

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
August 18, 2021 @ 6:30 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: Patricia Chaffee- Tax Collector/Town Clerk  
Keith Weed – Highway Department  
Mark LaFlam – Acting Fire Chief

Public Present: attended in person and ? attended via zoom

Chairman Lessels opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Lessels noting the opening of the fuel and propane bids. Mr. Wood read the bids;

|            |                  |  |
|------------|------------------|--|
| Jam Fuels: | Propane          | \$2.099 gal                            |
|            | #2 Fuel          | \$2.499 gal                            |
|            | Annual Cleanings | \$225.00 per unit                      |
|            | Service          | \$75.00 per hour, after hours \$125.00 |

|            |                  |                   |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Dead River | #2 Fuel          | \$2.299 gal       |
|            | Annual Cleanings | \$275.00 per unit |
|            | Service          | \$115.00 per hour |

|                     |         |  |
|---------------------|---------|--|
| Allen Brothers Fuel | #2 Fuel | \$2.379 per gal                        |
|                     | Service | \$95.00 per hour, after hours \$142.50 |

Chairman Lessels announced that the bids will be reviewed by Ms. Dennis and a recommendation will be brought back to the Board.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Laflam updated the Board the repairs to the new truck; review of the issues is now taking place and work should be done soon. Mr. LaFlam asked the Board to allow Fire personnel to respond to EMS calls to assist while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. The State has been asked if this is allowed and as long as the person is trained there is not reason to not go. Personnel would respond to delta and echo level calls, CPR & AED only. Mr. Wood commented do what you have always done and have been trained to do. The Selectboard agreed to have the Fire Department respond as they always have.

Mr. LaFlam asked about the return of retired fire fighter. An application was completed; however, the office does not have a copy of it. The Board ask that if the person is still interested, to please fill out another application and return it directly to the office. Ms. Houghton asked the status of the non-transport license. It is still waiting signatures at Valley Regional Hospital. There still does not seem to be a copy of the license application.

Mr. Richard Carter, resident, addressed the Board and requested that the paving of Carters Road be included in next year paving project list/budget. It is approximately 520 feet. The Board asked that he present his request in writing.

Mr. Weed gave an update on the road repairs as most has been completed, now they will do some hand paving where they can and wait for the paver to get to other areas. The Acworth Road culvert has been replaced and the road is now open. The demolition of 35 Morways Park has been started and is almost complete.

There was a discussion regarding the route for the buses once school starts, as Route 12 will not be open by then. Mr. Weed noted that Meany Road should not be the primary road. South Hemlock is not the best choice but should be used before Meany Road. Interstate 91 is still the safest way for the buses.

#### **Ex-Officio Committee Reports:**

##### **Conservation Commission:**

Mr. Lessels – They are working on getting trail maps and the inventory on the website. They are also working with the State on the wetlands along Route 12 where road repairs will be done.

##### **FM School Board:**

Mr. Wood – next meeting is Monday, August 23, 2021.

##### **FM School Site Base:**

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

##### **Finance Committee:**

Mr. Rescsanski – Nothing to report.

##### **Heritage Commission:**

Ms. Rescsanski – Nothing to report.

##### **Planning Board:**

Mr. Wood – Mr. Wood asked Ms. Chaffee to review the last meeting as he was not present. The Planning Board approved a site plan application for the new nail salon at the north end of Town. They also continue to work on the Master Plan.

##### **Recreation Committee:**

Ms. Blouin-Andrus – work needs to be completed on the storage building and the dug outs.

##### **Town Hall Committee:**

Ms. Dennis – Ms. Dennis was absent from meeting.

#### **Administrator's Reports:**

Ms. Dennis reported that the revaluation is behind schedule and the preliminary values will not be out until the end of the month. The draft audit has been received, MS535 will be filed.

Work with FEMA has started for possible disaster relief, waiting to hear if the storm at the end of July will declared a natural disaster. Mr. Weed estimated \$80,000 - \$100,000 in cost to repair damages from the storms. Mr. Rescsanski noted that the Town would need to report to the State should there be any chance of going over budget.

Contract with Consolidated Communications is in the attorney's hands.

A review of the workshop agenda was done and it was agreed that there would be no workshop on September 8, 2021.

Ms. Andrus is still working on the fireworks ordinance. She will get clarification from the complainant to make sure issues are addressed in the permit and ordinance to make them the same. Ms. Andrus will do changes and check with the Fire Department.

**Minutes:**

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

August 4, 2021 – Regular Meeting  
August 4, 2021 – Non-public #1 Hiring  
August 4, 2021 – Non-public #2 Reputations  
August 4, 2021 – Non-public #3 Personnel  
August 4, 2021 – Non-public #4 Personnel  
August 4, 2021 – Non-public #5 Reputations  
August 4, 2021 – Non-public #6 Legal  
August 4, 2021 – Non-public #7 Reputations  
August 11, 2021 – Workshop  
August 12, 2021 – Water/Wastewater Commissioners Workshop  
August 11, 2021 – Non-Public #1 Personnel

Ms. Houghton seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

**Ongoing Business:**

Chairman Lessels noted an email that he received from Mr. Ilves regarding the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Ilves comments were taken under advisement and will be added to the minutes of this meeting.

It was also noted that along with concerns about the minutes was notification that the Beautification Coalition was no longer going to exist, and a list of reasons were given. Copies were given to the Board and will be discussed at a future meeting. Ms. Andrus noted that this Board does support the Coalition and as she noted the Board would support any previous Board decisions for plans along Main Street. Ms. Houghton and Mr. Rescsanski both agreed about supporting the group. Ms. Houghton commented that she felt maintenance should be part of any plan before anything new is done. Mr. Rescsanski also appreciated all the work for the flowers and wreaths on the light poles. Mrs. Joan Ilves, commented that they group no longer exists and noted that the volunteers gave a lot over the years.

Mr. Rescsanski updated the Board on a meeting with NHDES about possible funding to assist with an asset management plan for the Water and Wastewater systems. Ms. Chaffee will see if NHDES can attend on September 29<sup>th</sup> to give the Board an overview. It was also suggested to get businesses involved, possibly invite Whelen, Bomar or Design Standard. The Board agreed to have Mr. Rescsanski continue to work on asset management.

Chairman Lessels apologized if any of his comments at the previous meeting offended anyone. As members of the Board, they should be working as a well-oiled machine.

Chairman Lessels called a recess at 8:20pm. Meeting reconvened at 8:28pm.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to enter non-public at 8:28 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (b-Hiring), Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and motion passed.

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 8:35 pm.

Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to enter non-public at 8:42 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputations), Ms. Houghton seconded the motion and motion passed.

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 8:45 pm.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus made a motion to enter non-public at 8:45 pm RSA 91-A:3 II (a-Compensation), Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and motion passed.

The Selectboard reconvened public session at 8:50 pm.

Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 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 September 1, 2021)

## Jessica Dennis

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**From:** Aare Ilves <aareilves@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 12:10 PM  
**To:** Jeff Lessels; Jessica Dennis; Patricia Chaffee  
**Cc:** Jeff Lessels; Sharon Francis  
**Subject:** Comments about the August 4 Selectboard minutes

Selectboard,

*Having read the minutes of the Selectboard meeting of August 4, 2021, Sharon and I respectfully request that that our comments be read at the meeting tonight before the minutes are approved and that the minutes be amended, or if not, that these comments be published with the minutes.*

*The minutes should include the substance of our proposal - suggested wording:*

*"Sharon Francis summarized the Beautification Coalition's recommendations for the east side of Main Street. These include extending the current grass strip northward, replacing the old concrete sidewalk with new concrete, including a strip of colored concrete between the sidewalk and street parking, a new planter under the Century 21 sign, and curbing adjacent to the grass strip. The budget is \$30,000 or less. Hoyt Trust funding up to \$20,000 has been approved for this project."*

*Mr. Wood's comment should say "he also thought the plan would create a worse situation for backing out into Route 12." rather than "he also noted this would create a worse situation for backing out into Route 12." since John Kallfelz, NHDOT engineer, had said last year that this would not be a problem.*

*Our response to Ms. Blouin-Andrus' comment is that most of the changes were at the request of the Selectboard members. That is also the reason for this taking so long. We were ready over a year ago.*

*I note that Sharon and I together got a total of five lines in the minutes, even though we were doing the presentation; while a member of the public, Thomas Cobb, who interrupted our presentation several times, got seven lines!*

*I thought the normal procedure was for the Board to listen to the complete proposal and responses of the presenters to any questions from the Board, before allowing questions from the public. We were not given the opportunity to do that.*

*William Rescsanski, who was chairing the meeting, said at the outset of the meeting that he intended to vote against the proposal. I thought the chairman was supposed to stay neutral during the discussion and only express his opinions at the end.*

Charlestown Selectboard  
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #1  
RSA 91-A:3 II (b-Hiring)  
August 18, 2021 @ 6:30 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: Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary

Ms. Chaffee updated the Board on a new hire for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office window clerk position. The Board was in agreement with her recommendation.

Ms. Andrus made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:35 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

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Charlestown Selectboard  
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #2  
RSA 91-A:3 II (c-Reputations)  
August 18, 2021 @ 6:30 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: Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary

There was a brief discussion regarding an employee and the return to work date. Ms. Houghton and Mr. Rescsanski will check with Ms. Dennis and Ms. Dezan to get clarification on what possible steps can be taken.

Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:45 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 September 1, 2021)

Charlestown Selectboard  
Non-Public Meeting Minutes #3  
RSA 91-A:3 II (a-Compensation)  
August 18, 2021 @ 6:30 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: Patricia Chaffee – Recording Secretary

Ms. Houghton commented on a payroll situation that was creating overtime that did not seem necessary and was over spending the line. She is not sure why this schedule was put into action. Ms. Andrus noted possibly having a non-public with the department head. Ms. Houghton will look into further and email the department head.

Chairman Lessels made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:50 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 September 1, 2021)