

**CHARLESTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING & ZOOM CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M.
CHARLESTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

Staff Present: Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary
Kelly Wright, Administrative Assistant
Chief Connors, Police Chief
Chief LaFlam, Fire Chief
Shawn O'Hearn, Assistant Fire Chief
Patricia Chaffee, Tax Collector
Keith Weed, Highway

Others Present: Steve Neill, Richard Clarke, Jason McMahon, Edward Carella, Walter Sombric, Jim Carter, Roger Clarke, Jerry Beaudry, Michelle Dunning, Bob Frizzell

Call to Order

Mr. Wood opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wood led the pledge of allegiance for all of those in attendance.

New Business

Mr. Wood invited Chief LaFlam to present the fire department budget. Chief LaFlam stated he was advised to not increase the salaries and to keep the budget as close to the previous year as possible. He stated that the part-time salaries were increased, and presented information concerning call volume and training as reasoning for this increase. Chief LaFlam stated that it's been over five years since the last pay raise for part-time fire fighters. Ms. Blouin-Andrus questioned last year's pay increases. Chief LaFlam stated that in the past year's budget the officers' stipends increased. Mr. Wood asked how many of the part-time staff were strictly EMS. Chief LaFlam responded that no one on the list was strictly EMS.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus questioned Chief LaFlam why there weren't increases requested last year for part-time staff. Chief LaFlam responded that traditionally they do not ask for an

increase each year. Mr. Lessels questioned Chief LaFlam to clarify the details of the requested budget. Chief LaFlam described his calculations that led to an average payout for each month.

Mr. Lessels stated that the Selectboard does not have a budget that reflects his requests for this meeting. Mr. Wood stated that the information provided this meeting was supporting data to justify the requested budget. Mr. Lessels reflected on observations of the fire department, and asked Chief LaFlam to explain how the fire department determines how many staff to send on a call. Chief LaFlam stated that when responding to a call and that it is difficult to determine at the outset the severity of a call. Mr. Lessels commented that if 40% of the calls are for emergency medical, where is Golden Cross?

Mr. Beaudry stated that the rescue squad is responding to 20% of medical calls. He stated that they are not assisting Golden Cross, as it takes a while for the ambulance to respond to a call. Mr. Beaudry stated that a local rescue squad or ambulance service is typical for towns of similar size. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that there is reported anxiety waiting for Golden Cross, and that the thought of the Selectboard was to create a rescue squad to send to calls as they await Golden Cross. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that the town doesn't have the funding to supply a full rescue squad to wait for Golden Cross. Ms. Houghton stated that instead of four people on the rescue squad perhaps there could be two. Mr. Beaudry stated that more than two individuals are needed on calls, as two people cannot perform CPR over an extended period of time required, other responders assist them.

Mr. Beaudry stated that there are people in Charlestown that are sick and they need assistance. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that more information is needed to validate the funds being used for Golden Cross. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that the town does not have the resources to pay for a new ambulance within the next five years. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that the present 40.7% response to medical calls is going to increase over the winter months. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that we can't fully fund Golden Cross and the fire department together. Discussion was held regarding the Golden Cross travel time from point of origin to Charlestown. Chief Connors reflected on the history of collaboration with Golden Cross, and stated that it is not uncommon to see a Golden Cross ambulance parked in Charlestown. Mr. Lessels stated that there has been an average 2.8% increase per year on the fire department budget since 2013. Mr. Lessels stated that it is up to the fire department to come before the Selectboard with a full and complete budget.

Mr. Wood stated to Ms. Town to send the submitted fire department budget to the Finance Committee for review. Ms. Blouin-Andrus reflected on a report submitted to the Selectboard. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that the information provided is not reliable as the submitted figures do not match up. Ms. Blouin-Andrus pointed out discrepancies in documentation provided to the Selectboard attempting to justify fire department pay increases. Mr. Lessels stated that it is the town's responsibility to discuss with Golden Cross as their ability to respond to calls. Mr. Beaudry stated that on average it is 20 minutes response time from Golden Cross to send an ambulance to a call. Mr. Beaudry stated that this is important, and that the town needs to have a rescue squad to respond to a call.

Mr. Lessels stated that the Selectboard wants two people responding as rescue squad as a maximum. A member of the fire department stated that two people is not enough. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that a committee should be considered and a budget submitted in order to fund the fire department's request regarding the rescue squad. Mr. Beaudry stated that reflecting in the minutes the Selectboard knew that there would be increases regarding these issues.

Mr. Lessels reflected on the budget process that department heads engage in when submitting their budgets. Mr. Wood stated that the budget would be submitted to the Finance Committee for their review. Mr. Wood stated that he wants feedback from the Finance Committee. Mr. Wood asked why the Chief and Assistant Chief are on many of the calls, and questioned the procedures by which the fire department delegates how many staff are assigned to each call. Mr. Wood stated that the Selectboard is collecting data to determine if the fire department's budget and system are sustainable. Mr. Wood stated that the Selectboard wants to ensure that the town's resources are being well-spent. Ms. Houghton questioned who can do intubating. Mr. Beaudry stated that everyone who has an EMT-Basic or higher can manage an airway.

Chief LaFlam asked what the next steps were. Mr. Wood stated that the fire department's budget would be forwarded to the Finance Committee. Ms. Wright and Mr. Wood agreed to put the fire department back on the Selectboard's agenda on the 12.14.2022 meeting.

Mr. Rescsanski opened a bid from for winter sand from JP trucking and excavating: 3000 ton delivered at \$19.50 per ton, \$10 per yard pick up in Alstead, certificate of liability insurance was provided.

He opened the second bid from St. Pierre. No quantity listed. \$13 per ton FOB \$11.

He opened the third bid from United Construction Corp price per ton \$12.69 price per ton \$4.99 FOB.

Mr. Wood called for recess at 6:07 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 6:18 pm.

Mr. Proctor and Mr. Daryl from Murphy International Standard Solar LLC introduced themselves. Mr. Proctor stated that New Hampshire passed the community choice aggregate bill, which would allow the Town to take advantage of putting solar in the Town for both the Town's use and for the residents. Currently the Town averages 54 kilowatt hours a month. He stated he works with Standard Solar. He stated that that if standard solar worked with the town, all the town would have to do is enter into a power purchase agreement.

A representative from Standard Solar discussed the longevity of their company and that they are vertically integrated. He stated that three things are needed: Site control, energy off-take, and an interconnect into the building or on the grid. He then gave an overview of the slide presentation he prepared for the meeting. He discussed the possibility of a project on Wetherby Road or Fling Rd. Mr. Proctor clarified that the project he has presented would provide electricity for 450-500 homes. Mr. Lessels asked who they would get a bill from. The representative stated the bill would come from

Standard Solar. Mr. Lessels asked if they are a for-profit company, to which he responded yes. Mr. Lessels clarified that with a 28-year agreement, if there is any advancement in power technology, would the town be tied with that company. Mr. Carter raised questions over the source of the panels and the placement of panels on the south part of town. The representative spoke to their panels being from all over the world, and that they had models to gauge where the sun is placed throughout the year. Mr. Neill asked if the town entered into a 28-year program how the property would be taxed. Mr. Proctor stated that the town could choose how to assess the property.

The meeting let for recess at 7:20 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7:26 pm.

Mr. Weed presented the highway department report. He discussed how Keene has increased their price on co-mingle. Mr. Weed stated that there's a water issue on Wetherby Road that the highway department is going to be working on.

Chief Connors stated he had nothing to add to his written report.

Mr. Wood reflected on the department head reports, and concluded the discussion.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus asked if they could verify with Mr. West on if he is doing the insulation project with the library, as he included in his report that he was asked by the library to measure for insulation. Mr. Wood stated that someone would follow-up with Mr. West on this matter.

Mr. Wood commenced discussion regarding the Class VI Road on Borough Road. Ms. Wright stated to Mr. Weed that an email was sent from Mr. Clarke to Ms. Emerson, and then showed him the email with the plan. Mr. Clarke verified that the email contained his proposal. Mr. Weed asked if the culvert area would involve permitting. Mr. Clarke stated he does not see flowing water, nor any issue that needs to be dug out. Mr. Lessels asked Mr. Clarke how much of the road being upgraded is needed to access his property. Mr. Clarke stated from the gate to the Town of Acworth. Mr. Clarke stated that he would address the situation and upgrade the road at his labor and his expense. He stated he has already signed documentation assuming full responsibility. Mr. Wood stated that the boundaries of the road are 50-feet wide according to the conservation easement. Mr. Clarke stated he would be unloading equipment on his own property.

Mr. Lessels stated he was going to make motions regarding this matter, but after hearing discussion he was unsure if he in fact wanted to make the motions. Mr. Rescsanski reflected on his understanding and asked will culverts be needed and where might they be needed. Mr. Clarke stated that starting at the gate no logger would go up the road in its current condition. Mr. Lessels stated he could not make the motions. Mr. Frizzell stated that a Class VI road, if by mistake the town put some money into it, then they have to maintain it. He stated that what the town is getting in to, he understood that there was a wetlands problem, and there will be again. Mr. Lessels stated that a vernal pool was present and an intermittent stream flowing across the road. Mr. Lessels stated that Mr. Clarke may anticipate more issues, given the climate of the issue concerning Borough Road. Mr. Lessels stated that originally, he wanted a bond posted for the logging. Mr. Lessels stated that if Mr. Clarke were to made improvements on the

road, then a bond may be required for that as well. Mr. Wood stated he agreed with Mr. Lessels that a bond may be required for the road. Mr. Clarke stated that with his men, resources, and time the road would be improved. Mr. Lessels reflected that his other motion was to notify Mr. Remick that she has five days to remove the gate because it is not being used for husbandry purposes. Mr. Lessels then spoke to another motion he was going to make that would have Ms. Emerson to measure 33-feet of the road from the blaze marks identifying the conservation easement on the North side of the road that was recently completed by the Conservation Committee.

Mr. Rescsanski asked when Ms. Emerson measured the road, would this provide information as it pertains to the conservation easement. Mr. Lessels answered in the affirmative. Mr. Wood clarified to Mr. Lessels that parameters can be added to his motion. Mr. Lessels motioned that the conservation easement boundary along the road be defined before road preparation begins. Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion. Mr. Rescsanski stated that road preparation is not a given, and that he was going to vote no. Roll call: Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. Wood (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Ms. Blouin-Andrus (yes).

Mr. Lessels motioned the Selectboard to notify Ms. Bonnie Remick that she has 5 days to remove the gate, and if within the 5 days the gate is not removed, the Selectboard will again remove the gate. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Rescsanski (no), Mr. Wood (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Ms. Blouin-Andrus (yes).

Mr. Lessels motioned to authorize Ms. Emerson of the Planning Board and a Selectboard member to measure out the 33 ft road width. Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion. Mr. Frizzell asked if the motion should be re-worded to be more specific to the property and not the road. Mr. Wood clarified that the Selectboard is custodians of the easement. Roll call: Mr. Rescsanski (no), Mr. Wood (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Ms. Blouin-Andrus (yes).

Mr. Lessels motioned to allow Mr. Clarke to do road preparation for logging purposes only, the extent of that preparation or distance thereof is to be determined, by Ms. Emerson, Mr. Lessels, and Mr. Weed and a road bond is required prior to work starting. Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion. Ms. Houghton stated that no work is to be done until that is done. Mr. Lessels answered in the affirmative. Mr. Rescsanski stated to define road preparation and the amount of the bond. Mr. Rescsanski commented on the undefined variables in the motion. Mr. Lessels stated that preparation is the word chosen so that it is the word most acceptable for the logging purposes component of the motion. Roll call: Mr. Rescsanski (no), Mr. Wood (yes), Ms. Houghton (no), Mr. Lessels (yes), Ms. Blouin-Andrus (yes).

Ms. Chaffee discussed the three articles the Planning Board are wanting to move toward warrant in March. Ms. Chaffee stated that she presented copies of the proposed warrant articles to the Selectboard.

Ms. Chaffee disclosed the first which would concern an adoption of the zoning ordinance to not allow mobile home parks within town. The second would allow multi-family housing in zone E and with special exception zone D. The third would be to adopt RSA tax-relief incentives. Mr. Wood motioned to accept the amendments from the planning board to allow them to move forward to the warrant. Mr. Lessels seconded the

motion. Mr. Rescsanski questioned the multi-unit dwelling structures, and stated that these would bring in more school aged children. Ms. Blouin-Andrus reflected that this would be a warrant article that would be up to the town vote. Roll call: Mr. Rescsanski (no), Mr. Wood (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Ms. Blouin-Andrus (yes).

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to approve the minutes of 11.30.2022 Water Commissioners and SB Workshop, 11.30.2022 NP#1, and 12.05.2022 SB Workshop. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. Wood (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Ms. Blouin-Andrus (yes).

Consent Agenda

Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to approve the consent agenda as written. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. Wood (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Ms. Blouin-Andrus (yes).

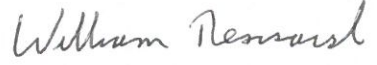
Other Business

Ms. Wright described the remaining budgets to be reviewed by the Selectboard. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that the Selectboard should meet with the Recreation Department again. Mr. Wood stated that the Fire Department budget review would be moved from 12.14.2022 to 12.21.2022. Ms. Chaffee stated that being able to set fees should be placed back on as a warrant. Ms. Town stated via Zoom that the Finance Committee had one recommendation regarding the library budget.

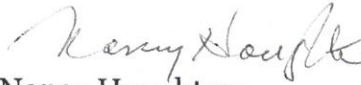
Mr. Rescsanski motioned to allow the Silsby library to request a fire permit for the library to have a fire during the tree lighting ceremony this coming Friday 12.09.2022. Roll Call: Ms. Blouin-Andrus (yes), Mr. Wood (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes) Ms. Houghton (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).


Ms. Wright briefly reviewed the TAN paperwork that the Selectboard will need to sign next week. Mr. Wood stated that he did not want the TAN to go towards the school payment. Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Blouin-Andrus (yes), Mr. Wood (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes) Ms. Houghton (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

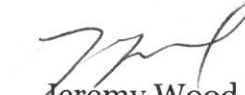
Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary


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 December 14, 2022)

