

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2021 @ 6:30 pm
Community Room and Zoom meeting**

Selectboard present and location: Chairman Albert St. Pierre (community room), John Streeter (via zoom), Jeff Lessels (absent), William Rescsanski (community room), Scott Wade (community room).

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator- (via zoom)
Kelly Wright- Administrative Assistant (via zoom)

Finance Committee Members: Chairman Nancy Houghton, David Richardson, Roger Thibodeau, Keith Weed, Robert Davis, Patricia Chaffee, Gabriel Bailey, and Terry Spilsbury.

Public Present: Philip Turner, Robert Beaudry, Steven Neill, Roger Rumrill, Amy Rumrill

Chairman St. Pierre called the meeting to order and opened the Budget Public Hearing at 6:30 pm. Mr. Richardson recited the protocol for holding public zoom meetings due to the Covid-19 executive order per the Governor Christopher Sununu. All meetings will be recorded and any motions will be on a roll call for the recording secretary.

Mr. Richardson gave a comprehensive report and read the Town Warrant Articles. A 2021 budget worksheet and a summary of the 2021 budget were thoroughly discussed on Article 5. There was a lot of discussion of areas that were reduced and other areas that were increased. The main reason for the increase in benefits is due to the increase in health insurance and the NH retirement rates increased. Some departments have decided to not fill open positions, or budget a part-time employee instead of full-time. The Police Department will fill its open position later in the year. The Highway Department has opted to not fill two of their positions. There is a new budget line which will be for the first responders. Other decreases and increases have been reviewed.

Mr. Roger Rumrill asked if the Selectboard and Finance Committee would add \$4,500 additional into the training line. This would allow members to take an EMR class to obtain their non transport license that lapsed in 2019. Mrs. Rumrill explained when anyone responds to an emergency scene without this license and an EMT isn't on scene they can not ever provide CPR. They can just "hold their hand" until Golden Cross responds. By taking the class the Town would meet the requirements to increase the numbers needed for the license. Mr. Richardson stated he is open to discuss after the hearing.

The Water and Sewer budget was reviewed and discussed. Both of these budgets are up from 2020. There was discussion if the Water bond does not pass how the arsenic levels will be addressed. Ms. Chaffee answered if the Water bond doesn't pass it doesn't change the fact the Town is responsible for providing safe drinking water. The Town would possibly have to deliver water to North Charlestown and Mr. Shaw has been reviewing filters to address this issue on a short term bases. The filters would be roughly \$200,000. Ms. Francis asked if Ms. Chaffee would have any information if the Town was approved by any grants. Ms. Chaffee stated she is actively working with NH Drinking Trust and USDA. They hope to receive half of the 4.6 million but they need to include the entire amount because the Town does not have any money in hand.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding Article #12 Full-Time Recreational Director. Ms. Chaffee will post the job description on the website.

Article #13 was removed because the Library Trustee has access and authority of these funds.

Ms. Dennis clarified Article #14 and #15 is to clean up the language for the sale of cemetery lots. The Town is currently dividing those payments, but not have properly adopted the statues to do so.

The last day to file a petitioned article is tomorrow; January 12th

Chairman St. Pierre closed the public hearing at 8:00 pm.

The following warrant articles were voted on by both the finance committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Article #2: Water Interconnection Project

Finance Committee

Board of Selectmen

Article #3: Broadband Internet

Finance Committee

Board of Selectmen

Both the Finance and Selectmen decided to wait to cast their votes on Article 2 and 3 after the public bond hearing on Wednesday, January 13th.

Article #4: Solar Ordinance Amendment

Finance Committee- Nancy Houghton (yes), Dave Richardson (yes), Roger Thibodeau (yes), Patricia Chaffee (yes), Gabriel Bailey (yes), Keith Weed (yes), Robert Davis (yes), and Terry Spilsbury (yes) **(8-0)**

Board of Selectmen- Albert St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes) **(4-0)**

Mr. Spilsbury reported the Planning Board also voted unanimously in favor of this article.

Article #5: Operating Budget

Finance Committee- Nancy Houghton (yes), Dave Richardson (yes), Roger Thibodeau (yes), Patricia Chaffee (yes), Gabriel Bailey (yes), Keith Weed (yes), Robert Davis (yes), and Terry Spilsbury (yes) **(8-0)**

Board of Selectmen- Albert St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes) **(4-0)**

Article #6: Revaluation Capital Reserve

Finance Committee- Nancy Houghton (yes), Dave Richardson (yes), Roger Thibodeau (yes), Patricia Chaffee (yes), Gabriel Bailey (yes), Keith Weed (yes), Robert Davis (yes), and Terry Spilsbury (yes) **(8-0)**

Board of Selectmen- Albert St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes) **(4-0)**

Article #7: Highway One-Ton

Finance Committee- Nancy Houghton (yes), Dave Richardson (yes), Roger Thibodeau (yes), Patricia Chaffee (yes), Gabriel Bailey (yes), Keith Weed (yes), Robert Davis (yes), and Terry Spilsbury (yes) **(8-0)**

Board of Selectmen- Albert St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes) **(4-0)**

Article #8: Highway Backhoe

Finance Committee- Nancy Houghton (yes), Dave Richardson (yes), Roger Thibodeau (yes), Patricia Chaffee (yes), Gabriel Bailey (yes), Keith Weed (yes), Robert Davis (yes), and Terry Spilsbury (yes) **(8-0)**

Board of Selectmen- Albert St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes) **(4-0)**

Article #9: Highway 6-Wheeler

Finance Committee- Nancy Houghton (yes), Dave Richardson (yes), Roger Thibodeau (yes), Patricia Chaffee (yes), Gabriel Bailey (yes), Keith Weed (yes), Robert Davis (yes), and Terry Spilsbury (yes) **(8-0)**

Board of Selectmen- Albert St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes) **(4-0)**

Article #10: Emergency Communications Improvement Capital Reserve

Finance Committee- Nancy Houghton (yes), Dave Richardson (yes), Roger Thibodeau (yes), Patricia Chaffee (yes), Gabriel Bailey (yes), Keith Weed (yes), Robert Davis (yes), and Terry Spilsbury (yes) **(8-0)**

Board of Selectmen- Albert St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes) **(4-0)**

Article #11: Fort At #4

Finance Committee- Nancy Houghton (yes), Dave Richardson (yes), Roger Thibodeau (yes), Patricia Chaffee (yes), Gabriel Bailey (yes), Keith Weed (yes), Robert Davis (yes), and Terry Spilsbury (yes) **(8-0)**

Board of Selectmen- Albert St. Pierre (abstained), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes) **(3-1-0)**

Article #12: Full-Time Recreation Director

Finance Committee- Nancy Houghton (no), Dave Richardson (no), Roger Thibodeau (no), Patricia Chaffee (yes), Gabriel Bailey (no), Keith Weed (no), Robert Davis (no), Terry Spilsbury (no) **(1-7)**

Board of Selectmen- Albert St. Pierre (no), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (no), Mr. Rescsanski (no) **(1-3)**

The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, January 18th at 6:30 PM. They reported there will be three 3-year positions opened and one 1-year position open if anyone is interested in joining the Finance Committee. Sign ups are done through the Town Clerks office.

Mrs. Davis asked about the Broadband hearing. Ms. Chaffee will post this information on the website

Mr. Wade made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm; Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly N Wright

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on January 20, 2021)