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TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of Special Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, September 21, 2021 – 6PM
Senior Center, Town Hall

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

1. Open Meeting – Chairman Borowski opened the meeting at 6:00pm and welcomed everyone. He asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Meet with Boards/Departments/Commissions/Committees/Schools to hear what each are doing and if there are any issues. Chairman Borowski asked everyone to introduce themselves, what board they are from and what's been going on.

Steven Lamarche, Superintendent of DCRSD said it's his third year as Superintendent. They are getting back into routine. The school always has needs. Literacy in K-4, this is the first year they've invested in instruction materials in many years.

Jon Sanborn and Pete Lancette from the Board of Health were present. Mr. Sanborn said that Mr. Philbrook has all the information on COVID and updated cases. He said they have an issue with water contamination on Cemetery/Gould Rds. Gary Magnusson from CMG is working with the board and DEP on that.

Police Chief Dan Dowd said they are dealing with police reform right now. There is a lot of unknown at this time. COVID has been going through his department. As retirements are happening, they are looking for help. He is working on a radio project. Building wise, he is pushing for a roof and the HVAC system. Some of the equipment is starting to show it's age. Future goals, he'd like another officer and dispatcher.

Jeff Sorel, IT Director said one of the problems he's having is sourcing issues. Everything is on back order and costs more. Because the public safety building didn't pass, he hasn't been able to do anything for the police department. The equipment is original and it has to go. It's a security and safety hazard. He said we did get a grant from the state that will pay for 60% of upgrades at the Library.

Elaine Materas, Council on Aging Director said in 2020 no one was in here except for staff to do to go lunches. In July this year, they lost a lot of people because they didn't want to come in or they weren't comfortable coming in. They are going to try to do to go lunches again in October for those that don't want to come in. The IT room was part of the senior center and they are running out of space. They are thinking about doing some classes via zoom. The Outreach Coordinator has been dealing with homeless people, scams and visiting those in need. She feels she needs help with either a recreation person or an activity person. Chairman Borowski agrees they need more

space and they were hoping if the public safety building was approved, they could move the senior center to the police department. Mr. Golas said he has had conversation with the Overlook and they have available space there and they are looking at creating some sort of partnership to create space there for a senior center.

John Smith and Jean Vincent were present from the Planning Board. Chairman Borowski asked how all the changes with zoning are going. Mr. Smith said it's good. They are in the home stretch now. They are hoping to have them ready for town meeting to vote on. Ms. Vincent asked the Board about the TIF's and Host Agreements. Chairman Borowski said individual contract negotiations are held in executive session. There is an agreement with NEC who received approval from the siting staff and any tax agreement has to go in front of the town for approval.

Diane Doherty & Kevin Morin from Recreation were present. Ms. Doherty said they are a very active board. They try to work with the leagues for sports and the DPW. They maintain the playground, skatepark and basketball court. They are working to get Maynard Field into ADA compliance. They could also use some space for their files and to hold meetings. They would like to have some sort of entertainment built somewhere. Ms. Doherty said it would be a great idea if the Board of Selectmen met with each board separately as well. Superintendent Lamarche said that the Recreation Commission could reach out to them when they need to have a meeting and the school will work with them on a space.

Stefan Sage, Board of Library Trustees said that the Library Director is retiring October 30. They had to shut the library down for a while due to COVID 19 and they are open again. They have programs going. They have had some roof and gutter leaks.

Kyle Brenner, Superintendent at Bay Path thanked everyone for the support they receive. They opened this year with just under 1200 students. The mass immunization went online today. As of today they have 53% of their student body fully vaccinated. Cosmetology isn't open to the public and the restaurant has reopened for curbside service. They have started a new house building in Auburn. Evening programs are up and running. Their recreation fields are in need of an upgrade. They will be working with the Planning Board on changing the sign in front to an electronic sign.

Christine Grondalski, Chairman of the Cultural Council said she is in her second three year term as well as another member. Each member can serve 2 consecutive 3 year terms and must be removed for at least a year after that. They must have at least 5 voting members. They meet the 4th Tuesday of every month and need members. This year the grant increased from the state to \$8,500. They were happy to bring back the art show this year during Old Home Day. They did notice during the art show that a number of the hangers they have are corroded and they would like to explore partnering with the town to make some joint purchases for some of those. These are at least 35 years old.

Linda Davis from Earth Day said they have the earth day event every year on the last Saturday in April. The first Saturday of October they are having a mini cleanup due to having left over yellow bags. This past earth day they picked up over 2 tons of trash. She thanked the Highway Department for being so supportive during and after the event.

Deb Marquis from the Recycling Committee, Earth Day Committee and Charlton Sustainability Committee which is a group of residents that got together to come up with ideas to deal with yard waste. They did come up with four days in the spring that people could bring their yard waste to the DPW and there will be four days in the fall which will be the last two Saturdays in October and the first two Saturdays in November. She said for the Recycling Committee, every year they try for a grant through DEP which they have been able to get every year and they have recycling items for sale as well as putting signs up all over town. They are working on and would like an anti-littering bylaw in Charlton. Jeff Sorel mentioned that any electronics can be brought to staples for free.

Virginia Porter – Treasurer/Collector said that the town auction of properties held last week was pretty successful with 8 out of 10 properties being sold.

Peter Boria – Water/Sewer Superintendent said the water/sewer day to day operations are going fairly well. On the water Exxon issue, they have connected around 120 homes so far of the 138 that agreed to connect which Exxon Mobil will connect them for free. The deadline for the free connection is April 6, 2022 for those residents in the area. After that date, it will be at the owners cost to connect. They are also reviewing proposals to install an access road to the Buffumville public water supply wellfield. The current operators of the sewer system contract expires soon and they are currently in negotiations with them. They are also working on an upgrade at the sewer treatment plant.

Josh Saper, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission which has been reformed have been focusing on growing the commercial tax base. They have been doing outreach to businesses.

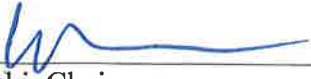
Kathy Stanley – Director of Assessing said that NEC has been seeking to get a PILOT like Millennium had but they do not qualify under MGL. Solar cases have been really big trying to get exemptions. There is a significant amount of new growth.

Noreen Johnson-Smith – Town Moderator said we have town meeting coming up and she would like to explore future options around the voters for what day is good in order to maximize attendance at meetings. She would also like to see website enhancements. She said there is one opening on the Finance Committee. She thanked Joe Spiewak for his work on the committee. She also wanted to thank those that put the Old Home Day on. It was great.

3. Other business – unknown at time of posting
4. Adjourn – Meeting ended at 8:49pm.

Submitted by:
Mary C. Devlin
Administrative Assistant

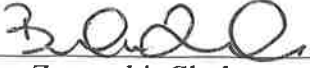
Accepted by:



William Borowski, Chairman



Patsy Rydlak, Vice-Chairperson



Barbara Zurawski, Clerk



David M. Singer, Member (absent)



Stephen Koronis, Member