

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 5, 2020

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

Staff Present: Keith Weed- Highway Department Head
David Duquette- Water and Sewer Department Head
Charles Baraly- Fire Department Head
Jessica Dennis – Administrator
Kelly Wright – Administrative Assistant

Public: Jeremy Wood and Bill Rescsanski

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Neill called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and welcomed everyone. The pledge of allegiance was recited. 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 select board.

Public Comment: Mr. Bill Rescsanski asked several questions regarding the Selectboard's plans for hosting a withdrawal committee meeting, legal fees and if an attorney has reviewed the plan and what happens if the article doesn't pass. Mr. Rescsanski voiced his concern about the lack of figures and a budget for the public to review prior to voting. Mr. St. Pierre answered he has asked the SAU to have a meeting at the high school but hasn't heard back. Mr. St. Pierre also answered that any legal fees are already a part of the operating budget and the attorney the Town consulted with is one of lawyer's whom wrote the law. If the article doesn't pass then the withdrawal issue will be done. Discussion continued about having a questions and answer meeting for the public to address the budget concerns. The board agreed another public meeting to answer questions would be helpful and Mr. St. Pierre will ask the school again if they can use the high school.

Department Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Charles Baraly reported the department has been busy. The Town's Hazardous Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operation Plans are due to be updated this year. There are grants available to assist the Town with the expense. Chief Baraly and Mr. Weed instructed River Valley Rescue League where to put up the textile hut.

Water Department: Mr. David Duquette reported there were two leaks detected. One on Ox Brook Rd and the other one was on Chase Circle. The board asked if Mr. Duquette knows how much water was lost. He answered the water audit will be done in three months. The new blower has come in and is installed.

Transfer Station: Mr. Keith Weed reported he didn't have anything to report.

Highway Department: Mr. Keith Weed reported the department has been pot hole patching and doing road side cutting on the North end and West side of Town. Mr. Weed reported all the equipment has had master switches put in them except for the Bobcat.

Administrator's Report: Ms. Jessica Dennis reported that the Conservation Commission sent Mr. Daryl Osgood a letter regarding the timber cut and his concerns. The office has had a request from the new owner of Camp News to change the name of the road to Camp Hawkeye Rd. There was a discussion about keeping the road a public road or making it a private road. No decision was made. Ms. Dennis will discuss this with the new owners. Upper Valley Transportation has requested a meeting with either the Planning Board or the Board of Selectmen to discuss the Rt. 12A corridor between Lebanon and Charlestown. Ms. Dennis will get more information so the Selectboard can schedule a meeting. There has been a request for a wedding at Patch Park. The parties would like to put up a tent with lights. After discussion the board asked Ms. Dennis to review the deed for any restrictions before deciding. The 2020 mileage rate is 57.5. Mr. Lessels moved to adopt the 2020 mileage rate of 57.5, Mr. St. Pierre second and motion passed unanimously. Ms. Dennis received a call from a concerned parent asking if the Selectboard would consider filing a court injunction against the school for involving the children in the Charlestown withdrawal. After discussion the board decided against this. Ms. Dennis handed out the school safety proposed construction and pointed out that the plans showed an additional nurse office and a main office for the North Charlestown elementary school. There was also discussion about why the larger cost for Charlestown schools than the other schools in the district. It was discussed there are grants available to help fund these kinds of safety projects. Ms. Dennis requested the board review the Selectboard's Town report. The Town report will need to go to the printers next week. The board reviewed the town report dedication. After discussion the board made their choice and Ms. Dennis asked if the board would help getting photos. Mr. Bob Winn would like to meet with the board on February 19, 2020 at 5:30. After discussion Mr. St. Pierre suggested the meeting wait until the new Selectboard members were voted in. Ms. Dennis reported the election of officers was left out of the Town warrant. She has discussed this error with DRA and the attorney how to correct this and if this will create any issues. Both the DRA and the Town attorney answered it will not cause any issues and Ms. Dennis could add this article to the end of the warrant or just move the existing articles down. After discussion it was agreed to add the election of the officers to the end of the warrant.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Committee: Mr. Neill reported Mr. Daryl Osgood was in attendance regarding the logging on Old Stage Rd. The committee reported the issue is in the process of being resolved.

Planning Board: Mr. Neill reported the committee met on February 4, 2020. The committee reviewed the flood plan map corrections and the flood plan regulations. There was also a discussion regarding property valuations and the tax rate.

Building Needs: Mr. Lessels reported the Bond Hearing went well.

School Research Committee: Mr. St. Pierre reported at the last informational meeting it was very well attended.

Recreation: Mr. St. Pierre reported the committee met last night and discussed the upcoming baseball season. The committee voted to increase the registration fee to \$30.00. Baseballs sign ups are now available. Ms. Darlene Petke is the new chair. Ms. Nancy Fontaine has stepped down. There was discussion about dividing up the responsibilities and possibly making one person in charge of each sport season to spread out the work load. This wouldn't be any additional money to the budget it would be split between the two positions. Mr. St. Pierre said he will bring this up at the next recreational meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: Mr. Lessels moved to accept the following meetings:

January 14, 2020- Workshop
January 15, 2020- Regular Meeting
January 15, 2020- Budget Hearing
January 15, 2020- Meeting
January 21, 2020- Bond Hearing
January 22, 2020- Workshop
January 22, 2020- Non Public (reputations)
January 28, 2020- Workshop
January 29, 2020- Workshop

Seconded by Mr. St. Pierre. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Administration & Appointments or Permits: Mr. Neill reported the following were reviewed and approved:

1. Payroll manifest: January 30, 2020
2. Sixteen purchase orders
3. Liberty LED Street Light conversion contract
4. One tax abatement for Romaine Bacon
5. 2020 Holiday Schedule
6. Planning Board alternate appointment for Mr. Gabriel Bailey
7. Deputy Health Officer appointment for Elizabeth Emerson
8. Conservation Commission alternate appointment for Joseph Conrad
9. Water/Sewer warrant

Old Business: Ms. Dennis reported she has received the Liberty Utilities rebate in the amount of \$2,470.00.

New Business: Mr. Neill reported there are several upcoming public meetings. Upper Valley Land Trust will be hosting a meeting on February 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm. A school

funding presentation will be at Marlow Academy School on March 5, 2020 at 7:00pm. The rotary club will be hosting "Meet the Candidate" on March 5, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Mr. St. Pierre moved to enter in non public RSA 91-A:3, (A) reputation, Mr. Lessels seconded and on a roll call all were in favor to enter non-public at 5:30 pm.

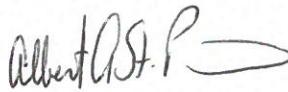
Mr. St. Pierre moved to reconvene public session at 5:45pm, Mr. Lessels seconded.

Adjournment: Mr. Lessels moved to adjourn at 6:00pm, Mr. St. Pierre seconded.

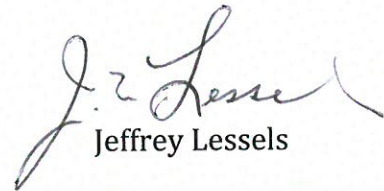
Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly N Wright

Approved,

Steven A Neill, Chair



Albert St. Pierre



Jeffrey Lessels

(Note: These are unapproved minutes. Corrections will be found in the minutes of the February 19, 2020, Select board meeting)

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

Non Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (A)

Community Room

February 5, 2020

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

Staff: Jessica Dennis- Administrator

Kelly Wright- Administrative Assistant

The Selectboard discussed concerns with the Water/Wastewater Department. The board reviewed the water line break timeline and when the repairs occurred. After discussion it was agreed by all board members to have a one on one meeting.

Mr. St. Pierre moved to close the non public at 5:45pm; Mr. Lessels seconded, and on a roll call with all in favor.

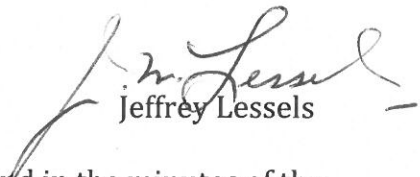
Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly N Wright,

Steven A. Neill, Chair

Approved,



Albert St. Pierre



Jeffrey Lessels

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