

CHARLESTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 at 5:00 P.M.

CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY ROOM

Selectboard Present: Jeremy Wood (Chair), William Rescsanski, Nancy Houghton, Shelly Andrus, Trish Patrick

Staff Present: Diane Dezan, Human Resources Manager
Patricia Chaffee, Tax Collector/Executive Assistant
Chief Connors, Police Department

Regular Meeting Call to Order

Mr. Wood commenced the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Chief Connors introduced a potential new employee of the police department to the Board. He explained the history, background and qualifications of the new employee. The Board asked the new employee a few questions; the new employee answered the questions.

Ms. Patrick motioned to enter non-public session #1 (Reputations) at 5:07 p.m., seconded by Ms. Houghton. Roll call: Mr. Wood (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Ms. Patrick (yes), Ms. Andrus (yes).

Meeting reconvened at 6:01pm.

Ms. Houghton made a motion to seal the non-public minutes for 10 years, seconded by Ms. Patrick. Roll call: Mr. Wood (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Ms. Patrick (yes), Ms. Andrus (yes). Motion passed.

Ms. Chaffee made the Board aware that the police budget will be overspent if the new employee for the police department is hired now; the hiring would have to wait for a March pay period.

Ms. Andrus made a motion to hire said employee on Monday, February 19, 2024 (next pay period), motion was seconded by Ms. Patrick. Roll call: Mr. Wood (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Ms. Patrick (yes), Ms. Andrus (yes).

Chief Connors informed the Board that the police policy handbook has been updated and given to all current police employees.

Matt Blanc from CEDA and Mike Gleason from GreenSource presented a preliminary proposal for a microtronics manufacturing plant to be built at the Grist Mill Park site. During phase one, a 95,000 to 100,000 square foot building would be built on this site to manufacture circuit boards. Mr. Gleason informed the Board that GreenSource is in talks with three other towns, but that Charlestown is their preferred location. He explained that the funding would be coming from the NHBFA who are in works with a lender for grants and loans. Mr. Gleason explained to the Board that this is a lucrative manufacturing business because this would be the only facility like it in the United States. He explained that the funding, \$46.2 million, would be coming from the Department of Defense and that money would be only to be allocated for the equipment needed. All the other funding will come from GreenSource and would be used for; the building, the infrastructure and the land. This is a multi-phase plan with more funding coming with a continuing natural creation of jobs in the area, especially for engineer managers. He also explained that there will be zero hazardous waste and that they reuse most of their water. The first phase is set to create 50 to 60 jobs for the town. Unfortunately, he could not give the Board a timeline due to multiple variables for the next phases. Tonight Mr. Blanc and Mr. Gleason were looking for support from the Board to move forward with a meeting with NHBFA and GreenSource. They also suggested that with this proposal comes the potential for other companies to come to the area and they would like to discuss a 10-year pilot program. The Board decided that they would like to go ahead and schedule that meeting.

Mr. Wood called for a recess at 6:55pm. Meeting resumed at 7:01pm.

Executive Assistant Report: Ms. Chaffee went over the packets with the Board; including the welfare guideline form changes. She informed the Board that the equalization rate for 2023 was 64.6. She also went over the One Source properties renewal for the alteration of terrain permit with the Board. From a request from the January 31 meeting, Ms. Chaffee gave the repair totals for the two police vehicles; the Charger and the Durango. She also reported to the Board that the annual report went to the printer. Ms. Chaffee went over Mr. West's report on a generator and the potential for it to be downsized. Future meetings were also discussed; after the elections maybe just have meetings on weeks one, three, and four and that all meetings would start at 5:30. There will be no meeting on March 13th, the day after the elections. Next week's meeting on February 21st will be a discussion on the bridge situation coming up next spring. Ms. Chaffee asked if anyone from the Board had any ideas for updates for the website and if so to e-mail her with those changes.

Minutes of previous meeting: Ms. Andrus made a motion to accept the minutes of January 31, 2024, workshop minutes, non-public #1 and non-public #2, motion was seconded by Ms. Patrick. Roll Call: Ms. Andrus (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Ms. Patrick (yes), and Mr. Wood (yes). Motion passed. Mr. Rescsanski abstained due to absence at the January 31 meeting.

Consent Agenda-Financial administration/payroll and purchase orders/manifests and warrants /abatements, appointments, permits, licenses, contracts and Resolution: Ms. Andrus made a motion to accept the consent agenda, motion was seconded by Mr. Rescsanski. Roll Call: Ms. Andrus (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Ms. Patrick (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), and Mr. Wood (yes). Motion passed.

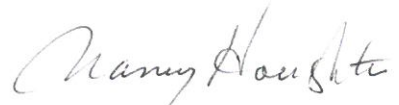
Ms. Andrus made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm, motion was seconded by Ms. Patrick. Roll Call: Ms. Andrus (yes), Ms. Houghton (yes), Ms. Patrick (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), and Mr. Wood (yes).

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellissa Griffin

Jeremy Wood


Trish Patrick


Nancy Houghton


William Rescsanski


Shelly Blouin-Andrus

(Note: These are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on February 21, 2024)