

**CHARLESTOWN SELECTBOARD  
COMMUNITY ROOM (26 RAILROAD STREET,  
BASEMENT OF THE SILSBY PUBLIC LIBRARY) &  
ZOOM CONFERENCE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

**Staff Present:** Jessica Dennis, Administrative Assistant (via Zoom)  
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary  
Keith Weed, Highway Department

**Others Present:** Richard Carter, Jim Carter, Diane Town

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Lessels called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., led the pledge of allegiance and welcomed in-person attendees and those by Zoom.

**Public Hearing: Unanticipated funds from Health Trust:**

Mr. Lessels opened the public hearing up to questioning from the public in attendance. There were no comments. Mr. Lessels considered the comments closed. Ms. Dennis advised the board to decide if they would accept the funds and discuss the intended purpose. Mr. Wood made a motion to accept the funds of \$41,857.58 from Health Trust, Ms. Houghton seconded the motion, the motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote. Mr. Lessels advised the board to entertain a motion of the disposition of the accepted funds. Mr. Lessels questioned Ms. Dennis of the amount intended to be distributed. Ms. Dennis stated she had the amount prepared if the Board were going to keep proportionally the Town's share and share the other portion with employees. Mr. Wood made a motion to appropriate funds per the amount that would go to the Town and to the employees, this motion was seconded by Ms. Blouin-Andrus, the motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote. Mr. Lessels closed the hearing at 6:34 p.m.

**Public Hearing: Fee Schedules:**

Mr. Lessels opened this hearing at 6:35 p.m. The first item discussed concerned dog registration. Mr. Lessels discussed the changes as follows: Registration of Unaltered dogs to increase from \$9 to \$10; Registration of Altered dogs to increase from \$6.50 to \$7.50; Senior Citizens Discount to change from \$2.00 to \$3.00; Town Hall rental to increase from \$50 (with \$50 deposit) to \$100 (resident)/\$150 (non-resident); Community room rental to increase from \$25 to \$100 (resident)/\$150 (non-resident); Community room kitchen rental to increase from \$35 (with \$35 deposit) to \$100 (resident)/\$150 (non-resident). Mr. Lessels then discussed the proposed rate of the Right to Know requests rates as 50 cents per page plus an applicable postage rate. Mr. Lessels stated that someone was requesting the USB drive would be the cost-plus applicable postage. Mr. Richard Carter questioned the description of the deposits in the proposed fee schedules. Ms. Dennis stated that there is no longer a deposit, and that the fees listed were for use.

Mr. Wood motioned to accept the fees as accepted or amended, Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion; the motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote. Mr. Lessels closed this hearing at 6:40 p.m.

**Recognition of Visitor/Public Input:**

Mr. Lessels opened the meeting up for the recognition of any visitors in attendance who had anything to discuss for the board. Mr. Lessels stated the Board would entertain any public comment. There was none offered.

**Ex-Officio Committee Reports:**

**Conservation Commission** – Mr. Lessels discussed how this committee has been very active. Mr. Lessels disclosed that Ms. Dennis is to speak to Mr. Dick Holmes sometime in the near future regarding how they may or may not be impacted by the FEMA money awarded. Mr. Lessels opened this report to questioning, but there was none.

**FM School-board** – Mr. Wood deferred this report to Ms. Blouin-Andrus. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that budget discussions were had at the most recent meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated a discussion was had concerning the budgets together and estimates on default budget and proposals for the budget at this meeting. She stated the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on December 16<sup>th</sup>. She disclosed that on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 a public hearing for this budget will be held. She stated they set their deliberative to be February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Ms. Houghton questioned if the default budget will be higher than regular budget. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated not as it stands now and that the proposed budget will be higher. Mr. Lessels then stated the Board appreciated both Alissa Bascom and Ms. Blouin-Andrus for assisting in the communication with the School.

**FM School Site Base** – Mr. Rescsanski discussed how they met on November 18th and discussed the budget. Mr. Rescsanski stated that Mr. Blouin-Andrus brought a copy of the SIP plan. Mr. Rescsanski discussed how there was conversation regarding the consolidation of elementary schools. He stated that the next meeting would be at 6:00 p.m. on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Rescsanski stated he did not have anything new to report. He stated that they were making progress on working on the Town budget, but that it was still being working on. He stated that they were making progress, but that they would continue to work on until approved.

**Heritage Commission** – Mr. Rescsanski stated he had nothing to report.

**Planning Board** – Mr. Wood stated that in the last meeting there was an approval for Allard's Septic Company to do maintenance on his house. He discussed how there was another site plan change discussed, but that they were waiting on language to be produced from the lawyer for St. Luke's Church complex. The next meeting is on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Recreation Committee** – Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that the Recreation committee was going strong. She stated that Chris Spaulding is doing an amazing job as the

basketball commissioner and that they have a meeting scheduled on December 21<sup>st</sup>. She stated that they would like to use High School students as referees, but they are not able to do so with background checks not being possible for students. She stated that they wanted this change so as to allow High School students to be able to earn community service for refereeing, and because there was presently a shortage in referees. She stated that this was presently waived for soccer but not for basketball. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated she is OK with waiving the background check for basketball because there is no alone time between referees and players. Discussion was had concerning a similar issue with soccer referees. Mr. Wood made a motion to waive required background checks across the board for referees for the Recreation Committee, Ms. Houghton seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote

**Town Hall Committee** – Ms. Dennis discussed how the Town Hall storm windows are presently at America Plate Glass. She stated that they are able to be repaired, but they must be modified to a dead light storm and thus will not open. She stated their appearance will be the same from the street. She disclosed that it is just the one window and the estimate is \$650. She stated that America Plate Glass will fix the storm, install the dead light, and replace the rotted, weathered trim.

#### **Administrator's Report and Correspondence:**

Ms. Dennis stated that she and Mr. Weed met with FEMA and Homeland Security concerning the storm damage this past July. She stated that final reports are due to these agencies by February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. She stated that Mr. Weed has 95% of the information necessary, but the formatting required has not been finalized. Ms. Dennis reminded the Board how no one came to the 2022 pre-bid meeting for mowing. She stated this has been re-advertised, and emails/letters have been sent to potential vendors. She stated how these bids were due back by January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mr. Lessels made the comment that if no competitive bids were made the second time, rethinking this particular issue may be something to consider. Ms. Dennis stated how she spoke with Mr. Hassett at the Cemetery Department, and that there is room in the upstairs of the building for the Christmas Elves items discussed at the previous meeting. Ms. Houghton stated she was against a non-town entity using this space as there is a shortage of free space to use for Town purposes.

Mr. Rescsanski stated he seconded what Ms. Houghton said, and added that the space being in the attic of the building was also a safety issue. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that she understood the perspective of the Christmas Elves workshop not being a Town event, but argued that it did qualify as a "Town event" because if they could help out the Elves workshop it may be able to grow and expand to what it used to be. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated the Town community lost something when the workshop ceased to be in operation. Ms. Blouin-Andrus advocated finding alternative space for the Christmas Elves workshop items. Mr. Rescsanski stated that he did not agree with using Town areas to store unofficial Town items. Mr. Rescsanski discussed that the costs should be a factor in the decision under discussion. Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to allow the Elves workshop items to be stored in the attic of the Cemetery Building. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. Ms. Houghton asked if there was any potential liability the Town should consider. Mr. Rescsanski stated that he believed someone could sue if they sustained an injury. M r.

Richard Carter stated the Christmas Elves workshop was Town related because the purpose of the workshop was to improve the Town. On a roll call vote; the votes were as follows: Ms. Blouin-Andrus (Aye), Mr. Wood (Aye), Mr. Rescsanski (Nay), Ms. Houghton (Nay), and Mr. Lessels (Aye). The motion carried 3 - 2 by an affirmative roll call vote.

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

Mr. Wood motioned to accept the minutes of December 1, 2021 – Regular Meeting, December 1, 2021 – Non-Public #1 Reputations, December 1, 2021 – Non-Public #2 Hiring, December 1, 2021 – Non-Public #3 Reputations, December 1, 2021 – Non-Public #4 Reputations, December 1, 2021 – Non-Public #5 Reputations (SEALED), December 1, 2021 – Non-Public #6 Reputations, December 8, 2021 – Workshop, December 8, 2021 – Non-Public #1 Reputations, December 8, 2021 – Non-Public #2 Legal (SEALED). Ms. Houghton seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

### **Consent Agenda:**

Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to accept the Consent Agenda as printed. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 1 by an affirmative roll call vote. Mr. Rescsanski abstained from the vote.

### **On-Going Business:**

Mr. Rescsanski asked a question regarding about an email regarding adequacy aid. He stated that the Fall Mountain Regional School District did not have a special meeting to accept additional funds and that the email stated that they will “flow through to the communities.” He clarified the meaning of this statement. Ms. Dennis discussed how she was asked about an email concerning the \$316,000 that was going to be applied as a credit at tax rate setting time. She stated she reached out to DRA and asked if that could be applied to payment or to tax rate setting. Ms. Dennis stated that these funds should have just flowed through should have been on to their tax rate setting paperwork, but the Town would not necessarily see that number when setting the tax rate. Ms. Lessels asked when and how these funds would be seen. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that it is being worked on. Ms. Richard Carter asked a question concerning abatement on Wetherby Road. Ms. Dennis clarified that 150 Weatherby Road is a piece of property that the Town took by Tax Collector deed. She stated that earlier this summer both attempts to sell this property fell through, so an abatement had to be done because the Town is not able to pay taxes to itself. Mr. Richard Carter asked if the property was still for sell, but stated that he had no interest in purchasing it. Mr. Lessels stated that Town presently held the property and that he anticipated an auction in the future regarding the property.

Mr. Lessels called the meeting to recess at 7:08 p.m. and reconvened at 7:14 p.m.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to go into non-public at 7:15 p.m. RSA 91-A:3 II (I) Legal. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

The meeting reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

Mr. Wood motioned to go into non-public at 7:19 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 7:27 pm

Mr. Wood motioned to go into non-public at 7:30 p.m. RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation, Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

The meeting reconvened at 7:46 pm

Mr. Lessels motioned to go into non-public at 7:47 p.m. RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation, Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

The meeting reconvened at 7:58 pm

Mr. Wood motioned to Seal the non-public minutes #4 (Reputation) for three months. Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus asked if the cover of annual report could be dedicated to the employees. Mr. Rescsanski stated there are many employees, and recommended a collage of pictures because of the high number of employees. Mr. Rescsanski recommended having pictures of town workers doing the above and beyond to make the town beautiful.

Ms. Dennis stated that two deed waivers needed to be sign. Mr. Lessels stated these waivers are 3/5 signed.

Mr. Wood motioned at 8:05 to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 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 December 22, 2021)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen  
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #1  
December 15, 2021 @ 6:30 pm  
Community Room**

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

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis – Administrative Assistant (via Zoom)  
Jordan Cannon – Recording Secretary

The Selectboard discussed an email from legal regarding Great River Hydro. The Selectboard reviewed this discussion from the previous meeting. Mr. Wood stated to counter-offer with \$70,000. Mr. Rescsanski stated he was uncomfortable asking more than they would pay for taxes, and asked if they could ask for \$65,000. Mr. Wood stated the Selectboard should consider that their counter offer may be a smaller amount such as \$40,000. Mr. Lessels discussed how he would speak to James McClammer. Mr. Wood made a motion to counter-offer with \$70,000. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 – 0 with an affirmative roll call vote.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:18 p.m.; Mr. Wood 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 December 22, 2021)



**Charlestown Board of Selectmen  
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #2  
December 15, 2021 @ 6:30 pm  
Community Room**

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

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis – Administrative Assistant (via Zoom)  
Jordan Cannon – Recording Secretary

The Selectboard discussed that George Martin came in to the Town office today and stated he wanted a phone call from the Selectboard. He said he wanted to speak to the Board about Keith Weed. Mr. Lessels clarified whom he wanted to hear from, and Ms. Dennis clarified he said someone from the Selectboard. Ms. Houghton stated that it appears this concerns the plowing of his driveway. It was discussed how Mr. Weed and Ms. Emerson looked at the Town tax map and it looks as if it is Mr. Martin's private property that the Town has been plowing for some time. It was discussed how Mr. Martin may be experiencing negative emotions concerning this issue. Mr. Rescsanski asked if there was further information. Mr. Weed was reported to have said he did not realize where the property lines were. Ms. Dennis stated Mr. Martin may be frustrated with this change. Ms. Blouin-Andrus clarified that the issue may concern Mr. Weed's need to turn his truck around on the street. Mr. Lessels discussed the egress that used to be there. Mr. Martin was not able to come into a Board meeting, Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated she should abstain from being the person who contacted Mr. Martin because of a personal connection. Mr. Rescsanski stated he would give Mr. Martin a phone call, but asked if the Board had any input. Ms. Blouin-Andrus recommended having the Town map at hand for this conversation. Ms. Dennis stated she would scan the complaint form and map and get these to Mr. Rescsanski. The Selectboard took no action on this matter apart from Mr. Rescsanski agreeing to call and give Mr. Martin an explanation.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:27 pm; Mr. Wood 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 December 22, 2021)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen  
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #3  
December 15, 2021 @ 6:30 pm  
Community Room**

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

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis – Administrative Assistant (via Zoom)

Jordan Cannon – Recording Secretary

Ms. Dennis stated she forwarded a letter from Mr. Stacey Hassett to the Board. Mr. Wood read the letter and gave an overview. In summation, Mr. Hassett asked that instead of plowing could he be assigned maintenance work and continue Cemetery work throughout the winter months (including paperwork and maintenance on the equipment). It was reported that Mr. Weed does not want him to plow. Mr. Hassett was said to have offered to help with plowing, he just would prefer to not have to report to Mr. Weed regularly. Mr. Wood stated that with this plowing season, he could be assigned maintenance, and if there was heavy snowfall he could be called upon to plow. Ms. Houghton asked if there is enough to keep him busy for a 40-hour work week. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that she thought there would be enough work. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that they may be able to receive a detailed report from the him and this would be a way to track the amount of work Mr. Hassett is being assigned. Mr. Wood asked if there were repair items that are found on quarterly or annual reports that need attention. Mr. Lessels stated that there should be an adequate amount of work to be done by Mr. Hassett should he be idle. It was discussed how Mr. Hassett could make a list of things needed to be done in Town buildings, but would need to make himself available if Mr. Weed needs assistance plowing. It was discussed how Mr. Hassett may allocate his days for the Cemetery, with the other three days he works on Town Building Maintenance. Mr. Lessels asked if it was necessary to have a vote. Ms. Dennis stated that Mr. Hassett is budgeted out of the highway budget presently.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to come out of non-public at 7:46 p.m. Mr. Wood seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully  
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary

Submitted,

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 22, 2021)