

CHARLESTOWN, NH SELECTBOARD WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021 AT 5:00 p.m.
SILSBY LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM AND VIA ZOOM

Selectboard Present: Jeff Lessels (Chair), Jeremy Wood (Vice Chair), Shelly Blouin-Andrus, Nancy Houghton and William Rescsanski all present in the Community Room

Staff Present: Jessica Dennis, Administrator
Patricia Chaffee, Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Water/Wastewater clerk
Mildred Barry, Recording Secretary by Zoom
Keith Weed, Highway/Transfer Station

Others Present: Matthew Decker, Legal Counsel

Jeff Lessels called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Non-Public - Ms. Houghton moved to go into non-public for legal consideration RSA 91-A:3 II (I-Consideration of Legal Advice). Mr. Wood seconded the motion, the motion carried 5-0, with all members voting yes by a roll call vote.

Mr. Wood moved to reconvene regular session at 6:13 p.m. Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion, motion passed 5-0. Mr. Decker left the meeting.

The Board recessed at 6:14 p.m. reconvening at 6:20 p.m.

Transfer Station: Mr. Weed discussed the current year expenses and next year's budget noting the budget was almost level funded. He noted vehicle expense was over budget due to the four tires recently purchased. The Board discussed the differences between Charlestown and Walpole recycling programs. Mr. Lessels noted Charlestown trucks its own recyclables and rubbish, Walpole does not, Walpole had volunteers and have a pay by the bag system. Mr. Lessels said it would be difficult for Charlestown residents to accept a pay by the bag system. Mr. Weed said their biggest revenue was stickers and cardboard. Mr. Rescsanski believed the transfer station should break even.

Highway: Mr. Weed said there was no word from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) about reimbursement after the July storm noting the Town spent about \$130,000. He noted there would be about \$150,000 the department would encumber adding \$300,000 budgeted for the coming year to be used for paving and construction projects. There was no money expended for Special Projects and about \$140,000 was carried from the previous year. The Board and Mr. Weed had a lengthy discussion about sidewalk replacement using asphalt and granite curbing. Mr. Wood made a motioned to purchase the granite curbing for the sidewalks using the 2020 encumbered funds and to get a quote for asphalt for the sidewalks from the music store to R&K Towing in order to encumber the remaining 2021 funds in the "curbs, drains & sidewalks" budget line. Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0 with all members voting yes in a roll call vote. Mr. Weed noted culverts were difficult to buy, prices had increased and were not stable. He increased the amount under tools and supplies for shop tools and would like to buy a turbine (industrial size) blower (about \$6,000) to go on the grader to

move the leaves off the road during fall season. The Board and Mr. Weed discussed maintaining roads during the winter months and use of certain road by school buses. Ms. Dennis and Mr. Rescsanski will draft a letter to the school regarding road closures and some use of roads used by school buses. Mr. Weed noted he would be buying winter sand from the Town of Langdon, loading at their facility in Langdon at night.

There is money in the budget to buy two boxes for the transfer station. The price is about \$12,000 per box. The Board and Mr. Weed discussed purchasing a six- and ten-wheel truck. Mr. Weed will research prices.

Ms. Chaffee and the Board discussed raising the price of dog tag fees from \$6.50 to \$7.50.

Also, the board agreed Ms. Chaffee would organize a holiday party for Town employees and a guest at no cost to the Town. The party is pot luck and an invitation will be included in employee pay check/stub. The board discussed giving employees a gift certificate or monetary gift.

Water/Wastewater: Ms. Chaffee talked about payroll costs, increases and general expenses related to the water/wastewater department. The budget for the coming year is based on the current year expense, level funding when possible. At the present time \$667,070 had been billed noting she was working to reduce costs to keep next year's budget at or below \$700,000. Ms. Chaffee talked about costs/expenses related to sewer basing the budget on current expenses and level funding where possible. Due to staffing changes over the past year in both the water and wastewater departments, the current staff is still learning and may discover expenditures they are not yet aware of.

Adoption of Public Participation Policy: Mr. Rescsanski motioned to accept the Public Participation Policy, Ms. Houghton seconded the motion, the motion carried 5-0 with all members voting yes by a roll call vote.

2021 Tax Rate Setting - Mr. Wood moved to buy down .37 to make tax rate \$31.61. Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion, the motion carried 5-0, with all members voting yes by a roll call vote.

Minutes of Previous Meetings - Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to accept the minutes of November 3, 2021. Mr. Wood seconded the motion, the motion passed 5-0

Consent Agenda: Mr. Rescsanski motioned to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, Ms. Houghton seconded the motion, the motion passed 5-0.

Other Business: Mr. Lessels brought to the Board's attention that five large commercial properties are currently for sale in Charlestown, which could have an impact on the community. Mr. Lessels talked about a recent editorial in the Valley News newspaper Mr. Lessels also noted a number of famous people with roots in Charlestown in addition to Carleton Fisk, including two past NH governors, US senators, playwrights etc.

Ms. Blouin-Andrus motioned to go into a non-public session at 8:56 p.m. for RSA 91-A:3 II (c-reputations). Mr. Wood seconded the motion, the motion carried 5-0 with all members voting yes by a roll call vote.

The Board reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

Ms. Houghton made a motion to seal the non-public minutes for two years, Ms. Blouin-Andrus seconded the motion, the motion carried 5-0 with all members voting yes by a roll call vote.

Mr. Rescsanski made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Wood seconded the motion, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by:
Mildred Barry, Recording Secretary

Jeff Lessels

Jeremy Wood

Shelly Blouin-Andrus

William Rescsanski

Nancy Houghton

(Note: These are unapproved meeting minutes. All corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting November 17, 2021)