

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN  
SELECTBOARD WORKSHOP  
OCTOBER 31, 2019**

Selectboard Present: Steve Neill (Chair), Jeffrey Lessels, Albert St.Pierre

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis – Administrator

**Meeting was called to order at 8:15 AM.**

Mr. St. Pierre moved to go into non public at 8:15 am RSA 91-A: 3 II, (C) reputation, Mr. Lessels seconded the motion. By roll call all were in favor, motion passed.

At 8:40 AM the Selectboard returned to their regular workshop.

The Selectboard signed notices to vacate for four properties taken by Tax Collector's Deed and a repurchase letter for another. Additionally, they signed the fourth quarter water and wastewater warrant; signed two addendums for additional professional services with Twinstare Technologies to complete the audit of the Town's IT network; and two purchase orders, one for the wastewater department to repair the blower at the Lagoon and one for culverts for the highway department.

The Selectboard discussed and Municipal Aid check that was received from the State, after some discussion about that process to hold a public hearing, Selectboard decided they would like to hold a public hearing and likely use the monies for Bridge Repairs. Ms. Dennis will schedule a public hearing at the earliest possible date that will not hold up the tax rate.

There was a discussion about the letter received from the school denying the Town's request for a list of students who reside in Charlestown. The Selectboard would like a letter drafted in response to this from the Town's attorney, additionally, they would like to ensure the attorney has a copy of the "Report of the Withdrawal Study Committee" and asked Ms. Dennis to schedule a meeting with the Town's attorney prior to the meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> with the State Board of Education. The Selectboard is hoping the attorney will be available on November 12, 13 or 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lessels drafted a letter to the State of NH Department of Transportation regarding the portion of Route 12A "Healy Hill." The other members of the Selectboard read the letter and accepted it as written, but asked Ms. Dennis to speak with Police Chief Connors and see if he had anything additional to add. Mr. St. Pierre spoke with Mr. Andru Volinsky, Executive Councilor, regarding this issue and he requested the Town of Charlestown copy him on any correspondence sent to the State regarding this issue.

Chief Connors entered the meeting and a discussion occurred regarding the 2020 budget. The Selectboard agreed to keep the existing Health Insurance plans in spite of the 7.4% rate increase. Chief Connors presented to the Selectboard his proposed wage scale for the Police Department. He provided information from a wage study which included wages from nearly all departments throughout the State, including the State Police. Additionally, he provided some statistics on

crime rates throughout the State and what the Charlestown Police Department is facing. Mr. Neill attended a Health Officer workshop on October 30 where similar facts and statistics were stated. The Selectboard would like the initial budget presented to the Finance Committee to not include wage increases. Ms. Dennis asked the Selectboard what they would like to do regarding Selectboard salaries for the five members Selectboard. The Selectboard voted to increase the Selectboard pay rather than split the existing salary five ways. For the next workshop on November 5<sup>th</sup>, the Selectboard would like Ms. Dennis to research the 2020 Social Security and Consumer Price Index increases. They would like to meet with Mr. Keith Weed from 3:30 to 7:00 PM on that day; if Mr. Weed is unavailable they will meet with Ms. Dennis.

At 11:35 AM Mr. St. Pierre and Chief Connors left the meeting.

The Selectboard continued their conversation with Ms. Dennis regarding staffing in the office and how the existing space can be reorganized. Mr. Lessels inquired how the work load would be distributed if there was additional staff in the office. There was a discussion about the distribution of work.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

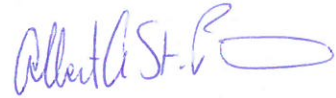
**Mr. Neill moved to adjourn this meeting. Mr. Lessels seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Dennis

  
Steven A. Neill, Chair

Approved,

  
Jeffrey Lessels

  
Albert St. Pierre

(Note: These are unapproved Minutes. Corrections, if necessary, will be found in the Minutes of the November 20, 2019, Selectboard meeting.)

## **TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**Non Public Session per RSA 91-A: 3 II C**

**Community Room**

**October 31, 2019**

Selectboard Present: Steven Neill, Albert St. Pierre, Jeffrey Lessels

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator  
Keith Weed – Highway Superintendent

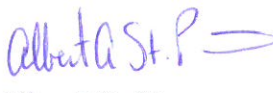
Mr. Weed has asked to speak with the Selectboard about some staffing issues that have come to his attention. The Selectboard discussed them with Mr. Weed and would like to meet with the employees involved. The Selectboard will hold a non-public meeting at 5:15 on November 6<sup>th</sup>, prior to their next meeting.

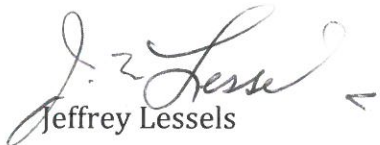
Mr. Neill moved to exit non public at 8:40 A.M., Mr. St. Pierre seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica K. Dennis, Administrator

Approved,

  
Steven A. Neill, Chair

  
Albert St. Pierre

  
Jeffrey Lessels

(Note: These are unapproved minutes. Corrections will be found in the minutes of the November 20, 2019, Select board meeting.)