfy everyone but is one that can be worked with. Mr. Singer stated that key points have been given out but he is not in favor of this. He is gathering data which is not complete and he will come back with it. He stated that town meeting approved a balanced budget which did not cut services, did not lay off any employees and did not raid stabilization. Ms. Walker wanted to discuss the issue with a lower number. She thinks the only thing that will get a half of chance of passing is that everyone get behind it. She supports the \$800,000. Mr. Szafarowicz stated that this is up to the people to approve and it's our job to give them the level of service they need. Mr. Singer made a request for clarity that when we talk about people at town meeting, he would appreciate it if we describe them as taxpayers which are those residents who were present at town meeting. Chairman Swensen stated that this is a public meeting and if anyone wanted to come up and speak they can. No one came forward. **Motion by Ms. Walker that we fill out the blank spot on the article with \$800,000.** Chairman Swensen asked if we could include in the motion the breakdown of how he has it written down. Mrs. Craver stated that you need to vote the motion exactly as it is. Part of the motion will be setting the election and the ballot question which should be stated just as it is worded. **Motion by Ms. Walker, in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Charlton qualified to vote in elections to vote at Precincts 1,2,3 & 4 in the Heritage School, 34 Oxford**

Road in said Charlton on Monday, September 9th from 12:00pm to 8:00pm for action on Question 1 of this warrant:

Question 1: (Ballot Question)

Shall the Town of Charlton be allowed to assess an additional \$800,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operating budgets of the Town and the Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014?, seconded by Mr. Sellew, motion carries unanimously. Chairman Swensen thanked everyone for coming and for all their work on this. There will be one more override meeting for discussion on July 30th at the Middle School at 6:30pm. Mrs. Craver stated that she asked if this could also be contingent upon the room being available. **Ms. Walker amended her motion to include contingent upon the room being available. Mr. Sellew amended his second, motion passes unanimously.** Karen Spiewak asked to be heard. She stated that the Library Trustees supported their override and asked the Board because they are in a leadership position, to vote to support the override and question. She thinks it means a lot. **Motion by Ms. Walker that we support this question and the override, seconded by Chairman Swensen.** Mr. Singer stated that in many instances this board makes a motion to support or not support. He doesn't feel this is one of the times to do that. Mr. Szafarowicz feels it would go against the spirit of the override as it is the people of the town to make the decision, not the board. Mr. Sellew feels we have already supported this by bringing it to the table. Ms. Walker stated that she made the motion because she agreed with Mrs. Spiewak that this board is in a leadership position and that we should take a stand. However, she stated that it doesn't appear this board will support the motion and she would rather remove it than have it go down that we are against the motion. Mr. Singer pointed out that we voted to put the question out there to the people. We didn't vote to support an override. Mr. Szafarowicz stated that we aren't doing this for political purposes. Chairman Swensen stated that his feeling goes beyond the 2 ½ override, once the vote is taken by the board, it should be supported by the board. He would ask the board to digest the information given tonight and think on it and we can revisit this issue at the next meeting if we don't take a vote on it tonight. **Ms. Walker withdrew her motion and will bring it up at another meeting. Chairman Swensen withdrew his second.**

VI. New Business:

1. Consideration of selling Town Property. Mrs. Craver stated that Town Treasurer Arsenault received a request from a citizen asking to be notified if any land on Glen Echo Lake is ever up for sale. He is interested in purchasing the parcel adjacent to his home at 83 Sunset Drive. Town Treasurer Arsenault is asking the Board for permission to offer abutting properties through the "submission of written bids" process, the land the town owns. The minimum bids are set at the current assessed value of the property being offered. The total assessed value for the .199 acres of land mainly classified as VACTAX Title on Sunset Drive is \$139,400. What is the Board's wishes? Mr. Singer stated that this is something that he has been asking for this for a long time now to sell off town property. He would like to see us approve the Treasurer's request. Chairman Swensen just wanted to clarify that this is not the parcel that would give the public access to the lake and it isn't. Mr. Szafarowicz asked if there will be other properties being offered up and the answer was just this one. Mrs. Craver asked if the Board would like to go and look at the property first before you make a decision and Chairman Swensen and Ms. Walker stated that they would like to go look at it. Mr. Singer stated that this is not a one-time revenue. The person that purchases this land will be paying taxes on it. Mrs. Craver stated that what the board should do is to see if you consider doing this and to make sure you know the property and your ok with letting it go. She also recommended sending something out to Department Heads to make sure they have no concerns with this either and was asked to do that in conjunction with this request. Mr. Szafarowicz asked if this property is between two houses or what and it was stated that they think it's between two houses. It was asked to have Todd Girard do a GIS map on this area to show the

- property lines. Chairman Swensen asked to put this on the next Board's agenda.
2. Letter from the Town of Wareham Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Craver stated that attached is a letter from Peter W. Teitelbaum, Esq., Chairman of the Town of Wareham Board of Selectmen asking the Board to join them in supporting House Bill 1115, an Act relative to the definition of low and moderate income housing. This bill is sponsored by Representative Susan Williams Gifford and seeks to amend Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40B, sec. 20 by adding the following sentence: "*Low and moderate income housing shall also include mobile homes and group homes, manufactured homes, in-law apartments and any first time home buyers participating in any state or federal assistance program.*" This bill would allow mobile homes and other types of very affordable property, to be included in the ten percent of affordable housing quota required by Chapter 40B. Does the Board wish to send a letter of support to our state legislatures and if so, do you want the letter to come from the Board or the Town Administrator on behalf of the Board? Mr. Szafarowicz doesn't think this is something that will cause too much issues and can help us out. He stated that for those that don't know, if you don't have 10% of affordable housing in your town and a developer comes in to build affordable housing, they can bypass our zoning ordinances which can be a hassle. Mr. Szafarowicz stated that since we have our representative here, he asked if he has knowledge on this issue and if he would support it. Rep. Durant stated that it's something that the town needs to look at. What they want to call affordable housing. Under the Board's direction, he would support it. **Motion by Mr. Szafarowicz that the Board send a letter of support from the Select Board, seconded by Mr. Singer.** Ms. Walker is mixed about this. She is not too concerned about the developers. She needs a little more time on this herself to look into it. Chairman Swensen asked if we could get a number from the Assessor's Office of what percentage of homes in Charlton would qualify for this. **Vote on motion: 3 ayes with Ms. Walker and Chairman Swensen opposed, motion still passes.** Chairman Swensen would still like to get the information from the Assessors Office.
 3. Custodial services for the Charlton Police Department. Mr. Singer asked if we should hold this until the Chief is back. Chairman Swensen stated that we can start on it and if there are any questions, we can hold it. Mrs. Craver stated that attached is a memo from Chief Pervier stating that as of July 1, 2013, the current cleaning contractor for the Charlton Police Department, Jason F. White, began his new role as a full time police officer for the Charlton Police Department. Chief Pervier is asking that instead of contracting with another janitorial service to replace Jason F. White, that a "new" part time custodian be hired to clean and do general maintenance and repairs at the Charlton Police Department. He suggested that to start, in an effort to operate within his budget, that this person be hired for 15 hours a week at \$15.00/per hour which is the same rate that is currently being paid to the Charlton Municipal Office Building Custodian and to the Custodian at the Charlton Public Library. Mrs. Craver would recommend the Board approve this position for the hours and rate of pay as stated. She also stated that as requested, she met with the Fire Chief and Highway Superintendent regarding their custodian. The Highway is all set and the Fire Chief has stated that they are happy with their service but could use someone to come in and clean and wash the floors twice a year. Chairman Swensen asked what was the cost for services prior to the change? How much more will it cost. Mrs. Craver stated that it's minimal. Mr. Singer stated that he has this in his budget and asked if there were any benefits to going to outside service as opposed to just hiring. Mrs. Craver stated that they have looked at both and feel going outside for services would cost more. **Motion by Ms. Walker to approve the recommendation by the Chief and supported by Mrs. Craver that we adopt this position for the hours and rate of pay as stated in the memo dated July 15th, seconded by Mr. Sellew, motion carries unanimously.**

VII. Old Business:

1. **Selectmen Attendance Policy.** Ms. Walker brought this item up at a previous meeting and it was suggested at that time because it was not an agenda item, to put it on a future agenda to allow the Board time to review it. Ms. Walker stated that the reason she brought this up is because she has gotten a lot of questions from residents asking why we aren't all at the meetings. In FY13, there were only five regular meetings that we were all at. Ms. Walker stated that if a Selectperson could not make a meeting, they could take advantage of the remote participation. She feels this policy is needed as there are other people out there that are interested in serving if any member of this board cannot. Ms. Walker read the policy: Any member who fails to attend (in person or by remote) five regularly scheduled Board meetings in a year shall be advised of this fact in writing by the chairperson and asked to show his/her continued interest in serving as a board member by attending board meetings faithfully in the future. Any member who misses six meetings a year will receive a letter from the chairperson asking that she/he consider resigning from the Board. Copies of these letters shall be included in the minutes of the Board. In the event of illness or other extenuating circumstances, exceptions to this provision may be made by formal vote of the Board. Mr. Szafarowicz stated that he doesn't think we need a policy to be here. He would like to see all members at the meetings. Mr. Singer agrees with Mr. Szafarowicz. He feels the voters have the power to elect or not re-elect who they want. Ms. Walker agrees that it is up to the voters. She feels there is a problem here that needs to be addressed. Mr. Szafarowicz stated that we as a board, need to work together on behalf of the citizens. He feels this policy is not the right approach. Ms. Walker agrees with Mr. Szafarowicz. Mr. Singer stated that he has never heard anything from anyone regarding this. Mr. Sellew stated that after sitting on this board for 2 ½ years, there are a lot of meetings that we have to attend and can't always make it to them. Ms. Walker stated that she will not make a motion because it doesn't look like it will pass but she will be keeping track and bring it up again if she feels it's warranted.
2. **Veterans Agent.** Mrs. Craver stated as the Board is aware, Todd Girard was appointed Interim Veteran's Agent when our Veterans Agent retired. He was appointed as "interim" because we wanted to have a trial since his other duties include Conservation Agent, GIS and Recreation Staff. After the trial, it has become quite clear that the duties of this position are not a good match with his other duties. Although Todd cares deeply for his fellow veterans, the duties are more time consuming than was originally assumed and, frankly, the candidate for this position should have training in human resources. In an attempt to provide Charlton Veterans with the services they deserve, she has had discussions with the Council on Aging Director and would like to provide the board with a proposal to create the position of Veteran's Agent/COA Assistant Director. The Council on Aging could use another person and the Veterans Agent position, while required by law to be full time, would not require that many hours. We believe that placing the position in the COA would be a good match since they are already acquainted with many services a veteran might require and they are already bound by confidentiality when dealing with seniors. Mrs. Craver has already spoken with the MA Veterans' Services and they approve of this position. Attached is a draft job description along with an email from the COA Director with a favorable reply. Just a note, we originally thought the COA position would be an Administrative Assistant but that would mean that the job would have Union implementations. This way, Union membership is not in question as the duties will be a higher level than clerical. She would recommend that we advertise the position for 32 hours at Step 3. The pay will be dependent upon experience and education. **Motion by Ms. Walker to support the effort in the memo dated July 16, seconded by Mr. Sellew.** Chairman Swensen thanked Mr. Girard for stepping in and taking care of the veterans. **Vote on motion: motion carries unanimously.**

VIII. Town Administrator Report: Mrs. Craver reviewed her report.

IX. Other Business:

1. Mr. Szafarowicz stated that he attended his first Prindle Lake Dam Committee meeting and somehow is now chairman. The construction is starting to take place. There has been some last minute contractual changes.
2. Chairman Swensen stated that at the last meeting he handed out forms for the Town Administrator review. He asked all to fill out and return to him. He will collect them and do a general summary for the next meeting.

X. Next Meeting Announcement:

Special Selectmen's Meeting – July 30, 2013 – 6:30pm – Public Meeting on override discussion at Charlton Middle School.

Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – August 6, 2013

XI. Adjourn/Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Singer to go into executive session under M.G.L. c. 30A, sec 21, #1 – to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual and #3 – to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, seconded by Mr. Sellew. Roll call vote taken: Ms. Walker – aye, Mr. Szafarowicz – aye, Mr. Sellew – aye, Mr. Singer – aye and Chairman Swensen – aye.

The chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and that the Board will reconvene to open session for the purpose of adjourning.

Motion by Mr. Szafarowicz to adjourn at 9:35pm, seconded by Ms. Walker, motion carries.

Submitted by:

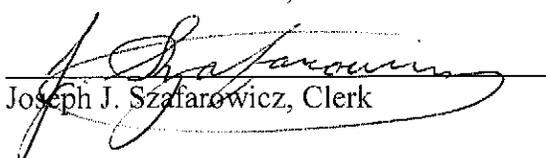
Mary C. Devlin

Administrative Assistant

Accepted by:



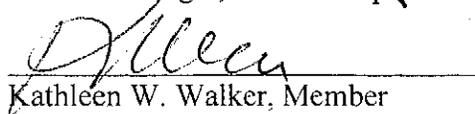
Frederick C. Swensen, Chairman



Joseph J. Szafarowicz, Clerk



David M. Singer, Vice-Chairperson



Kathleen W. Walker, Member

Brent Sellew, Member



**TOWN OF CHARLTON
OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
37 Main Street
Charlton, MA 01507
WWW.TOWNOF CHARLTON.NET**

Phone: (508) 248-2206
Fax: (508) 248-2374

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Robin L. Craver, Town Administrator
DATE: July 16, 2013
SUBJECT: Town Administrator's Report – for Selectmen's meeting of 7/23/13

Ambulance payments – As you are aware, a letter of support was sent to our legislatures for the out of network ambulance payments. Senator Brewer has advised that this was added to House Bill 3539, section 23 for consideration. Governor Patrick has 10 days to review and sign the bill. While Senator Brewer is hopeful that Governor Patrick will approve Section 23, he anticipates it will be returned to the Legislature with an amendment given that he has twice rejected this language in previous attempts. The House of Representatives must first take up any item returned by the Governor before the Senate can act on it. I will provide you with updates as they come in.

Casella – We have received a notice from the Department of Environmental Protection, which is in your read folder, that they have approved the request of Southbridge Recycling and Disposal Park (Casella) to include the addition of a small (accepting less than 49 tons per day) transfer/handling and recycling facility that will accept municipal solid waste and recyclables. The facility will include a residents drop off area, two (2) new scales and a scale house.

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District – Attached is a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to Superintendent Gilrein acknowledging that member towns of the school district have not yet approved a fiscal year 2014 budget. Per M.G.L. Chapter 71, section 16B, the Commissioner of the Elementary and Secondary Education is empowered to order an appropriation for a regional school district when the regional school committee and the appropriating bodies of the member communities have not agreed on a budget. He has authorized the Dudley Charlton Regional School District to continue its operations and to spend up to \$3,798,972 in each month of fiscal year 2014 until the district's fiscal year 2014 budget has been adopted or until December 1, 2013, whichever comes first.

Gas Tank – I'm happy to report that the Town Gas Tank is in and up and running. Highway Superintendent Foskett has been distributing gas cards to authorized employees.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

07/11/2013

SENATOR STEPHEN M. BREWER
Worcester, Hampden,
Hampshire and Middlesex District

STEPHEN.BREWER@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

Chairman
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 212
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053

TEL. (617) 722-1540
FAX (617) 722-1078

July 9, 2013

Board of Selectmen
37 Main Street
Charlton, MA 01507

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for your recent correspondence expressing your support for language included by the House of Representatives in a supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2013 (FY 2013) regarding out-of-network ambulance payments.

As you may know, a conference committee was appointed to negotiate the differences between the House and Senate's supplemental budget bills. Senate President Therese Murray appointed me to serve as the Senate Chair of this committee given my role as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. On June 30, 2013, the Conference Committee filed its report with the House Clerk and both branches adopted the supplemental budget, **House Bill 3539**, the following day. I am pleased to inform you that the out-of-network ambulance payments section was included as Section 23 of the bill. Governor Patrick has 10 days to review and sign the bill from July 1, 2013.

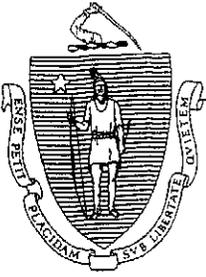
While I am hopeful that Governor Patrick will approve Section 23, I anticipate it will be returned to the Legislature with an amendment given that he has twice rejected this language in previous attempts. The House of Representatives must first take up any item returned by the Governor before the Senate can act on it. Please do not hesitate to contact my Legislative Aide, Kate Cohen, at 617-722-1540 or at Katherine.Cohen@MASenate.gov for periodic updates on the bill.

If I may be of any assistance to you and the residents of Charlton in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


STEPHEN M. BREWER
State Senator

SMB/kc



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

10/3/13
TA-2204

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner

June 26, 2013

JUL -5 2013

Sean M Gilrein, Superintendent
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
68 Dudley Oxford Road
Dudley, MA, 01571

Dear Superintendent Gilrein:

Your recent letter stated that the member towns of your district have not yet approved a fiscal year 2014 budget. M.G.L. chapter 71, section 16B empowers the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to order an appropriation for a regional school district when the regional school committee and the appropriating bodies of the member communities have not agreed on a budget. In accordance with this statute, I am authorizing the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District to continue its operations and to spend up to \$3,798,972 in each month of fiscal year 2014 until your district's fiscal year 2014 budget has been adopted, or until December 1, 2013, whichever comes first. This interim monthly budget is one-twelfth of the regional school district's budget for the *prior fiscal year*.

Each member community within your district is ordered to appropriate and pay to the district such assessments as are calculated by the district treasurer for the support of said interim budget. Said assessments shall be due and payable on such dates as are specified in your regional agreement. Each member community's total payments under this order will be deducted from the total fiscal year 2014 assessment that will be charged to that community when the district's fiscal year 2014 budget is approved.

Please notify director Christine Lynch at such time as the district budget is approved by the member towns. In the meantime, if we can be of any further assistance, please contact Ms. Lynch at 781-338-6520 or by email at clynch@doe.mass.edu.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wulfson,
Deputy Commissioner

c: Town of Dudley
Town of Charlton
William Trifone, Finance Director
Christine Lynch, ESE