

**CHARLESTOWN SELECTBOARD
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022 AT 6:00P.M.
CHARLESTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM AND VIA
ZOOM CONFERENCING**

Selectboard Present: Jeff Lessels (Chair), Jeremy Wood (Vice Chair), Shelly Blouin-Andrus, William Rescsanski, and Nancy Houghton

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis, Town Administrator Pro-Tem
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary
Stacey Hassett, Cemetery Sexton (via Zoom)
Patricia Chaffee, Town Clerk/Tax Collector (via Zoom)
Kelly Vigneau, Recreation Director
Pat Connors, Police Chief
Mark LaFlam, Acting Fire Chief

Others Present: Gabe St. Pierre, Town Moderator

Mr. Wood motioned to go into non-public at 6:03 p.m. RSA 91-A:3 II (l) Legal, Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

The meeting reconvened at 6:38 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Lessels called the workshop meeting to order at 6:40 p.m., led the pledge of allegiance and welcomed in-person attendees and those on Zoom.

RECOGNITION OF VISITOR/PUBLIC INPUT:

Gabe St. Pierre questioned the Selectboard on who was presenting the warrant articles at the upcoming deliberative. He also stated that he would like to have a general description of each warrant. Mr. Wood read Article 1, and stated that he himself would present this article. Mr. Rescsanski stated he would second this article. Mr. Wood stated he would present Article 2, and Ms. Houghton stated she would second this article. Mr. Wood stated he would present Article 3, with Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconding. Article 4 was stated to be presented by Mr. Rescsanski, with Mr. Wood seconding. Article 5 will be presented by Mr. Rescsanski, with Mr. Wood seconding. Mr. Rescsanski will present Article 6, with Ms. Houghton seconding. Ms. Dennis explained to Mr. St. Pierre that certain articles did not need to have a Selectboard recommendation in order to be presented. Mr. St. Pierre recommended having information available on how the Selectboard stood on certain articles at the deliberative meeting. Ms. Blouin-Andrus will present Article 7, seconded by Ms. Houghton. Mr. St. Pierre asked the Selectboard firstly how Article 6 would be funded, and secondly how it differs from the funds the Town oversees generally. Mr. Rescsanski explained that Article 6 would be funded by the unassigned fund balance. Ms. Dennis stated that unassigned fund balance includes uncollected taxes and budgeted funds that are unused. Article 8 will be presented by Mr. Wood, and seconded by Mr. Rescsanski. Ms. Dennis state that Mr. John Proctor is planning to speak at the

deliberative on Article 8. Ms. Houghton will present Article 9, with Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconding the article. Article 10 will be presented by Mr. Lessels, with a second by Ms. Blouin-Andrus. Article 11 will be presented by Mr. Wood, and seconded by Ms. Houghton. Ms. Dennis explained the basis of Article 11, and how certain small parcels of land in Town, partitioned over time for various reasons, are of a size that necessitated the abutter component of the Article. Article 12 will be presented by Ms. Houghton, with a second by Mr. Lessels. Ms. Dennis stated that Article 12 was previously adopted in the year 1996. Article 13 will be presented by the petitioner of the article. Article 14 will be presented by the petitioner. Ms. Dennis stated that she anticipates an amendment to the article that would discontinue the road subject to gates and bars. Mr. Lessels explained the "discontinue" language. Article 15 and Article 16 will be presented by Joey Carter, per a statement by Chief LaFlam. Article 17 will be presented by the petitioner per Mr. Wood. Article 18 will be presented by Ms. Blouin-Andrus, with a second by Mr. Wood. Ms. Dennis stated that 6:30 p.m. on Friday night would be the earliest time in which the space could be prepared for the Deliberative. Ms. Dennis stated that at the Saturday Deliberative, between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. preparations can be made, with an opening of doors to the public at 9:30 a.m. Mr. St. Pierre discussed his attendance of a separate Town's annual meeting, and how voters and non-voters were identified by a raising of hands. Mr. St. Pierre questioned if there were any amendments to the articles to anticipate that were not discussed at this present meeting. Mr. Dennis discussed Article 16; and disclosed that if the warrant were to be reduced to zero, but still passed the vote, then the Selectboard and Fire Chief would still be agents to use these funds. Mr. St. Pierre questioned if the deliberative would be allowed to be presented on Zoom. Ms. Dennis stated she would email the school and ask if this would be possible. Mr. Lessels stated that Saturday morning, because of the anticipated Friday snowstorm, would be the planned time for preparations.

DEPARTMENT HEAD & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Lessels stated that the Selectboard received the department head reports in writing and this was helpful. Ms. Chaffee briefly discussed the updates to the water project. Chief Connors discussed a grant that Ms. Emerson is working on, and the grant is for three speed radar signs, but the Town would be required to match these funds as part of the grant. Ms. Blouin-Andrus asked if the next Selectboard meeting a discussion could be had regarding the funds needed to match this grant. Mr. Lessels explained to the attendees that the Selectboard completed the Department Head reviews at the previous Selectboard meeting. Consensus was met by the Selectboard to schedule 45 minutes per department head at the February 09, 2022 meeting where reviews would be discussed. Mr. Weed stated he had no updates apart from the Department Head report that he turned into the Selectboard. Fire Chief LaFlam discussed having 29 calls for service in the 31 days in January. He stated he was able to order a pump for the tanker, with an anticipated completion date in early April. He stated that Allen Brothers would be coming up in the next couple weeks to work on the furnace in the fire department building. Mr. Hassett stated he had nothing new to report apart from a few lamp posts being inoperable before they were repaired this week. He updated the Selectboard on his recent duties. Ms. Vigneau discussed the ice rink being installed. She stated there needs to be some sort of storage for the donated ice skates she has received. A three-day winter carnival is being planned as well for the upcoming weeks. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that there is no

recreation office sign above her door; Ms. Dennis stated she would explore a way to have a sign placed above the door to Ms. Vigneau's office. Ms. Dennis stated that the A/C and electrical units will be installed in the library in the coming days.

Administrator's Report and Correspondence:

Ms. Dennis stated she presently has the seven drafted easements prepared for Taylor Hill, and questioned how the Selectboard wished to proceed. Consensus of the Selectboard was for the February 16, 2022 meeting to include an agenda item to discuss this issue. Consensus of the Selectboard also was met to convene at 5:30 p.m. (an hour earlier) on this date to meet with the Taylor Hill residents for discussion. Mr. Wood motioned to appoint Albert St. Pierre to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, seconded by Ms. Houghton. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote. In a recent library building inspection, Ms. Dennis stated that she was asked if room #113 in the Community Room could be utilized for storage. Consensus of the Selectboard was reached to allow #113 to be used by Congregate Meals for storage and the old Health and Human Services Office will be utilized by *Our Town*. Ms. Dennis stated that Olivia of the Keene Sentinel called and asked if someone from the Selectboard would phone her and provide a description of the deliberative warrant articles. Consensus of the Selectboard was to not contact the Keene Sentinel, but to invite her to attend the deliberative herself.

The meeting was let out for recess at 7:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:51 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2022 – Workshop, January 26, 2022 – Non-Public Compensation SEALED, January 26, 2022 – Non-Public Reputations, and January 26, 2022 – Non-Public Compensation. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Rescsanski motioned to accept the Consent Agenda as written. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote. (Mr. Lessels was not present at time of vote.)

Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to go into non-public at 7:52 p.m. RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation, Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion. Ms. Blouin-Andrus then rescinded the motion.

Chief Connors discussed a grant which would provide the Town with three speed signs on posts. These signs have a displayed speed limit, and are powered by solar panels. The match for the grant is \$1,588.50. Ms. Blouin-Andrus made motion to use \$1,588.50 out of capital outlay for the police department to use in a matching grant for three speed signs. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 0 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to go into non-public at 7:58 p.m. RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation, Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.


Chief Connors stated that there have been significant car crashes recently which necessitated the fire department's utilization of special equipment to cut people out of their vehicles. Chief Connors stated that he has been impressed with how the Fire Department has been exceptional in their responses to these incidents. Chief LaFlam discussed the members of the Fire Department. Golden Cross was reported by Chief Connors to also be an effective third arm of emergency response with recent traffic incidents. Chief Connors stated that at a recent fire, the expediency of response by the Fire Department was impressive. Discussion was held regarding the heroics and professionalism of the Fire Department staff in Town. Chief Connors stated that Police Department staff have developed good rapport with Fire Department staff.

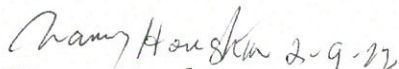
Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to go into non-public at 8:13 p.m. RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation, Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.


Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion at 8:25 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Wood seconded the motion, the motion carried 5 to 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

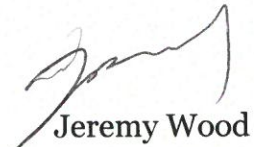
Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary


William Rescsanski


Shelly Blouin-Andrus


Nancy Houghton


Jeff Lessels


Jeremy Wood

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on February 09, 2022)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #1
RSA 91-A:3 II (I-Legal)
February 02, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.
Community Room**

Selectboard present in community room: Jeff Lessels (Chair), Jeremy Wood (Vice Chair), William Rescsanski, Shelly Blouin-Andrus and Nancy Houghton


Staff Present: Jessica Dennis – Town Administrator Pro-Tem
Jordan Cannon – Recording Secretary

The Selectboard discussed an ongoing taxation matter via Zoom with assigned legal counsel. Possible options on how to proceed, with an offer presented by opposing counsel was discussed. Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to accept the seven-year pilot agreement of \$50,000 offered by Great River Hydro, with a caveat that this offer will exclude three particular parcels of land in Town. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. Mr. Rescsanski, Mr. Lessels, Ms. Blouin-Andrus, and Ms. Houghton voted “yay”, Mr. Wood voted “nay”. The motion passed with a 4 to 1 affirmative roll-call vote.


Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to reconvene public session at 6:38 p.m.; Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion.


Roll call vote: Rescsanski – aye; Andrus – aye, Houghton – aye, Wood – aye, and Lessels – aye; motion carried unanimously.

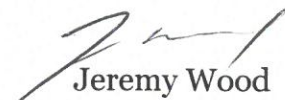
Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary


William Rescsanski


Shelly Blouin-Andrus

 2-8-22
Nancy Houghton

 2-9-22
Jeff Lessels


Jeremy Wood

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on February 09, 2022)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #2
RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputations)
February 02, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.
Community Room**

Selectboard present in community room: Jeff Lessels (Chair), Jeremy Wood (Vice Chair), William Rescsanski, Shelly Blouin-Andrus and Nancy Houghton

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis – Town Administrator Pro-Tem
Jordan Cannon – Recording Secretary
Pat Connors- Police Chief

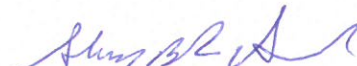
Police Chief Connors disclosed that a town-employed dispatcher fell on the ice recently and will be out on medical leave for approximately six weeks. He stated that he has been volunteering his time to assist those at dispatch. He stated that the department is utilizing part-time staff to fill the vacancy while the employee is on medical absence.

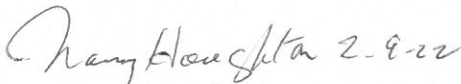
Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:00 p.m.; Ms. Houghton seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Rescsanski – aye; Andrus – aye, Houghton – aye, Wood – aye, and Lessels – aye; motion carried unanimously.


Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary


William Rescsanski


Shelly Blouin-Andrus


Nancy Houghton


Jeff Lessels


Jeremy Wood

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on February 09, 2022)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #3
RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputations)
February 02, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.
Community Room**

Selectboard present in community room: Jeff Lessels (Chair), Jeremy Wood (Vice Chair), William Rescsanski, Shelly Blouin-Andrus and Nancy Houghton

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis – Town Administrator Pro-Tem
Jordan Cannon – Recording Secretary

Ms. Dennis disclosed that the deputy building inspector and the building inspector were unavailable. Ms. Dennis asked the Selectboard how they wanted to respond if there was an immediate need for a building inspector's services. Ms. Dennis stated that the Newport Building Inspector was identified as someone who could be called in to meet this need. The Selectboard was asked how they wanted to proceed in terms of compensation for this individual. Mileage and hourly compensation were discussed as being agreeable if this individual were needed to come to Charlestown for building inspection. Ms. Dennis also disclosed the possibility of the present deputy building inspector vacating the position in the near future. The Selectboard discussed the qualifications necessary for filling this position. Mr. Wood discussed the requirements necessary for state and federal inspection.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:20 p.m.; Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Rescsanski – aye; Andrus – aye, Houghton – aye, Wood – aye, and Lessels – aye; motion carried unanimously.

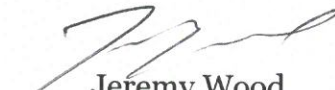
Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary


William Rescsanski


Shelly Blouin-Andrus


Nancy Houghton


Jeff Lessels


Jeremy Wood

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