

**CHARLESTOWN SELECTBOARD
COMMUNITY ROOM (26 RAILROAD STREET, BASEMENT OF THE SILSBY
PUBLIC LIBRARY) & ZOOM CONFERENCE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022 AT 6:30 PM**

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

Staff Present: Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary
Patrick Connors, Chief of Police

Others Present: Donald Strobel

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITOR/PUBLIC INPUT:

Mr. Strobel was welcomed by the Selectboard to discuss a matter affecting his private residence in Town. Per his account, his private driveway on Main Street was being impacted by issues regarding the snow plowing of his driveway. He stated that if the Town plows his driveway they should do every citizen's driveway. He stated that the Town was supposed to fix his driveway several years ago; there was a dispute on whether or not he was legally allowed to back up out of his driveway. He stated that he and his wife are not able to see when they back out of their driveway. He stated that the other woman in question, his neighbor, showed him that the Town had given her documents that held she was allowed to park in the area under dispute. He stated that he wanted the "green" back, and to have the other party in question park in the back of their residence. He stated he has lived at his residence for forty-five years. A second issue he discussed was that his cellar was being flooded. He stated that he spoke to a State Department of Transportation office regarding this matter, and was told that it was a Town issue. He stated that he also needed resolution with an issue of drainage to address the flooding of his cellar. Mr. Lessels told him that the Selectboard would discuss this matter, as they were aware of this issue, and would hold a non-public meeting and discuss, and subsequently get back in touch with him.

EX-OFFICIO COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission:

Mr. Lessels stated that there were no updates to be provided at this time. He stated that this Commission was not meeting this week.

FM Schoolboard:

Mr. Wood stated he has not been to a school-board meeting recently. He stated that to his understanding there was a \$3.06 increase in the budget. At the Deliberative Session on February 2nd, Mr. Wood stated he hoped that citizens would attend and have an open discussion.

FM School Site Base:

Mr. Rescsanski stated he was not aware of the date of the next meeting. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that the next meeting is January 20th. She stated that there were no pressing issues to discuss per her understanding.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Rescsanski stated that the Finance Committee approved the budget. Finance and Selectboard also voted, separately, on whether to support applicable warrant articles.

Heritage Commission:

There were no updates with this commission.

Planning Board:

Mr. Wood disclosed that the Planning Board met the previous evening. He informed the audience that St. Pierre was granted a winter blasting permit for the reason that they are supplying the aggregate for Route 12. He stated that blasting was expected at the end of this month, and that there would be phone calls to let people know of the blasting. Mr. Wood also briefly detailed the discussions had regarding capital improvement plan, and how there were plans to work on this matter the following year.

Recreation Committee:

Ms. Blouin-Andrus disclosed that she believed the ice rink would be active this week or the following. She mentioned a "mini" winter carnival that was being planned for the upcoming school vacation weeks. She disclosed how the recreation department is attempting to maintain basketball in spite of current events regarding the Covid pandemic. Ms. Blouin-Andrus made note that Chris Spaulding was doing well in his role with basketball.

Town Hall Committee:

Mr. Wood stated that he was not aware of any updates with this committee, as Ms. Dennis was not present to discuss.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2022 – Workshop, January 12, 2022 - Non-Public #1 Legal, January 12, 2022 – Non-Public #2 Hiring, January 12, 2022 – Non-Public #3 Reputations. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 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 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Wood discussed the work that was being done through the easements on Taylor Hill. He mentioned that this matter was in its final stages regarding legal requirements. Mr. Wood mentioned that the Selectboard had not heard back regarding the five-town board with meeting with Mr. McClammer. Mr. Wood disclosed that the Town is awaiting legal information concerning the warrant articles being properly worded.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Mr. Wood read a letter that Mr. Lessels wrote dated January 18th, 2022. It mentioned his throwing away of cat litter into the "hopper" as prohibited by transfer station rules. He stated that he also thanked Ms. Blouin-Andrus on her No Vote on the School District budget. He stated that he wanted this letter to be part of the records of the Selectboard's proceedings. Mr. Lessels then discussed the event wherein he threw away the cat litter into the hopper, and was caught in the act by Town employee Robert Blish. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that it is not recommenced

to place cat litter in the hopper because it is often entered by employees in the course of their duties.

Mr. Wood stated that Ms. Dennis asked if the Selectboard would take a vote regarding warrant article #16. Mr. Wood read the article, and detailed its description as being associated with Fire/Rescue. Mr. Wood asked if there would be discussion. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that she did not like the use of the wording of "raise" because the funds of \$16,0000 were from the previously sold ambulance. Mr. Wood commented that the Selectboard discussed this openly with the Fire Chief at a previous board hearing. The Selectboard discussed licensing of Fire Department staff, wherein licensing requirements would be approved for current employees only. Mr. Lessels stated that there appeared to be some confusion, and perhaps a clarifying discussion with the Fire Chief would need to be held. Ms. Blouin-Andrus questioned the wording in the warrant article that listed the Fire Chief as having the authority to use the listed \$16,000 funds.

Chief Connors discussed previous decisions made by former Fire Chiefs regarding the use of Town funds. He stated that the Police Department has a capital reserve for emergency communications equipment, but it was to be authorized for use by the Selectboard. He stated that spending Town funds is meant to be a Selectboard decision. He discussed how in the previous year an ambulance was not functioning properly and a capital reserve was requested to replace ambulance equipment. He stated that he felt that the Selectboard should not hold a capital reserve unless there was a listed need for what these funds would be used for. He stated that as a voter he would want to know the specifics of the use of Town funds. Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to not recommend article #16 associated with a Fire/Rescue capital reserve, Mr. Lessels seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 by an affirmative roll call vote. Ms. Blouin-Andrus asked if the board could invite Interim Chief LaFlam to the Selectboard meeting next week to explain their concerns with a fire chief acting as a purchasing agent for the Town.

A discussion was held regarding photographs needed for the Town report. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that Ms. Houghton was attempting to acquire photos. She stated that she reached out to individuals who have taken photos of the Town. She stated that she found some photos of Fire Department staff at a senior center dance. Ms. Houghton asked Chief Connors if the Police Department would mind if she came to take pictures of officers for the Town report. Chief Connors answered that she would be welcomed to come and take pictures.

Mr. Wood disclosed that he wanted to discuss an issue concerning the Planning Board, as he had questions regarding a particular process. He stated that he would like to be able to give Ms. Emerson the authority to approve sign permits. Mr. Wood stated that because CIP was this year, the Town was continuously taking on more long-term planning, and consequently items of minor importance such as signs could perhaps be completed in-house and addressed expediently. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that she 100% trusts Ms. Emerson, but if Ms. Emerson leaves the next person may not be as sound with attention to detail. Mr. Rescsanski asked if the RSAs allowed the Selectboard to address this issue. Consensus was reached by the Selectboard to allow the Planning Board Administrator to manage signs.

Ms. Houghton asked about the status of Route 12, and if all the documentation had been finalized. Mr. Wood said St. Pierre were in the process of hauling aggregate, and he believed they

started construction the previous week. He stated that St. Pierre went to the site the previous evening to make sure they would have enough material.

Mr. Lessels discussed a letter from Jill Hanson. It was discussed that in the past years people have done things for the Town, and that the pictures looked nice hanging up in the Town office. Chief Connors disclosed to the Selectboard that \$18,347 was the amount listed regarding electronics needed for police vehicles. Discussion was had by the Selectboard and Chief Connors regarding inflation and the impact it had on costs for items needed by the Police Department.

The meeting was let out for recess at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:39 p.m.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to go into non-public at 7:40 p.m. RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring, Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.


The meeting reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to go into non-public at 7:43 p.m. RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel, Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

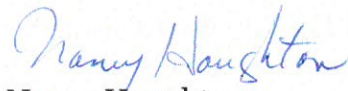
The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

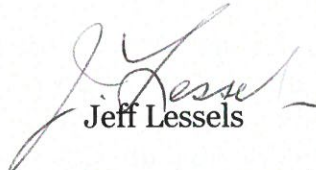
Mr. Lessels made a motion at 7:46 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Houghton seconded the motion, the motion carried 5 to 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

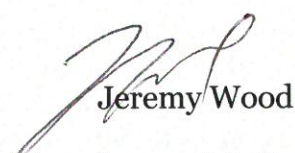
Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary


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 January 26, 2022)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #2
RSA 91-A:3 II (a-Personnel)
January 19, 2022 @ 6:30 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: Jordan Cannon – Recording Secretary

The Selectboard discussed the resignation of a Town employee associated with the highway department, Mr. Wendall Darrell. Ms. Houghton moved to accept resignation of the employee, Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

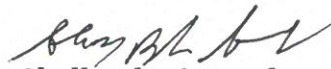
Mr. Lessels made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:45 p.m.; Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion.

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

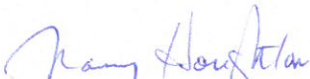
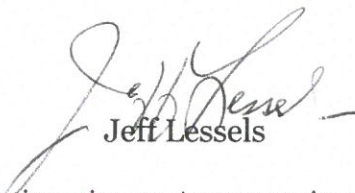
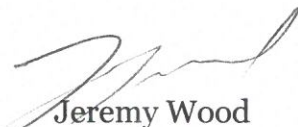
Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary



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 January 26, 2022)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #1
RSA 91-A:3 II (b-hiring)
January 19, 2022 @ 6:30 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: Jordan Cannon – Recording Secretary

The Selectboard discussed a new hire at fire department, Mr. Robert “Scott” Burns. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that she never saw the employee’s application. It was disclosed that the new employee had already began working at the Fire Department. Mr. Wood made a motion to hire the new employee at the fire department. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

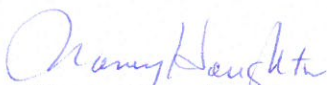
Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:42 p.m.; Mr. Lessels seconded the motion.

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

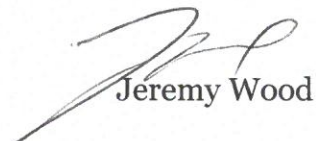
Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary


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 January 26, 2022)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #1
RSA 91-A:3 II (b-hiring)
January 19, 2022 @ 6:30 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: Jordan Cannon – Recording Secretary

The Selectboard discussed a new hire at fire department, Mr. Robert “Scott” Burns. Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that she never saw the employee’s application. It was disclosed that the new employee had already began working at the Fire Department. Mr. Wood made a motion to hire the new employee at the fire department. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

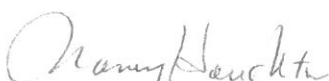
Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:42 p.m.; Mr. Lessels seconded the motion.

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 January 26, 2022)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #2
RSA 91-A:3 II (a-Personnel)
January 19, 2022 @ 6:30 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: Jordan Cannon – Recording Secretary

The Selectboard discussed the resignation of a Town employee associated with the highway department, Mr. Wendall Darrell. Ms. Houghton moved to accept resignation of the employee, Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0 by an affirmative roll call vote.

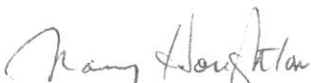
Mr. Lessels made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:45 p.m.; Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion.

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 January 26, 2022)