

Charlotte Selectboard
December 21, 2009 Meeting

Selectboard Members Present: Charles Russell, Ed Stone, Jenny Cole, Winslow Ladue, Frank Thornton

Administration Present: Dean Bloch

Others Present: Allan Jordan, Colin Rehkugler, Marty Illick, Rob Evans, Stephen Brooks, Dorothy Pellett, Nancy Wood, Heather Manning, David Miskell, Ellie Russell, Charlie Baker, John Owen, Dan Boardman, Dave Perrin

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM by Charles Russell.

Flood Hazard Map – Request FEMA to include the LaPlatte River and a portion of Mud Hollow Brook on the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map as an approximate Zone A. *Action under consideration: submission of request to FEMA.* – Rob Evans of VTANR – 6:00pm

- The Town of Charlotte has until January 27, 2009 (the end of the 90-day appeal period – no extension) to submit this request.
- In 2005 the Towns of Charlotte and Shelburne wanted FEMA to study the LaPlatte River to determine whether it should be classified as an official flood zone. As determined in a July 2009 meeting, FEMA never did this.
- Rob Evans of VTANR performed a flood frequency analysis and determined a potential flood depth of 10 ft. for the LaPlatte River (this is a conservative estimate, erring on the side of caution).
- Following the map's completion, the Town of Shelburne sent a letter to FEMA Boston (6 wks. ago) asking if they would add it to the insurance map. FEMA responded that it could only be done if both the Towns of Shelburne and Charlotte respond in writing that they will “regulate” the river as a flood zone. [Regulating the river as a flood zone means enforcing stricter, FEMA-defined development regulations.]
- The Town of Charlotte already has until summer 2010 to update its FEMA regulations for existing shorelines that are mapped on the insurance map (Lake Champlain, Lewis Creek). The question is whether they should submit the LaPlatte River as an additional flood zone.
 - Possible Benefits: Must consider future implications for the river and preserving the riverbed.
 - Possible Drawbacks: It is less expensive to purchase flood insurance in these areas if the LaPlatte River is not included on the flood map. The town would have to enforce stricter development regulations.
- A number of community members including Dave Perrin and Dave Perrin expressed concern that the map was too cautious and would adversely affect those with property within the proposed flood zone. [Rob Evans would rather be overly cautious than overly cavalier.]
- Even if the proposed area is put on the insurance map, individuals who wish to develop on affected land could challenge the map on a project-by-project basis. This would require engineering data proving that the town's map is incorrect. However, challenging one area does not mean the rest of the map will change. There is also a grandfathering opportunity for insurance if you purchase flood insurance before it is included in the insurance map. The town can also submit changes to the map to FEMA at any time; however, FEMA will charge a fee.
- The Selectboard is not ready to make a decision. They will reconvene on January 11, 2009.

Adjustments to Agenda - No agenda adjustments

Grand list 2009 errors and omissions. *Action under consideration: Approve submission by Listers (pursuant to 32 VSA 4261) – 7:20pm*

- Two changes:
 1. New tax bill issued to subdivision on Big Oak Lane.
 2. Lister error at Clark Kingsdale Jr. property – the property is noncontiguous and two parcels need to be created.
- Motion to approve as described made by Jenny Cole at 7:23pm, seconded by Winslow Ladue and passed unanimously.

Public Comment – 7:27pm: Stephen Brooks would like to know what needs to be done to start the discussion regarding wireless internet access at Town Hall. Possible solutions may be to ask the library to keep their wireless access available all night. There are potential security implications that need to be researched, as well as bandwidth issues. Advice and a quote will be needed before the Selectboard can make a decision. Jenny Cole will research this.

Review of Town Budget (Discussion Only) – 7:39pm

- Reduce unanticipated expenses.
- Further discussion is needed with Fire & Rescue before budget can be finalized.
- Need to schedule an auditor soon that it can be completed (for next year) by September 2010.
- Increase cemetery maintenance budget.
- Town Hall needs \$20k to paint & repair, plus \$8k for a new server (equipment).
- Traffic enforcement needs a budget that reflects a jump to 30 hours per week (currently at 20).

Potential Articles for Town Meeting 2010 – 8:15pm

- Renew 3-year allocation of \$30,000 per annum to Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
 - Moving forward, the Selectboard would like the focus of the AHTF to be on affordable *rentals*, as opposed to housing.
 - The AHTF may need to look at more aggressive promotion of its mission in order to draw in promising applications. (Proposed advertising allocation: \$1,000.)
- Rte. 7 underpass: Would like a state-installed trail to the west that is properly. Need to bring an advisory motion to Town Meeting for this approximately \$270k project.
- Trail funding should be on the list for 3 years at \$25,000 per annum.
- Advisory motion: Do voters approve of locating a [secure, staffed non-commercial] Chittenden Solid Waste District site within Charlotte [that accepts trash, reusables and recyclables]?
 - Proposed site would service Shelburne, Hinesburg & Charlotte. There will be an informational meeting during the Planning Commission meeting on February 4, 2010 to discuss operations, possible locations, etc.

Town Website Discussion

- Looking at having another site host the Town's website – it's currently in trial and features a wider layout, new colors, and enhanced navigation.

Real Estate Negotiation

Motion to enter Executive Session made at 10:36pm by Winslow Ladue, seconded by Ed Stone, to discuss a real estate negotiation. The motion passed unanimously. The Selectboard came out of Executive Session—no action was taken.

Ed Stone made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Winslow Ladue. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Meaghan Nooney