

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2021 @ 6:30 pm
Community Room and Zoom**

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- Administrative Assistant (via Zoom)
Patricia Chaffee- Tax Collector/Town Clerk (via Zoom)
Patrick Connors- Ambulance & Police Department
Keith Weed -Transfer & Highway Department
Charles Baraly- Fire Department
Gabe St. Pierre- Town Moderator

Public Present: one 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:

There were no comments from the public.

Selectboard Agenda:

Mr. St. Pierre noted that he had asked the local representatives from the School Board to attend a meeting. Mr. Herrington, School Board member at large, responded by saying that since it would only be two (2) members of the School Board present, they could not speak for the entire Board and thought it would be best for comments or questions be presented at a School Board meeting.

Mr. Streeter asked the Selectboard if they would be open to having our State Senator on the agenda for an upcoming meeting. All members agreed to have it placed on the agenda for February 17, 2020. Mr. Streeter will schedule the meeting with the Senator.

Mr. St. Pierre recognized Gabe St. Pierre, Town Moderator, to discuss the upcoming Deliberative Session. There was discussion regarding the format of the session. Residents will be able to view the meeting via zoom; however they will not be able to comment or vote electronically. You must be present to vote. Entry will be through the front door of the Charlestown Middle School. Ms. Dennis has been working with the school; the cafeteria has been designated as the no mask area. Mr. A. St. Pierre asked about the handicap access and the elevator and did that mean residents would have to walk through the no mask area to get to the elevator? Ms. Dennis will discuss this concern with the school and see if there is an alternative. There will be a zoom meeting Wednesday, January 27 at 4:00 with the school to go over the details and a time will be set for Friday afternoon for a walk through to make sure all is set up correctly. Mr. A. St. Pierre asked that access to the school on Saturday morning be by 9am.

Ms. Dennis asked the board to review of the warrant articles and assign presenters, (see attached draft warrant with assignments).

While reviewing the articles, there was discussion about the Full-time Recreation Director, as it is not recommended by the Selectboard or the Finance Committee. Ms. Chaffee reported that the straw poll done by the Recreation Committee indicated that it should be removed from the ballot if there is no support from the Selectboard or Finance Committee. Mr. Wade made a motion to remove it from the ballot, seconded by Mr. Lessels and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes).

Mr. Gabe St. Pierre announced that the Fall Mountain School Deliberative will be held Wednesday, February 2, 2021 and will also be an in person meeting.

Administrator's Reports:

Ms. Dennis gave an update on the auction of tax deeded properties. Receipt of the ninety (90) day notice has been more complicated for some of the properties and will require additional time to make sure any heirs or family are notified. With this in mind, Ms. Dennis reported that an auction would most likely take place in April not March.

Ex-Officio and Committee Reports:

Beautification Coalition:

Mr. Rescsanski – nothing to report.

Conservation Commission:

Mr. St. Pierre – last meeting was cancelled.

FM School Board:

Mr. Rescsanski – nothing to communicate, remotely learning until February 1, 2021.

FM School Site Base:

Mr. Streeter – next meeting scheduled for January 21, 2021.

Recreation Committee:

Mr. Streeter – last meeting the committee discussed sports, the screen and the warrant article.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Wade – the last Finance Committee meeting was to vote on the two (2) bond articles, after a lengthy discussion, the committee voted to recommend the articles.

Heritage Commission:

Mr. Streeter – there was no December meeting, January meeting is next week.

Planning Board:

Mr. Lessels – work continues on the Master Plan, Mr. Lincourt did a presentation for the Housing Chapter.

Town Hall Committee:

Ms. Dennis – work still needs to be completed on the generator. There is an empty propane tank that will need to be removed, coordination with the highway department to complete this removal.

Fire/EMS Committee:

Mr. Wade - a request to form a 9 member committee to review the 1st Responder program and Fire Department. After a brief discussion it was agreed to recruit possible members. Anyone interested should submit a letter and note why they should be appointment to this committee, to Ms. Dennis. Deadline for letters of interest is February 3, 2021

Minutes:

Mr. Wade made a motion to accept the following meeting minutes,
January 6, 2021- Regular Meeting
January 11, 2021- Budget Hearing
January 13, 2021- Workshop
January 13, 2021- Bond Hearing

Mr. Rescsanski did comment on the January 6, 2021 minutes noting that he was not questioning the special education services provided rather the total amount spent on these services.

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. Lessels (abstained).

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), Mr. Lessels (yes).

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Mr. Wade made a motion to enter non-public at 7:25 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (b-Hiring), Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. St. Pierre (yes). Invited guests: Chief Baraly and Chief Connors.

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 6:45 pm.

Mr. Wade made a motion to enter non-public at 7:46 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputation), Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. St. Pierre (yes). Invited guests: Amy and Roger Rumrill.

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 8:15pm.

Mr. Wade made a motion to enter non-public at 8:16 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputation), Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. St. Pierre (yes).

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 8:40pm.

Mr. Wade made a motion to enter non-public at 8:46 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputation), Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. St. Pierre (yes).

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 8:56pm.

Mr. Wade made a motion to enter non-public at 8:57 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputation), Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. St. Pierre (yes).

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 9:20pm.

Ms. Chaffee and Ms. Dennis presented new office hours to the board. The new hours would be effective February 1, 2021, Monday and Wednesday 7 am – 4 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8 am – 4 pm, Friday 7 am – 12 pm, and in addition to the being open the last Saturday of each month, the 2nd Saturday of the month will be added in. It is not really a reduction of hours and Ms. Chaffee believes that with the early mornings and the extra Saturday, will accommodate the residents that would come after 4pm.

Mr. Wade made a motion to support the change in hours, Mr. Streeter seconded the motion and on roll call; motion passed. Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. St. Pierre (yes).

Mr. Wade made a motion to adjourn at 9:27 pm; Mr. Streeter 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,
Patricia Chaffee, Recording Secretary

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 February 3, 2021)

Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #1
RSA 91-A:3 II (b-Hiring)
January 20, 2021 @ 6:30pm
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)
Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary (via Zoom)
Charlie Baraly – Fire Chief
Patrick Connors – Police Chief

There was a brief discussion about the hiring of new personnel for the Fire Department.

Mr. Wade made a motion to approve the new hire for the Fire Department, seconded by Mr. Rescsanski and on a roll call; motion passed. Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. St. Pierre (yes).

Mr. Wade made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:45 pm, 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).

Respectfully Submitted
Jessica K. Dennis

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

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**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Nonpublic Meeting Minutes
RSA 91-A: 3 II (c-Reputation) #2
January 20, 2021 @ 6:300 pm**

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)
Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary (via Zoom)
Roger Rumrill – Charlestown Fire Department
Amy Rumrill – Charlestown Fire Department

A review and discussion with Mr. Roger Rumrill and Mrs. Amy Rumrill over concerns they presented to the Board.

Mr. Wade made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:15 pm; 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).

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Chaffee

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

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**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Nonpublic Meeting Minutes
RSA 91-A: 3 II (c-Reputation) #3
January 20, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**

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)
Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary (via Zoom)

Mr. Wade led the Board in a discussion over concerns with an employee. Mr. Wade made a motion to give this employee the opportunity to resign within thirty (30) days or they would be removed from their position from the Board. Mr. Lessels seconded the motion and on roll call; motion passed. Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. Streeter (no).

Mr. Wade made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:40 pm; 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).

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Chaffee

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

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**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Nonpublic Meeting Minutes
RSA 91-A: 3 II (c-Reputation) #4
January 20, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**

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)
Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary (via Zoom)

Ms. Dennis gave a quick review of an issue contacting an engineer that the Town had hired for the Borough Road Bridge. Calls have not been returned to the Department Head. The Board gave authority to Ms. Dennis to contact the firm and work out the details of completion of the contract.

Mr. Wade made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:56 pm; 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).

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Chaffee

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

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**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Nonpublic Meeting Minutes
RSA 91-A: 3 II (c-Reputation) #5
January 20, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**

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)
Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary (via Zoom)

Ms. Dennis also reported on an employee issue that she has been working on. A few changes will be made to see if the situation will improve. Part of that change is to hire a new recording secretary for the Selectboard. Ms. Dennis informed the Board that as of this meeting, Patty Chaffee has been the only one to indicate interest in the position. There was a discussion over the hiring of Ms. Chaffee, and continuing to advertise for the position.

Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to hire Ms. Chaffee as interim recording secretary at a set meeting stipend pay. Mr. Wade seconded the motion and on roll call; motion passed. Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Mr. St. Pierre (yes).

Mr. Wade made a motion to reconvene public session at 9:20 pm; 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).

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Chaffee

Albert St. Pierre

Jeff Lessels

Scott Wade

John Streeter

William Rescsanski

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