

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
January 6, 2021 @ 6:30 pm  
Community Room and Zoom**

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

Staff Present: 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  
Justin Shaw- Water Waster Water Department

Public Present: four attended in person and seven attended via zoom

Chairman St. Pierre called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Mr. Wade recited the protocol for holding public zoom meetings due to the Covid- 19 executive order per the Governor Christopher Sununu. All meetings will be recorded and any motions will be on a roll call for the recording secretary.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Jeremy Wood voiced his concern with the social worker position that will be in the school's budget. It is understood that this is needed for Charlestown only. He continued to state he understands the importance of providing this service to children and families that need this. The West Behavioral Central Services can provide the same services at a lower cost to the Town.

Mr. Wade reported he has also researched this option and these services are funded thru grants and donations. They have worked successfully with children and adults in other communities. He recommended the Selectboard suggest removing the social worker from the school budget and put the social worker on Charlestown's warrant article.

No decision was made and more discussion on January 13, 2021.

**Selectboard Agenda:**

Mr. Rescsanski asked what the other board members thought about the vision they saw for the school. He also questioned if special education was providing all the necessary services needed. Chairman St. Pierre stated the Planning Board has a school committee that Mr. Rescsanski could discuss this with them. There was discussion and a decision to invite the school board to attend the Selectboard meeting on January 20, 2021.

Mr. Wade asked the Selectboard if they would support him to petition a warrant article on the school ballot to reform new articles of agreement. He plans on obtaining signatures from all five Towns. The discussion continued.

**Department Reports:**

**Water Wastewater Department:**

Mr. Justin Shaw asked if the Selectboard would approve his new hire. After discussion, Mr. Wade made a motion to accept Mr. Shaw's new hire recommendation. Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

Mr. Shaw reported he and Mr. Rumrill have been working together on projects and the computer issue has been resolved.

The Selectboard reviewed a request for a sewer abatement at 20 Morways Park in the amount of \$479.42. It was discussed; the plumber stated the leakage went into the ground. Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to approve the 20 Morways Park sewer abatement in the amount of \$479.42; Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes).

**Town Clerk/ Tax Collector:**

Ms. Patricia Chaffee reported water meters are being read and she plans on getting the water bills out by the end of the month. Tax payments are still coming in. She noticed she has a leak in her office. Because of a conflict with the Deliberative Session that is scheduled for January 30, 2021, the Town clerk's office will be opened on Saturday January 23, 2021 instead.

**Police Department:**

Chief Connors reported the radio dispatch systems were down; R&R Communications was able to address and fix the issue. The 2013 cruiser was down and had repair work done on it.

Two officers have tested positive for Covid-19. Chief Connors is taking all the necessary precautions. Several part-time dispatcher are not able to work for the department because of their restrictions with their full-time employment and because of this there will be more overtime than usual to cover those shifts. Chief Connors is still waiting on the Covid vaccination information for the department.

Chief Connors asked from positive thoughts for NH State Trooper Mr. Matthew Merrill and his family. He was injured and worked very closely with the Charlestown community.

Chief Charles Baraly reported he was completed the personnel Covid-19 vaccination State paperwork for the Police, Fire and Ambulance Department. Several of the firefighters have been able to schedule their vaccination appointments.

There was discussion regarding the La France radio. Chairman St. Pierre reported he doesn't need it and would either the police or fire department be able use it. It was decided that the two departments would figure this out amongst themselves.

**Transfer Station:**

Mr. Weed reported he has a new part-time employee starting two days a week.

The price of trash has gone up .58 cents. The Town has never joined Keene Recycling Center because it is too costly for the Town. Keene Transfer Station will take hazardous material at the expense of the resident.

**Highway:**

Mr. Weed reported he has had 3-4 trucks down with various issues ranging from power steering to oil leaks. Recently the 2005 Ford-350 hit a manhole and broke the hinge that holds the plow on. The repair work was able to be done in house.

Mr. Weed stated he had to over spend his snow removal line by \$4,000. There was so much snow that needed to be removed and he hired an outside company to assist with this.

He had sand delivered.

There was discussion about whether or not some of the breakdowns would have been covered by an insurance claim. Mr. Weed stated it was cheaper to fix them in house.

**Fire Department:**

Chief Baraly reported the Covid-19 vaccination paperwork has been submitted to the State for the EMS personnel.

He has reviewed the history of calls and reports the department is busiest on Tuesdays and Friday. Chief has a fire incident structure breakdown by the four districts. He will give Ms. Dennis a copy.

**Upcoming Agenda:**

1. Monday January 11, 2021 at 6:30 PM- Budget Hearing with the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen
2. Wednesday January 13, 2021 at 4:00-6:00 PM - Board of Selectmen workshop
3. Wednesday January 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM - Bond Hearing for the Water Interconnection Project and the Broadband Internet

**2021 Southwestern Pledge:**

There was discussion and a decision made. Mr. Wade made a motion to increase the Southwestern Transportation budget line to \$14,000; Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (no), Mr. Rescsanski (yes). (3-1)

**Minutes:**

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

December 16, 2020- Regular Meeting

December 16, 2020- Non Public #1 Reputation

December 16, 2020- Non Public #2 Reputations

December 16, 2020- Non-Public #3 Legal

December 16, 2020- Non Public #4 Legal

December 16, 2020- Non Public #5 Investigations

December 23, 2020- Workshop

December 23, 2020- Non Public #1 Reputations

December 23, 2020- Non Public #2 Reputations

December 30, 2020- Workshop

December 30, 2020- Non Public #1 Hiring

December 30, 2020- Non Public #2 Compensation

December 30, 2020- Non Public #3 Reputations

December 30, 2020- Non Public #4 Discipline

December 30, 2020- Non Public #5 Reputations

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

**Consent Agenda:**

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

Chairman St. Pierre stated that the minutes should specify which board member was addressing a concern and if it is recorded incorrectly the minutes should be amended.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Mr. Wade would like to move forward and ask for the Selectboard's blessing to establish an EMS committee. After discussion the Selectboard gave their consent and asked that Mr. Wade report back to the Board on January 20, 2021. A Selectboard member will be an ex-officio member.

Mr. Wade made a motion to adjourn at 7:36 pm; Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (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 January 20, 2021)