

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2020 @ 6:00am
Zoom and Community Room meeting**

Selectboard present and location: Chairman Albert St. Pierre (community room), John Streeter (via zoom), Jeff Lessels (community room), William Rescsanski (community room), Scott Wade (community room).

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator (via zoom)
Kelly Wright- Administrative Assistant (via zoom)
Patricia Chaffee- Tax Collector/Town Clerk (via zoom)
Patrick Connors- Ambulance & Police Department (via zoom)
Keith Weed -Transfer & Highway Department
Charles Baraly- Fire Department (via zoom)

Public Present: Dick Westney, Diane Town, Anthony Giordano, Debra Daignault, Gabriel St. Pierre, Amy & Roger Rumrill, Charles Stiener, Gabe Bailey, Art Grenier, Patricia, Michele Desilets, Alissa Bascom, Douglas Neill, Patrick (no last name), Nancy Houghton, Steven Neill, Mike Hunt and Hannah & Rob Rheaume

Chairman St. Pierre called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Mr. Wade recited the protocol for holding public zoom meetings due to the Covid- 19 executive order per Governor Christopher Sununu. Any motions will be on a roll call for the recording secretary.

Ambulance Sustainability Presentation:

Chief Connors reviewed the members of the committee who volunteered their time to review the history and current needs of the department. They met with other EMS leaders in surrounding Towns to collect and gather ideas about how to move forward. There were three proposals for the Selectboard to review and decide how to proceed. Since the Town entered into a month to month contract with Golden Cross this fall, they have responded to 65 calls in November and have been providing a crucial service to the taxpayers.

The discussion continued with many concerns and questions from the public about how the budget will be affected with the loss of revenue on top of paying to outsource the ambulance service and creating a successful fast squad as first responders. Chief Connors explained the Town is paying \$500.00 per call to Springfield Fire Department this is costing the Town \$6,000 a month. By entering into a contract with Golden Cross the Town is paying less for 24/7 coverage regardless of how many calls they respond to. Mr. Wade continued if the Town had entered into an agreement earlier there was a potential of a \$40,000 savings.

Some other concerns were whether or not the Charlestown Ambulance Service would ever be able to be rebuilt and if the Ambulance Association money goes back to the Town. Mr. Anthony Giordano and Ms. Debra Daignault reported the ambulance association money if set up as a non profit and will remain the association's responsibility.

Chief Connors reported the committee feels entering into a 5-year contract with Golden Cross and establishing a Charlestown fast squad is the most cost effective. This gives the Town a five year plan to form an EMS committee and revisit covering the calls again.

The cost would be the following:

1st year- \$57,500
2nd year- \$59,000
3rd year- \$70,000
4th year- \$72,000
5th year- \$73,500

The 2021 Ambulance budget would still include maintenance of equipment and supplies. Mr. Streeter asked about having a clause in the Golden Cross to opt out if the Town feels it can rebuild sooner than five years. Chief Connors answered this can be discussed during the final negotiations of the contract.

Borough Bridge Bids: There were five received and opened.

1. Bazin Brothers- \$183,500
2. Cold River Bridges- \$207,756
3. Daniels- \$148,400
4. Northwood's Excavating- \$135,852.70
5. W. Earthmoving- \$178,000

The board gave Mr. Weed the bids to review and report back. There is \$98,000 of unanticipated money that has been set aside for this project.

Public Comment:

Mr. Dick Westney asked the Selectboard if he and other volunteers could have permission to put lights around the light poles. The Selectboard agreed to this.

Mr. Westney asked the Selectboard if he could set up tables outside the community room to let people come in out of the winter weather. The Selectboard agreed to let him decide what will work best as long as he follows the Governor's guidelines.

Mr. Doug Neill asked the Selectboard about their decision regarding wearing masks for public meetings. He went on to ask why the Selectboard weren't wearing masks tonight. Chairman St. Pierre answered everyone is further than six feet. Mr. Wade responded the only reason why he wore a mask at the Planning Board meeting was because someone asked everyone too.

Ms. Nancy Houghton saw the Charlestown ambulance heading towards Springfield one day and asked if they are still responding to calls. Ms. Mandy Wright answered they are responding as first responders but not transporting.

Ms. Debra Daignault asked if the Selectboard had answers about the various discrepancies with ambulance payroll, time cards and the lack of qualifications for certain levels of care that was brought to their attention. Mr. Wade answered the "alleged allegations" against personnel can not be discussed in a public meeting.

Mr. Anthony Giordano reported the department has had problems for ten years. He doesn't understand why these were not addressed years ago until now. It is a huge loss to the community if the Selectboard decides not to rebuild the Ambulance department. The discussion continued and it was stated the committee was created to address the issues. Everyone agrees it is a crucial service to the Town and calls must be responded to.

Selectboard Agenda:

1. December 7, 2020 meeting with School superintendent to review the 2021 school budget. Time to be determined.
- 2.

Mr. Rescsanski asked the Selectboard if he could have permission to contact the auditors and ask about financial statements. Chairman St. Pierre said Ms. Dennis can request a meeting with the entire board.

Mr. Wade made a motion to accept the 2021 budget for Golden Cross in the amount of \$67,500; Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Mr. Wade made a motion to start negotiating the terms of the Golden Cross contract, Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Broadband Update:

Ms. Patricia Chaffee and Mr. Phillip Turner have completed the Town's RFI. The RFI showed there is very poor broadband service throughout Town. Updating the broadband service in Town would be beneficial for all the residents.

The next step is to put out the RFP. Once the RFP's come back and are reviewed then a tax neutral warrant article needs to go on to the 2021 warrant. There is money available to assist Town's to upgrade.

Mr. Streeter made a motion to direct the Charlestown Broadband Committee to send out the RFP, Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Ms. Chaffee reported taxes are due on December 15, 2020. She has a potential new hire she has asked Ms. Town to check the references. The water grant is due Friday December 9, 2020.

Department Reports:

Transfer Station: Mr. Weed has nothing to report.

Highway: Mr. Weed reported the sidewalks are completed. He hired someone to grade the roads. The sand bid went out to bid and is due December 16, 2020. The department has been helping Mr. Rumrill in the water department. The highway shed has a terrible rat problem. JP Pest service came today for an assessment. The winter equipment is ready.

Mr. Weed asked the Selectboard if they could get a Town credit card. Mr. Lessels made a motion to pursue a credit /debit card, Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call; the motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

The Selectboard will wait for a recommendation from Ms. Dennis.

Police Department:

The department assisted with a terrible accident on November 23, 2020. He was impressive how things were handled. Chief reported the new police officer is doing well. There will be extra

patrols to deter porch pirates during the holiday season. The highway safety grant is completed. The wiring in the police department for the mutual link is in the process which will connect all the computers to the other State systems. Chief informed the Selectboard that Unity had recovered a body and set up command in Charlestown. So if they are questions about Unity the Selectboard knew what was happening.

Ambulance Department:

Chief Connors reported they have had 65 calls in November.

Fire Department:

Chief Baraly has been busy with school and church inspections. The department is continuing to have training on the new engine. They will be escorting Santa to the tree lighting ceremony. Chief Baraly reported the LaFrance fire truck bid is too low. The one bidder is willing to pay more but Chief feels it should go back out to bid.

Mr. Streeter made a motion to refuse the bid and rebid the fire truck; Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes). The board discussed setting a minimum bid of \$3,000.

Administrator Report:

Ms. Jessica Dennis reported the 90-day repurchase notices have gone out. There have been several properties that have been repurchased already. The Selectmen have one deed to sign and there will be another one on Friday.

There are two resignations. Mrs. Rosie Hull has given her resignation from the Finance Committee and Mr. Richard Lincourt has resigned from the Conservation Committee.

Ms. Dennis requests a non public.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Mr. Wade made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for the following

November 18, 2020 - Regular

November 18, 2020 -Non Public Hiring #1

November 18, 2020 - Non Public Hiring #2

November 18, 2020 - Non Public Personnel

November 18, 2020 - Non Public Reputation

Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Mr. Wade made a motion to accept the consent agenda; Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Mr. Wade made a motion to enter into non public at 8:37pm RSA 91-A: 3 II (c-Reputation), Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on a roll call motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 8:59pm.

Mr. Lessels made a motion to enter into non public at 9:00pm RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputation), Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 9:06pm.

Mr. Streeter made a motion to enter into non public at 9:07pm RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputation), Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 9:17pm.

Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to enter into non public at 9:19pm RSA 91-A:3 II (a-Compensation), Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 9:45pm.

Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to enter into non public at 9:46pm RSA 91-A: 3 II (c-Reputation), Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 9:50pm.

Mr. Wade made a motion to adjourn at 9:52pm; Mr. Streeter seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly N Wright

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on December 16, 2020)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Nonpublic Meeting Minutes #1
RSA 91-A: 3 II (c-Personnel)
December 2, 2020 @ 6:30 am
Zoom and Community Room**

Selectboard present and location: Chairman Albert St. Pierre (community room), John Streeter (home office), Jeff Lessels (community room), William Rescsanski (community room), and Scott Wade (community room)

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator (via zoom)
Kelly Wright- Administrative Assistant (via zoom)
Keith Weed- Highway Department

The Selectboard reviewed personnel concerns. It was agreed to meet again and set goals for positions.

Mr. Lessels made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:59pm; Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call: motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly N Wright

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on December 16, 2020)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Nonpublic Meeting Minutes #2
RSA 91-A: 3 II (c-Reputation)
December 2, 2020 @ 6:30 am
Zoom and Community Room**

Selectboard present and location: Chairman Albert St. Pierre (community room), John Streeter (home office), Jeff Lessels (community room), William Rescsanski (community room), and Scott Wade (community room)

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator (via zoom)
Kelly Wright- Administrative Assistant (via zoom)
Chief Connors- Police Department

Chief Connors reported Mr. Matt Foss has resigned effective December 26, 2020. Chief Connors recommended an exit interview with Human Resources.

Mr. Streeter made a motion to reconvene public session at 9:06pm; Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly N Wright

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on December 16, 2020)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Nonpublic Meeting Minutes #3
RSA 91-A: 3 II (c-Reputation)
December 2, 2020 @ 6:30 am**

Selectboard present and location: Chairman Albert St. Pierre (community room), John Streeter (home office), Jeff Lessels (community room), William Rescsanski (community room), and Scott Wade (community room)

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator (via zoom)
Kelly Wright- Administrative Assistant (via zoom)
Chief Connors- Ambulance Department

Mr. Streeter asked Chief Connors what was the policy was for paramedics responding to a call in their personal vehicles. Mr. Streeter had received a complaint about unprofessional behavior towards ambulance personnel from the fire department. Chief Connors said he would investigate and report back.

Mr. Lessels made a motion to reconvene public session at 9:17pm; Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly N Wright

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on December 16, 2020)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Nonpublic Meeting Minutes #4
RSA 91-A: 3 II (a-Compensation)
December 2, 2020 @ 6:30 am
Zoom and Community Room**

Selectboard present and location: Chairman Albert St. Pierre (community room), John Streeter (home office), Jeff Lessels (community room), William Rescsanski (community room), and Scott Wade (community room)

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator (via zoom)
Kelly Wright- Administrative Assistant (via zoom)
Patricia Chaffee –Water/ Wastewater Department

There was a lengthy discussion about the quarantine protocols for this department. The employee will be Covid tested prior to returning to work. There is a major issue at the Lagoon that must be addressed. The board agreed this is an exception and shifts will be staggered, any meetings will be done remotely and if any employee goes home they will be paid.

Mr. Lessels made a motion to reconvene public session at 9:45pm; Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly N Wright

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on December 16, 2020)

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Nonpublic Meeting Minutes #5
RSA 91-A: 3 II (c-Reputation)
December 2, 2020 @ 6:30 am
Zoom and Community Room**

Selectboard present and location: Chairman Albert St. Pierre (community room), John Streeter (home office), Jeff Lessels (community room), William Rescsanski (community room), and Scott Wade (community room)

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator (via zoom)
Kelly Wright- Administrative Assistant (via zoom)

Ms. Dennis has had extension request to vacate. They would like to extend it until the end of December 2020.

Mr. Wade made a motion to extend the vacate date until the end of December 2020, Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (abstained), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes). (4-0-1)

Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to reconvene public session at 9:50pm; Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly N Wright

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

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