

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2021 @ 5:00 pm
Community Room and Zoom**

Selectboard present and location: Chairman Jeff Lessels, William Rescsanski, Jeremy Wood, Shelly Blouin-Andrus and Nancy Houghton: all present in the community room.

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis – Administrative Assistant
Patricia Chaffee- Tax Collector/Town Clerk (via zoom)
Keith Weed – Highway Department
Roger Rumrill – Interim Fire Chief
Joey Carter – Fire Department
Mark LaFlam – Fire Department
Shawn O’Hearne – Fire Department
Charles Steiner, Jr – Fire Department
Amy Rumrill – Fire Department

Public Present: 2 attended in person and ? attended via zoom

Mr. Lessels called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All meetings are recorded.

Mr. Wood made a motion to enter non-public at 5:03 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputations), Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion and motion passed.

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 6:00 pm.

Chairman Lessels recessed the meeting until 6:30pm.

Chairman Lessels reconvened the meeting at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Lessels noted the new structure of the agenda and welcomed input from the other Board members. The agenda now lists goals that the Board has set, with the top three (3) noted first.

Public Comment:

Chairman Lessels recognized the public, members of the Fire Department and Highway Department.

Mr. Roger Rumrill, Interim Fire Chief asked to speak and noted it had been brought to his attention that his wife, Amy Rumrill, should not have been part of a non-public meeting. He acknowledged that she should not have been present, however due other concerns, he was resigning from the Fire Department. Ms. Amy Rumrill also resigned. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rumrill left the meeting. Other members of the Fire Department present asked to speak to the Board. Chairman Lessels deferred the conversation for a non-public. Mr. Mark Laflam will be acting Fire Chief.

Mr. Thomas Cobb asked if the Board had received his letter. Chairman Lessels noted the letter had been received and the Board is aware of it. It really is related to a School Board matter and the Ms. Blouin-Andrus is a member of the School Board and keeps the Selectboard up to date. Mr. Cobb noted that he would get the information out a different way, as the public should be informed. Mr. Wood will be doing the School Board report at the meetings as he also attends.

Ex-Officio Committee Reports:**Beautification Coalition:**

Mr. Lessels – Ms. Francis is on vacation and the group is worked on another revised plan, the Board will be meeting with them on August 4, 2021

Conservation Commission:

Mr. Lessels – they continue to work on trails and the land.

FM School Board:

Mr. Wood – The School Board voted to fill the empty at large seat. Alissa Bascom was voted in unanimously. The School Board is still looking for a Business Administrator. There was discussion of the COVID protocols when school returns in the fall.

FM School Site Base:

Ms. Blouin-Andrus – site base will resume in September

Finance Committee:

Mr. Rescsanski – Finance Committee had their first meeting. Roger Thibodeau was named Chair and David Richardson, Vice Chair. There is an empty seat and a person was voted on if they would like the seat. Mr. Thibodeau will reach out and once he has an appointment will be given to the Selectboard to sign. The Committee will be looking at the Fire/Rescue changes and budget first.

Heritage Commission:

Ms. Rescsanski – Nothing to report

Planning Board:

Mr. Wood – Mr. Wood reported that the Planning Board continues to work on the Master Plan. A survey is in the works to also help gauge and better understand what the residents would like to see before the final draft is completed and presented to the public. A sign permit was approved for T. Cobb Services LLC.

Recreation Committee:

Ms. Blouin-Andrus – The movie night at Patch Park was cancelled due to the weather and has been moved to the pool area on August 14, 2021. Planning has started for the Fall Festival and meeting to work on it will be August 27, 2021.

Town Hall Committee:

Ms. Dennis reported that the safe has been removed.

Administrator's Reports:

A hearing has been set for the Right to Know request rate schedule. Hearing is set for August 4, 2021.

There was the agreement from Tax Exempt Leasing for the lease of the backhoe at 2.57%, the lowest rate received. The amount financed is less than what was budgeted. Mr. Weed noted that the equipment would probably not arrive until December 2021. By consensus, the Board agreed to sign the lease agreement.

Ms. Dennis noted that the Broadband Bond came in at 2.35% for twenty (20) years. The Board needs to sign the final Bond forms that were presented.

SBA, the company that is part of the tower project on Birch Drive, has asked that the Board make an official motion for the acceptance of the removal bond. Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to accept the updated and current removal bond. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Ms. Dennis noted working on scheduling the meeting with the five (5) towns in the school district. Walpole will be chairing the meeting and Langdon has not yet replied. Tentative dates are Friday, July 30 or August 6 at 4:30pm.

Minutes:

Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to accept the following meeting minutes:

July 7, 2021- Regular Meeting

July 7, 2021- Non-public #1 Compensation

July 7, 2021- Non-public #2 Reputations

July 7, 2021- Non-public #3 Real Estate

July 7, 2021- Non-public #4 Hiring

July 7, 2021- Non-public #5 Reputations

July 14, 2021 – Workshop

July 14, 2021 – Non-public #1 Hiring

July 14, 2021 – Non-public #2 Reputations

Ms. Houghton seconded the motion; motion passed.

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented; Mr. Wood seconded the motion; motion passed.

Ongoing Business:

On the list of on-going business to be discussed at the next workshop, water and sewer possible projects from the list, as well as the hydrant policy. Website and social media, as the Facebook page is still an issue and may have to be revisited later.

At the next meeting the investment policy will be reviewed.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus noted that Charlestown should be part of the Sugar River Marketing Plan for Sullivan County. Mr. Rescsanski offered to reach out and see what we need to be included, not just advertising for the Fort at #4. Ms. Houghton commented that we have to be promoting ourselves.

Mr. Thomas Cobb asked if the vacant seat on the Finance Committee had been filled as he thought there were two (2) empty seats. It was noted that at this time both have had nominees to fill the spot. Mr. Cobb also noted the grass in front of 200 Main Street is still an issue. He asked if it could be mowed on the same schedule as the rest of Main Street. The mowers will be updated.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to enter non-public at 7:53 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputations), Mr. Wood seconded the motion and motion passed.

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 8:41 pm.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to enter non-public at 8:42 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (b-Hiring), Mr. Wood seconded the motion and motion passed.

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 8:46 pm.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to enter non-public at 8:46 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputations), Mr. Wood seconded the motion and motion passed.

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 9:07 pm.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm; Mr. Wood seconded the motion and motion passed

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Chaffee, Recording Secretary

Jeff Lessels

William Rescsanski

Shelly Blouin-Andrus

Jeremy Wood

Nancy Houghton

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on August 4, 2021)

Charlestown Selectboard
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #1
RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputations)
July 21, 2021 @ 5:00 pm
Community Room & via Zoom

Selectboard present and location: Chair Jeff Lessels, William Rescsanski, Shelly Blouin-Andrus, Jeremy Wood and Nancy Houghton – all present in the community room.

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator
Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary
Anthony Giordano – former Ambulance employee

The Board invited Mr. Giordano to meet with them to discuss some of his concerns that he had voiced at a previous meeting. Chairman Lessels asked what the Board could do to address things. Mr. Giordano noted that he had been with the Department of over fifteen (15) years and has seen and dealt with Boards. He was offended when the Town did not reach out to the Ambulance Association regarding the closure and removal of things from the ambulance building as he is in charge and the Association had donated quite a bit to the service and there was no acknowledgement of that. He also noted that he felt leadership had been an issue.

Mr. Giordano would like to be treated fairly and he would hope he would be offered a position with the rescue and not have to apply after all his years of service. He also noted that no matter what direction the Board moves forward with, all Departments need to be supported and not have to beg for things just to make the department function. Chairman Lessels noted that there were some missteps in the past.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus noted that this Board is all about moving this forward and appreciative of the great people that make this town work. She also noted that she would like to see Mr. Giordano involved in the Rescue squad. Chairman Lessels noted that things are still being worked out and put in place. Ms. Houghton asked if Mr. Giordano would consider attending the Finance Committee meeting when they discuss the department and upcoming changes.

Chairman Lessels noted that if Mr. Giordano would be interested in helping to finalize the clean out of the building, he could reach out to Ms. Dennis or Ms. Houghton.

Mr. Wood made a motion to reconvene public session at 6:00 pm, Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion and motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Patricia Chaffee, Recording Secretary

Jeff Lessels

William Rescsanski

Shelly Blouin-Andrus

Jeremy Wood

Nancy Houghton

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on August 4, 2021)

Charlestown Selectboard
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #2
RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputations)
July 21, 2021 @ 5:00 pm
Community Room & via Zoom

Selectboard present and location: Chair Jeff Lessels, William Rescsanski, Shelly Blouin-Andrus, Jeremy Wood and Nancy Houghton – all present in the community room.

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator
Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary
Joey Carter – Fire Department
Mark LaFlam – Fire Department
Shawn O’Hearne – Fire Department
Charles Steiner – Fire Department
Jason McMahon – Fire Department

The Board asked the members of the Fire Department if they knew why Mr. Rumrill resigned. It was noted that there was confusion and miscommunication that brought him to this decision. It was noted that he also felt personally attacked. Mr. Wood noted that this was never brought to the Board attention and something cannot be fixed if the Board is not aware of the problem. In the meantime, Mr. Mark LaFlam will be acting Fire Chief.

There was brief discussion of the status of the rescue squad transport license and what the next steps will be. Chairman Lessels noted that the Board did not want the Department fail and working together is what needs to happen. Mr. Wood noted that if at anytime members of the Department have questions or concerns they should bring them directly to the Board.

Mr. Wood made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:42 pm, Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Patricia Chaffee, Recording Secretary

Jeff Lessels

William Rescsanski

Shelly Blouin-Andrus

Jeremy Wood

Nancy Houghton

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on August 4, 2021)

Charlestown Selectboard
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #3
RSA 91-A:3 II (b-Hiring)
July 21, 2021 @ 5:00 pm
Community Room & via Zoom

Selectboard present and location: Chair Jeff Lessels, William Rescsanski, Shelly Blouin-Andrus, Jeremy Wood and Nancy Houghton – all present in the community room.

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator
Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary

Ms. Dennis reported that a couple applications had come through for the recording secretary. Ms. Blouin-Andrus, Ms. Houghton and Ms. Dennis will schedule interviews starting with the Finance Committee and then see if interested in the Selectboard and/or Planning Board minutes.

Mr. Wood made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:46 pm, Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Patricia Chaffee, Recording Secretary

Jeff Lessels

William Rescsanski

Shelly Blouin-Andrus

Jeremy Wood

Nancy Houghton

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on August 4, 2021)

Charlestown Selectboard
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #4
RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputations)
July 21, 2021 @ 5:00 pm
Community Room & via Zoom

Selectboard present and location: Chair Jeff Lessels, William Rescsanski, Shelly Blouin-Andrus, Jeremy Wood and Nancy Houghton – all present in the community room.

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator
Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary

The Board discussed how to proceed with the Fire/Rescue department. It was noted that things need to slow down and a better plan formulated. It is important that the Board be saying the same thing so everyone hears the same thing. It would be a good idea to have the Board attend a meeting at the fire station so the Selectboard can all hear what the department has to say at the same time.

Mr. Wood made a motion to reconvene public session at 9:07 pm, Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion and motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Patricia Chaffee, Recording Secretary

Jeff Lessels

William Rescsanski

Shelly Blouin-Andrus

Jeremy Wood

Nancy Houghton

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on August 4, 2021)