

**Charlestown Board of Selectmen  
Workshop Meeting Minutes  
July 22, 2020 @ 8:00 AM Zoom meeting**

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

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator  
Kelly Wright- Administrative Assistant  
Patricia Chaffee- Water Administrator  
David Duquette- Waste/Wastewater Department Head

Public: Alissa Bascom

Guest Speaker: Dave Fenstermacher from VHB

Chairman St. Pierre called the meeting to order at 8:05 am. Chairman St. Pierre 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.

Engineer, Dave Fenstermacher from VHB discussed the next steps for the interconnection water connection is design and engineering work. The cost will be approximately \$300,000. NH DES has lowered its standard of arsenic levels and the North Charlestown well has unhealthy levels of arsenic in the well. The Town can upgrade the treatment plan and filtering system but it is not a guarantee for safe drinking water. He explained there would be increased operational costs, operator time, and filter purchases. Mr. Dave Fenstermacher shared at some point the Town will not be complaint with EPA's arsenic levels.

The water delineation survey has been completed. Over the next couple months Ms. Chaffee and VHB will be working on applying for funding. The Water Trust Fund application is due September 9, 2020. The Water Trust Fund is a grant to help Town's elimination problems with contaminated water from arsenic. Ms. Chaffee said the Town has a very good chance of being approved. If approved it could help the Town be approved for the USDA Rural Development Grant.

Mr. David Duquette stated back in 2014 he told the board that the arsenic levels would be lowered in the future and North Charlestown would not pass the EPA regulations. He gave the new board members the four options the previous board looked at.

1. Look for a new well site. This would be a substantial cost when Bull Run in South Charlestown has the capacity to provide both the quantity and zero levels of arsenic levels to North Charlestown residents.
2. Do nothing and pay large fines for not being in compliance with State DES arsenic regulations.
3. A new and different filtration and pump system. The cost would be 1.7 million dollars. This will create more DES reporting, increased operational costs and increased operator's time. In order for Mr. Duquette to continue to oversee this he will need to acquire an additional license. This kind of filter system is called green sand filtration. A new filtration system will not increase the capacity. Dave brought in an eight ounce



bottle of water to demonstrate how much sediment there will be. When he shook up the entire mixture turned black. There is a potential to have more arsenic and manganese which can be toxic. Right now North Charlestown is using 35,000 gallons of a day. The current allowed arsenic level is .008 but NH DES will be lowering the level to .005. If the Town chooses to go with the new filtration system the filters will cost an additional \$60,000 per year and \$500.00 per month to dispose of the hazardous material. Mr. Duquette stated it is getting more difficult to dispose of hazardous material. The filtration systems will not solve the arsenic problem thoroughly and long term is not a financially stable solution to provide clean and safe drinking water for the residents.

4. The Interconnection Project would connect Clay Brook and Bull Run's well located in Charlestown to the North Charlestown system. This is a 4.8 million dollar project with grant funding available through the Water Trust Fund and USDA Rural Development. The Town would need to finance approximately 2.8 million dollars. The recent increase in water rates would increase the amount of money available to go into repaying the General Fund and the Water Capital Reserve Fund to offset costs associated with infrastructure and asbestos issues in the pipes not the arsenic project. Bull Run's well is 197 feet deep and has tested well for the last three years. There has been zero levels of arsenic, manganese, lead or copper and has a PH level of 7.4%. It has the capacity to run 1.2 million of gallons a day. It takes 330,000 gallons a day to run the entire Town. North Charlestown uses 30,500 a day. During the current drought conditions this year the well hasn't been affected and it quickly fills back up. The board asked if there was potential of chemical or contamination from the Connecticut River. Mr. Duquette answer there is always a potential but because no other Town is using the same aquafer there is no way to know. By connecting the two systems it would eliminate some of the permits, and State reports since they will all be than one report.

There was discussion about trying to buy some more time and save up some money. Mr. Duquette said the decision was already made in 2018 when the previous Board of Selectmen reviewed the RFP bids and awarded VHB the contract to move forward with the design and engineering work for the well interconnection. Ms. Chaffee reported in order to move forward with any grants thru the Water Trust Fund and USDA Rural Development it must be towards the interconnect project. The Town will not qualify for any funding if a new filtration system is put in. Ms. Chaffee also stated she has been working on updating the masterplan public utilities portion and in 2007 there is mention about the interconnection plan. This has been discussed for years. There are currently 1,272 users in Charlestown and there have been other residents who are interested in connecting to the Town's water and wastewater systems

Ms. Alissa Bascom reported it is her families' water that is affected and its time the board gets out in front of the public because it's the right thing to do. The water commissioners are responsible for providing clean and safe water for the community.

Mr. Wade made a motion to go in non public at 9:36 am RSA 91-A: 3 (C Reputations), Mr. Streeter seconded the motion and on a roll call; Mr. St. Pierre ( yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes); the motion passed.

The Board reconvened public session at 10:00 am.

Ms. Dennis has heard back from the attorney regarding the Right of Way agreement. Mascoma Bank will lose the sale if the Town doesn't agree to give KanDy Investments the five parking spaces back if/when the Town ever decides to the sell the building. The Board discussed having the five parallel parking spaces previously quitclaimed to Mascoma Bank deeded back to the



Town. Mr. Streeter made a motion to direct Mascoma Bank to quitclaim deed the five parallel parking spaces back to the Town in exchange for the five parking spaces in the back. Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion and on a roll call; Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes); the motion passed.

There was a discussion about opening up the Town buildings and parks to the public to rentals. Before a decision can be made Ms. Dennis was asked to check with the Recreation Committee and Mr. Zazzaro regarding sanitization precautions. Mr. St. Pierre said the Town Hall Committee previously discussed taking over tracking the Town Hall rentals, ensuring it was clean and there was no damage after use. They had not discussed the Community Room but perhaps would be willing to look at this facility also. The board would like to discuss this next Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 4:00 PM.

Ms. Dennis voiced her concern about Mr. Rescsanski's personal social media post about the selectmen's office. She felt the post was disrespectful and unappreciated and it has caused anger amongst the staff. Ms. Dennis felt that he was not acting as a team player; the statement on Facebook made is sound as though she was untrustworthy. Mr. Rescsanski stated it wasn't his intention for it to come across that way; he is frustrated that he needs to go through the Selectboard Office to gain information he normally has access to. Ms. Wright spoke up and said she didn't appreciate the underlying tone of his post to suggest anything was done behind the scenes to adjust reports. She is happy to show and answer any questions or concerns he has. Mr. Rescsanski stated he had been in the office earlier in the day and Ms. Chaffee was very helpful. Mr. Wade told Mr. Rescsanski he was out of line at the Planning Board meeting last night and doesn't have the authority to go above department heads for information or tell the Planning Board Administrator it was an illegal decision after it was explained multiple times how the decision was made. Mr. Rescsanski stated he got the impression from the previous discussion that the rest of the Board was not concerned about the situation; and he wanted to speak with the employee to inquire if the Planning Board was aware of the decision and that it went against the ordinances. Mr. Wade and Mr. Lessels both stated, individually, that they were concerned; but the Town has to update the Master Plan and use that as a new starting point for enforcement of ordinances. Mr. Streeter stated that a board member requesting access to the accounting software would not have the same training as the employees do and all requests should go thru Ms. Dennis and she will delegate the request if she needs to. There is also accountability if the proper channels are followed.

#### Agenda Items at the next meeting:

1. The air condition units at the library. Mr. Streeter asked if solar had been a consideration for the cooling and heating needs. Mr. Streeter and Mr. Fowler can talk about this. Ms. Dennis is looking into rebates through Liberty Utilities.
2. Finance Committee
3. Brown Fields
4. Tax Auctions

Mr. Wade asked the rest of board if they would review the current purchasing policy and possibly increase the dollar amount that would require a purchase order. The current amount of \$500 is low

Mr. St. Pierre shared with the other members about the large amount of emails he gets as the chairman. The board discussed creating a selectmen's email account for the entire board to have access to. Ms. Dennis will work on this.

Ms. Dennis asked the board for some clarification pertaining to the open positions in different departments. The highway department can schedule their own interviews while the water/wastewater department waits for the board to decide who to interview. The Board would like Mr. Duquette to go thru the applications and set up interviews. Mr. Lessels said he and Ms. Diane Town will be sitting in on the five highway interviews that are scheduled.

Mr. Wade made a motion to adjourn at 10:55 am; Mr. Streeter seconded the motion and on a roll call; Mr. St. Pierre (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes), Mr. Wade (yes), Mr. Streeter (yes), Mr. Rescsanski (yes); motion passed.

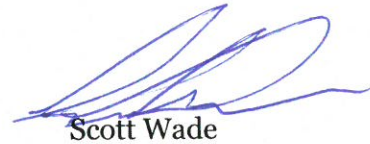
Respectfully Submitted,  
Kelly N Wright



Albert St. Pierre



Jeff Lessels



Scott Wade



John Streeter



William Rescsanski

(Note: These are unapproved meeting minutes, any corrections can be found in the meeting minutes on August 5, 2020)



Charlestown Board of Selectmen  
Nonpublic Meeting Minutes  
RSA 91-A:3 II (C Reputation)  
July 22, 2020 @ 8:00 am

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

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis- Administrator  
Kelly Wright- Administrative Assistant  
Chief Patrick Connors- Ambulance Director


Ms. Dennis reported she received a call regarding a breach of confidentiality on the ambulance computer. It appears that ALL files on the computer were being backed up to charlestownambulance@hotmail.com which was last backed up on July 17, 2020. Ms. Dennis had Greg Charland from Charland Technology run a security scan on the machine and put all documents on the Town's server. Chief Connors reported this has the potential to require HIPPA notices as there may be violations. Chief plans on having a conference call with Attorney Eleck Miller and Greg Charland to review what was being shared and how to address it.

There was discussion what was criminal and what was not. Chief stated the County Attorney will deal with the criminal investigation and the State will deal with the HIPPA violations and how to proceed.


Chief Connors reported not all the equipment has been returned from terminated employees. The board asked if he would call those that have equipment in their possession and ask them to return it.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kelly N Wright

  
Albert St. Pierre

  
Jeff Lessels

  
Scott Wade

  
John Streeter

  
William Rescsanski

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