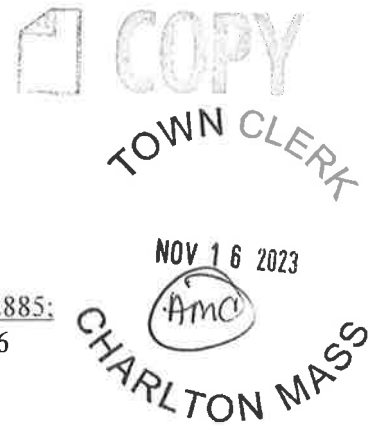


MOD 11/16/23



TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of Regular Selectmen’s Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 6:30pm
Selectmen’s Meeting Room/Meeting Room 1
Town Hall, 37 Main St., Charlton, MA
ZOOM Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87489442885>;
Passcode: 061416; Phone Access +1-646-558-8656

Present: Vice-Chairman – David M. Singer, Members - William Borowski and Stephen Koronis and Town Administrator – Andrew Golas. Absent: Chairman – Basia Zurawski and Clerk – Peter Lancette.

I. Call to Order:

Vice-Chairman Singer called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for those that have passed or are suffering.

II. Consent Agenda / Warrant Approval as Needed

- a. Minutes of Regular Meeting – September 26, 2023. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Koronis, unanimous.**
- b. Minutes of Special Meeting – October 11, 2023. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Koronis, unanimous.**

III. Community Relations, Announcements and Open Forum

- Vice-Chairman Singer read the announcements.

IV. Appointments/Resignation:

1. Appointment – DCRSD Student Representative for the 2023/2024 school year. Mr. Golas stated that attached is a letter from Shepherd Hill High School’s Principal, Darren C. Elwell, recommending the appointment of Grade 12 student, Madelyn Parker as the DCRSD non-voting student representative for the 2023 – 2024 school year. He would recommend the board make the appointment. Her first meeting to attend will be November 14, 2023. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to make the appointment, seconded by Mr. Koronis, unanimous.**
2. Appointment – Drawdown – Glen Echo Lake. Mr. Golas stated that attached is an email from Rose Conway notifying the board that the Conservation Commission would like to appoint a third volunteer to help with the Glen Echo Drawdown. They would like to have Deane Olmsted appointed to this position. He would recommend the board make the appointment. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to make the appointment, seconded by Mr. Koronis, unanimous.**
3. Conservation Director – Reaffirm appointment. Mr. Golas stated that at the Board’s special meeting on October 11, 2023, Rose Conway was appointed as Conservation Director. The Conservation Commission asked if the appointment could be reaffirmed with the commission in attendance. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to reaffirm the appointment, seconded by Mr. Koronis.** Ziggy Waraskiewicz came forward and said working with Rose the last 7 years on Conservation, she has been wonderful to work with. He is very happy to hear that she has been appointed. **Vote on motion: unanimous.** Mr. O’Malley, Chairman of Conservation said his board agreed with the appointment. Bradford Howard came forward and said that several years ago he had a problem with his property and Ms. Conway solved it.

V. Scheduled Appointments:

VI. New Business:

1. Space Lease for Senior Center – Hold until next meeting.

VII. Old Business:

1. Amendment to ARPA Budget - Mr. Golas stated that we have been working with Cyber Communications and LB Communications on the public safety radio project with the goal of improving overall radio signal coverage throughout town. We recently received the quote on the installation of the new radio tower scheduled to be installed at Bay Path to replace the existing monopole which is attached to the building. In scoping the project, the total cost of the tower installation work with electrical connections and generator backup came back as \$489,885. So far, we have issued purchase orders for \$311,615 for radio and repeater equipment and \$151,693 in project funds to complete the associated dispatch upgrades. He is requesting that the Board approve an amendment to the ARPA budget to allow us to proceed with the tower installation. The request would be to move the remaining balance of unallocated funds and funds remaining from the Board of Health Vehicle and Document Digitization project within the ARPA budget to the Public Safety Radio System Upgrade Project; a total of \$222,402. A copy of the revised ARPA budget as proposed is attached. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to move the remaining balance of unallocated funds and funds remaining from the Board of Health Vehicle and Document Digitization project within the ARPA budget to the Public Safety Radio System Upgrade Project, a total of \$222,402, seconded by Mr. Koronis, unanimous.**

VIII. BOS Policy Review – Mr. Golas stated that attached are the following policies for the boards review and recommendations for changes, if any, for your consideration:

- Filling of Vacancies on Town Elected Boards
- Flag Display for all Town of Charlton Buildings
- Fuel Efficient Vehicles
- Fund Balance
- Health Insurance for Elected Officials

Motion by Mr. Borowski to approve all five policies as submitted, seconded by Mr. Koronis, unanimous.

IX. Town Administrator Report – Mr. Golas reviewed his report (attached)

X. Other Business (unknown at time of posting)

1. Vice-Chairman Singer stated that generally speaking, this board has had a long standing precedent with the chair not making motions, although entitled to, they just don't unless there are extenuating circumstances. With the chair or clerk not present tonight, he has no one to hand over the chair to so he will make his motion. **Motion by Mr. Singer to ask this board to pass a resolution this evening which states the following: "Be it resolved, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Charlton does hereby condemn the barbaric and inhumane taking of hostages in Israel, including a number of American citizens, and prays for their immediate and safe release and return to their loved ones. Be it also resolved that the Charlton Board of Selectmen vehemently opposes the evils of terrorism in any form and anywhere, against any peoples and recognized the absolute right of all to live in peace"**. He also read the following poem written by a German Pastor.

First they came for the Communists And I did not speak out Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists And I did not speak out Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the trade unionists And I did not speak out Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews And I did not speak out Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me And there was no one left To speak out for me
He said that after World War 2, they made a promise to never forget and to never let this happen again. He thinks it's upon everyone in the world to make sure that we stand up, speak out and hold the world accountable and true to this world. His motion is to pass this resolution on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. **Motion seconded by Mr. Borowski.** Mr. Koronis supports this but asked if it's normal for a Board of Selectmen to support this. Vice-Chairman Singer said that the City Council of Worcester just passed one similar to this. Mr. Koronis said that maybe 100% of this board agreed with what was said but what about the 20% of residents that may not. Vice-Chairman Singer said that we are not condemning anyone, we are only condemning terrorism and murder of innocent people. Mr. Borowski said generally as a whole, he personally likes to shy away from global issues as this because it's very easy to become distracted because we could be doing things every single week with the amount of horrors that go on in this world. He's fine with this because he agrees with it but in general, we should try to keep local, local when we can. Vice-Chairman Singer wanted to point out that while this occurrence was in the Middle East driven by antisemitism, part of the reason is because antisemitism is now in the United States including here in Charlton and everywhere and that's why he thought it was important for this board to take a stance. **Vote on motion: unanimous.**

2. Vice-Chairman Singer stated that this board has also had a longstanding precedent of how we conduct business, policies and procedures. Recently an article was added to Town Meeting Article #10. This is not a commentary on the merits of the article or for pro or con, this is purely on the process. As a long time member of this Board, he's been involved for almost 20 years, he has never seen anything like this when the town meeting warrant has been put together over an extended period of time with in depth discussion and input from every member of the board and town departments. Once a town warrant is closed, it is only opened for 2 reasons, an emergency need or an important change that was expected to be done for an existing article. That's it. We don't re-open warrants for personal articles that selectmen want to put on. It's never happened. It happened and he heard about this from residents the minute that warrant was posted. It passed at town meeting. He has heard dissatisfaction from residents since. Trust and integrity of this board is paramount. We only serve the pleasure of the residents. Our trust with the residents has been violated as well as the integrity of this board at least according to his own personal belief and many residents that he's heard from. To share with those who may not be aware, the warrant was closed for this last town meeting. At the last selectmen's meeting, the warrant was opened to address an issue that the board knew would have to be adjusted prior to town meeting and one member of this board, the chair who unfortunately is not here this evening, and he was going to make a motion to sensor the chair but he will hold that for the next meeting. The chair decided to take that opportunity to slip in an article. Mr. Borowski stated point of order without the chair here. Vice-Chairman Singer said when he is done making his comment, he will open it up for discussion. He said he is not talking about the chair, he is talking about the process. Mr. Borowski disagrees. Vice-Chairman Singer said to Mr. Borowski that he believes it was Mr. Borowski that said that you were not happy with how it was handled and it was inappropriate. He knows of another member that was not happy with how it was handled and they also felt it was inappropriate as do many residents that he's heard from. That is not how we conduct our business. Articles are thought about in advance and they are presented. Any member of this board had ample opportunity during discussions to debate about articles on the warrant and whether or not they should be on the warrant. He asked after this came out for this article to be pulled and was told it couldn't so he asked if it could be postponed indefinitely so that this board could do its due diligence and discuss it as a board to see if we wanted to put it on the May Town Meeting.

The response he received from the chair was unprofessional and rude in his opinion. He is asking the Town Administrator, Mr. Golas this evening to add to our next agenda an agenda item so that we may discuss and put down in writing and codify, for policy and procedures for opening and closing town meeting warrants and adding any articles to a town meeting warrant. This should never have happened this way. There are costs that are going to be involved and a lot of work that will then cost this town money. This was not discussed prior. It was not shared with the board. If this passes the legislature, this will put a lot of work on town hall because every single policy, procedure, bylaw and document is going to have to be gone through page by page, paragraph by paragraph, line by line and word for word where selectmen is referenced and have it changed. In order to do this task, either someone that's already employed in the town hall will have to have their efforts redirected, taking them away from more important things such as the impending budget for our schools, highway, police, fire or the town will have to hire someone to do all that work, either way, it's an additional cost.

XII. Next Meeting Announcement:

All Boards/Committees Meeting – Tuesday, November 7, 2023

BOS Regular Meeting – Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Tax Classification Hearing will be held on November 14, 2023

XIII. Adjourn – **Motion by Mr. Borowski to adjourn at 6:58pm, seconded by Mr. Koronis, unanimous.**

Submitted by:

Mary C. Devlin

Executive Assistant

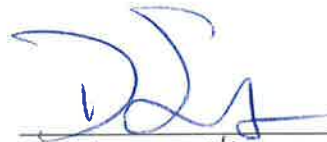
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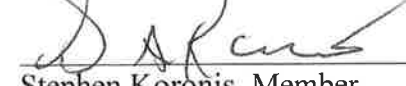
Barbara Zurawski, Chairman (absent)



Peter Lancette, Clerk (absent)



David Singer, Vice-Chairman



Stephen Koronis, Member



William Borowski, Member



Town of Charlton

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Andrew M. Golas, Town Administrator

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Andrew Golas, Town Administrator
DATE: October 18, 2023
SUBJECT: Town Administrator's Report – for Selectmen's meeting of 10/24/2023

Fire Station Update – A Request for Proposals has been issued for an Owners Project manager to facilitate the Fire Department Substation project with a bid due date of November 16th. It is assumed that the same board comprised to oversee the Feasibility Study would continue as the Fire Station Building Committee. Please let me know if the Board wishes to change the current makeup of the committee before progressing to this phase.

Main Street Sidewalk Update – We have sent letters to each of the abutters to the current sidewalk along Main Street requesting that they enter into a license agreement with the town to allow construction access during the Main Street Sidewalk Replacement Project. Once we receive all of the license agreements back, we will be able to proceed to project bidding.

Open Space and Recreation Plan – Every 7 years, the town is required to update its Open Space and Recreation Plan. Our next update is due in FY25. Funding was authorized at Special Town Meeting to engage a consultant to guide the process. We will need to appoint an OSRP steering committee to develop the plan. We have begun the process of soliciting volunteers for the steering committee. If you know of anyone interested in participating in the planning process, please direct them to my office.

Professional Development - On October 16th, I began an eight week professional development course entitled "Leading on Purpose" provided by the Professional Development Academy and sponsored through the International City Managers Association. I'm looking forward to continue improving my overall leadership development skills for the community through this program. Additionally, I will be completing the final course for MCPPO recertification next month which is a three year requirement of the program.

All Boards Meeting – We have scheduled our annual All Board Meeting for Tuesday, November 7th at 6:30 PM in the Senior Center.