

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2020**

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

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis – Administrator

**Meeting was called to order at 8:12 PM.**

The Selectboard reconvened after the Budget Hearing and Finance Meeting to vote on their recommendations on the 2020 Warrant Articles.

Warrant Article 1: Operating Budget: All in favor

Warrant Article 2: Building Needs: All in favor

Warrant Article 3: Fire Truck Lease Purchase: All in favor

Warrant Article 4: Transfer Station Roll-off C/R: Mr. Neill and Mr. Lessels are in favor, Mr. St. Pierre against. He does not typically support Capital Reserves.

Warrant Article 5: Real Estate Reappraisal C/R: All in favor

Warrant Article 6: Ambulance Maintenance C/R: Mr. Neill and Mr. Lessels are in favor, Mr. St. Pierre against.

Warrant Article 7: Support of the Senior Center: All in favor

Warrant Article 8: Emergency Communication Improvements C/R: Mr. Neill and Mr. Lessels are in favor, Mr. St. Pierre against.

Warrant Article 9: Fall Mountain Withdrawal Expenses: All in favor

Warrant Article 11: Fort at #4: Mr. Neill and Mr. Lessels are in favor, Mr. St. Pierre abstained because he is on the Board for the Fort.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. St. Pierre moved to recess this meeting. Mr. Lessels seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica K. Dennis

Approved,

  
Steven A. Neill, Chair

  
Jeffrey Lessels

  
Albert St. Pierre

(Note: These are unapproved Minutes. Corrections, if necessary, will be found in the Minutes of the February 5, 2020 Selectboard meeting.)

# **TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING JANUARY 15, 2020**

Select board Present: Chairman Steven Neill, Albert St. Pierre, and Jeffrey Lessels

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis, Administrator  
Chief Charles Baraly, Fire Department

Public Present: Daryl Osgood

**Call to order:** Mr. Neill called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM and welcomed everyone. Mr. Neill advised that the meetings are recorded and asked everyone wishing to speak to identify themselves for the record. Comments should be addressed to the Selectboard.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Daryl Osgood from Old Acworth Stage Road is here to speak with the Selectboard about the logging operation on the Town Forest Reservoir lot. A culvert was placed at the entrance to lot and log landing, it was not properly installed which is causing the water to run into the Road and is creating a mess. Old Acworth Stage Road is a private road so all repairs are paid for by the abutting property owners; mostly Mr. Osgood. Mr. Osgood has spent a lot of time and money on the Road and logging company does not seem to care. He was allowing the trucks to turn around in his driveway because the landing was not large enough however he is not anymore due to the damage done to his personal property. The contract states that the logger is responsible to sand and plow the road to get access to the site and is to leave the road in as good, or better condition after the project is completed. There have been complaints about the truck traveling very early in the morning and passing over the posted bridge on Borough Road. Mr. Osgood has spoken with the Forester in charge of the operation, Mr. Jeffrey Snitkin, and the members of the Conservation Commission, but the issues have not been resolved, which is why he is here to speak with the Selectboard tonight. He has presented the Selectboard will a bill for \$1,770 to repair the Road. The Selectboard members will be attending the Conservation Commission meeting on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> to address these issues with the Commission. Ms. Dennis will provide the Selectboard members with copies of the contract and post the meeting. Ms. Osgood left the meeting.

**Selectboard Comment:** None.

## **Department Reports:**

**Water Department:** Mr. David Duquette submitted a written report to the Selectboard, mostly all routine end of year reporting.

**Fire and Emergency Management:** Chief Baraly submitted several reports reflecting the calls answered by the Fire Department in 2019 and reports reflecting the call history back to 2016 when the dispatching services were taken over by the Charlestown Police Department. Chief Baraly explained there is grant money available to update the Emergency Action plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan. He is working to update both in the upcoming year.

**Police and Ambulance Departments:** Chief Connors submitted a report with the stats for the Charlestown Ambulance Department. There were 564 calls in 2019, Charlestown was the primary for 424 (or about 75%), Golden Cross 82, Springfield 49 and Walpole 9. He also reported to Ms. Dennis that the Police Department has been busy. There was a high speed chase over the weekend, that ended in a head on



collision and they have been investigating internal thefts at Whelan, they were able to assist Whelan with apprehending the employee.

Town Clerk/Tax Collectors Office: Ms. Patricia Chaffee submitted a written report: she is working with the Water/Wastewater department to generate bills; the office will be closed on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> to attend election training; filing period for Town Elections is January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, she has included a list of open offices; dog registrations have started for 2020.

**Administrator's Report:** The power was turned off at the two properties taken by tax Collector's Deed at 274 Old Springfield Road and 918 Old Claremont Road. Mr. David Belisle has winterized both, it appears the power was already off in one of the apartments in 918 Old Claremont Road, and he found a split pipe in the basement as a result. NH Electric Co-op sent a notice that they are re-clearing lines near Morse Hill Road. Ms. Dennis asked about the 2020 Holiday Schedule, the forth of July falls on a Saturday, does the Board want to give employees Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> off in observation, or another day? Mr. St. Pierre made a motion to make Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> the Holiday, Mr. Lessels seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed. Ms. Dennis provided a short report from the Planning Board. Ms. Elizabeth Emerson has provided the Selectboard with copies of the proposed Traffic and Motor Vehicle Ordinance for them to review. Additionally, the Town received an unsolicited letter regarding SB 306. If this passes, it will essentially make all Planning Board decisions null and void, so the Planning Board should be following this. The Town received a letter from North Country Environmental stating there will be a 1.942% increase. The City of Keene sent a letter requesting support and funding for 24 household hazardous waste days in 2020-2021. Mr. Neill stated they have not done this in the past as it is underutilized. There is a School Funding and property taxes 101 forum being held at the Marlow Elementary school on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. This information has also been forwarded to the School Withdrawal Committee. Ms. Dennis also let the Selectboard know that she is off on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Neill asked the other members of the Selectboard if they would allow the Highway Department to clean the trash from the porch at 274 Old Springfield Road. The former owner left bags of trash on the back porch. Ms. Dennis informed the Selectboard that the office received a call from a neighbor stating the animals had gotten into the trash. All members agreed to allow the Highway Department to remove the trash.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Town Hall Committee: Nothing to report

Building Needs: Bond Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at 5:30 in the Community Room. A power point presentation will be done.

Heritage Committee: No Meeting

Recreation Committee: Mr. St. Pierre did not attend the meeting.

School Research Committee: Video is online of the State Board of Education meeting, where the Withdrawal plan was approved. At the FMRSD meeting on Monday they signed a tuition agreement with Lempster. Mr. St. Pierre made it clear to the committee they do not have free access to the Town's attorney.

Planning Board: No meeting earlier this month; next meeting is Tuesday.



Conservation Committee: Has a meeting next Monday at 7:00 PM, the Selectboard will attend to address the concerns of Mr. Osgood. Ms. Dennis will post this as a Selectboard meeting.

**Minutes of Previous Meetings:** Mr. Lessels moved to accept the following meeting minutes:

December 18, 2019 - Meeting  
December 18, 2019 - Non-public – Legal  
December 18, 2019 - Non-public – Compensation  
December 18, 2019 – Regular Meeting  
December 27, 2019 – Regular  
December 27, 2019 – Non-public – Compensation  
January 3, 2020 – Workshop  
January 3, 2020 – Non-public – Legal  
January 8, 2020 – Workshop  
January 8, 2020 – Non-public – Legal

The motion was seconded by Mr. St. Pierre. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Administration:** Mr. Neill reported the following were reviewed and approved.

1. Payroll manifest dated January 16, 2020
2. Twelve purchase orders were signed. Chief Baraly clarified that PO# 85389 was for 15 five gallon pales of foam concentrate. The purchase order reflects 5 gals of foam.
3. A wastewater abatement was signed for 846 Old Claremont Rd for \$194.37. This was requested by the property owner, supported by the Wastewater department; the property owner was unaware that of a failed washer in the outside water hose shutoff valve. It was repaired as soon as it was discovered; the water did not go into the wastewater system.

**Appointments, Permits, Licenses & Resolutions:** An appointment was signed to appointment for Shelly Andrus to the Recreation Committee for a one year term. A liquor license was signed for Mr. Harold Elliot for the Community Room on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Old Business: Nothing new**

**New Business:** Boston Post Cane was present to Mrs. Olive Reinhart on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Her family was present as well as Mrs. Joyce Higgins from the Historical Society/Heritage Commission. The recipient was surprised and honored.


**Adjournment:** Mr. St. Pierre moved to adjourn, Mr. Lessels seconded and meeting adjourned at 5:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica K. Dennis

Approved,

  
Steven A Neill, Chair

  
Albert St. Pierre

  
Jeffrey Lessels

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