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TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of Special Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2022 – 6PM
Senior Center, Town Hall

COPY

Present: Chairman – Stephen Koronis, Vice-Chairman – Patsy Rydlak, Clerk – Barbara Zurawski, Member – William Borowski and Town Administrator – Andrew Golas. Absent: Member – David M. Singer.

1. Open Meeting – Chairman Koronis opened the meeting at 6:00pm and welcomed everyone. He said each group is allowed five minutes to speak with the goal to end by 8:00pm.
2. Meet with Boards/Departments/Commissions/Committees/Schools to hear what each are doing and if there are any issues. Chairman Koronis stated that there are some big projects coming up in town. He said some of the projects are on the revenue side and some are on the spending side that we need to be concerned about as well.

Diane Doherty, Recreation Commissioner thanked all the sports leagues and volunteers for all they do. Communication is great with the Town Administrator. They recently received money for a Pickle Ball Court and are looking for space for that. They have had some vandalism and are working to get cameras for enhanced security. Ms. Rydlak mentioned that the Pickle Ball Court would be a great Eagle Scout project. Ms. Doherty said the playground is in the process of being repaired due to vandalism.

Don Konopacki, Activities Council said they just had a successful Blueberry Festival. Coming up on October 15th 2 – 5pm, Chuck and Mud will be giving a concert. Trunk or Treat is coming up as well as a lecture on edible plants. They will have a return of the coffee house which was an open mic/jam session. Next year they are looking to start a toastmasters club. They are very excited that there is a bandshell being worked on in the back of the property.

Cathy Carmignani from the DCRSD School Committee thanked the towns of Charlton and Dudley for funding their request. They will be going through the feasibility study. Mr. Lamarche, Superintendent introduced the school committee members. He explained the MSBA process and the Feasibility Study process. Eligibility for Feasibility could be three years. There will be a lot of discussions regarding the funding. Questions and answers regarding different items in the school were answered.

Kyle Brenner, Superintendent at Bay Path said they have a great relationship with the town. They are starting the application process for new freshmen for next year. There are 259 students from Charlton. Fireworks for Old Home Day were held at the school this year. They are working on a solar farm proposal.

Police Chief Dan Dowd explained the projects being done at the Police Station. The roof project is out to bid. The Town voted to allow them out of Civil Service but the state hasn't approved it yet

which is making it hard to hire people. He really could use a 6th dispatcher. Mr. Borowski said that we have to look at both Police and Fire.

Kathleen Walker, Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee which used to be the Recycling Committee said that we finished our last year of the small-scale initiative grant from the State. It will no longer be available. The DEP invites towns to join the recycled dividend's program to spark more recycling efforts. The Board of Health has continued to provide vouchers for Household Hazardous Waste Days. The committee is also a member of Keep Massachusetts Beautiful. They meet the second Tuesday of every month at 5:00pm at the Library. Ms. Walker said for CHIP-In, this is our food pantry and we give out food to people that need it. It's the 3rd Saturday of every month. She said that we get that food from the Worcester County Food Bank and could use help to unload the van. The Charlton Democratic Committee is reorganizing September 27th at 7pm at the Library. For Old Home Day, we had a wonderful and terrible Old Home Day this year. Wonderful because everyone is so great but terrible because of the weather. The next meeting will be January 25th and they will be deciding if they want a rain date. The event costs around \$20,000.

Peter Boria, Water/Sewer Superintendent said daily operations are going well. On the water side, they are still working on looking for our own town source. They are working on closing out the school waterline extension. On the sewer side, they are completing a study for recommendations on the sewer plant. The study was funded by the ARPA funds. The improvements will give them the ability to say yes to new growth.

Joe Haebler, Government Study Committee are looking at reviewing the 2016 white paper report. He said they are here to learn, get comments and find out what's going on. They are interested in how things are running. They meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm.

Mike Zereski, Council on Aging asked about the new Senior Center. He said we really need one.

Pete Lancette reminded everyone about the Household Hazardous Waste Vouchers that can be picked up in the Board of Health for the event this Saturday. There are plenty of COVID tests if any residents need any.

Kathleen Stanley, Director of Assessing gave an update on what her office has been doing. Sales are still high but stabilizing. We are in the process of certification.

Jeff Sorel, IT Director said in his budget is a line item for computer hardware for \$25,000. This is town wide for every building. He said what he will be looking for this year at town meeting he will be looking for \$100,000 which will be used at PD and for town wide desktop upgrades.

Noreen Smith, Town Moderator said just a reminder that Special Town Meeting is October 24th at 7pm at Charlton Middle School.

Jean Vincent, Planning Board updated a lot of their bylaws. The next step is the Master Plan which will take a few years.

Josh Saper, Economic Development Commission said this year they have spent a lot of time rebranding. They have officially set an Economic Development website. They are looking for feedback.


Stefan Sage, Charlton Public Library Trustee said the Library has changed from an 18th century library to the 21st library. There are some infrastructure problems that the Library Director is dealing with. Services were kept going during COVID. There is a new position at the library, a snake whisperer which falls under the Director. There has been a snake visiting the library and she handled it today.

3. Other business – unknown at time of posting
4. Adjourn – Meeting ended at 8:00pm.

Submitted by:
Mary C. Devlin
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by:

William Borowski,



Barbara Zurawski



Patsy Rydlak

David M. Singer.



Stephen Koronis.