

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
SELECTBOARD MEETINGS
DECEMBER 8, 2008**

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Russell, Chairperson; Jenny Cole, Winslow Ladue, Ed Stone, Frank Thornton.

OTHERS: Ellie Russell, Kay Gault, Sue Smith, Larry Johnson, Michael Burke, Sarah McGarden, Dave Krolick, Carlie Krolick, Nancy Wood, Deb Stone, Tim McCullough, Paul Arthaud, Bill Fraser-Harris, Melissa Eyre, Chris Davis, Dick St George, Bob Hyams, Josh Flore, Gary Farnsworth, Robert Mack, Mark Taylor, Ruth Hill, Charlotte Citizen.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Russell called the Selectboard meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Added:

- Thompson's Point Lease

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None.

4. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2008

Approval of the minutes of 11/24/2008 was deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

5. LARRY JOHNSON – Request for Waiver of Town Fees Related to an Application for a Prospective minor Subdivision

Larry Johnson, resident, submitted a site map (dated 1985) and drawing of a proposed minor subdivision that would give a five-acre parcel to his daughter and son-in-law. Mr. Johnson pointed out boundaries and bare ledge on the site map. The application will go before the Planning Commission. Mr. Johnson asked the Town to waive fees.

Mr. Bloch reviewed that Town fees ranged from \$50 for Sketch Plan Review, \$1,200 for subdivision, and \$500 for septic. Mr. Johnson stated that there was an existing operational septic system including an identified back-up field. There is a permanent right-of-way to the back of our lot.

Mr. Bloch said that if Mr. Johnson was considering another lot he might want to include that as well. The fees would be higher if he waited until later.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to waive Town fees of \$1,750.00 related to an application for a prospective minor subdivision as requested by Larry Johnson.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Johnson said he would like to get it done since he didn't have the money for the fees. He had enough funds to pay for a survey. Mr. Johnson explained that he bought the farm in 1948.

VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 abstention (Mr. Thornton); motion carried.

6. GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER – Petition to Locate Poles, Guys and Wires within Right-of-Way of Lake Road Extension

Michael Burke, Green Mountain Power representative, explained a proposal to run 120' of new overhead line on Lake Road, from Pole #8 to Pole #9, and 3,400' of underground line. GMP has an existing right-of-way for overhead lines, but is working with area property owners to lessen the impact of the line.

Dave Krolick, Lake Road resident, explained that Mr. Burke had met with the Black Willow Association home owners on 04/01/2008. There was an agreement that the line would run underground the whole way. If it did then Selectboard approval was not necessary. We would prefer not to put a new pole in front of our house. Mr. Burke said that GMP has no opinion on the proposal. Black Willow Association would pay for the project, they presented a plan and GMP priced the project. Mr. Krolick reiterated that he would like the line to continue down to an existing pole versus a new pole in front of his house. Mr. Burke said that GMP could continue a trench past the Krolick's if the association approved it.

There was further discussion regarding the location of trees, open fields, a possible location of a line in an open field that would keep the line out of the trees; a citizen's concern that poles with overhead lines would impact the scenic value of Lake Road; and a suggestion to move the line further north to miss ledge and trees.

The Selectboard suggested that the property owners hold further discussions amongst themselves and GMP, then return to present a plan to the Board. The Selectboard would schedule a site visit and then determine if Mr. Burke would be required to attend the 12/15/2008 Board meeting.

7. APPROVE FUND-BASED AUDIT

Nancy Wood, auditor, reviewed a \$60,000 payment from VELCO; highway funds that should be separated out from the General Fund; an adjustment on the Thompson's Point Fund of \$26,466 (Exhibit 3); a \$40,000 transfer to Affordable Housing; a correction to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield; and a clarification of fund titles.

The Board would take action at the next meeting of the Board on 12/15/2008.

8. GRAND LIST 2008-2009 ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

Kate Gault, Lister, reviewed Errors and Omissions to the 2008-09 Grand List.

MOTION by Ms. Cole, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to approve Errors and Omissions to the 2008-09 Grand List as presented.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

9. BUDGET REVIEW LISTERS

Kate Gault, Lister, explained a \$1,500 budget item for computer software (the ending cost was below the budgeted amount), and a \$500 decrease for mapping.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Bob Hyams handed out copies of a written draft budget.

There was discussion regarding updates to the map; a line item of \$300 for a display board for educational outreach, and funding for a UVM intern to assist on a water survey project.

FIRE AND RESCUE

Paul Arthaud, Chris Davis, Josh Flore, Tim McCullough and Dick St George, Fire and Rescue department representatives, reviewed a proposed budget that would be 2.01 percent less than the previous year; an increase in Workmen's Compensation and a per individual responder to identify staff that were not coming to training; an audit on the number of personnel by the insurance company; and an increase to the EMT/Rescue payroll. The departments were working on a long range solution for volunteer recruitment. Full time staff have been reduced from 3 to 2.

Ms. Wood asked for clarification of a \$47,000 carryover for the Fire Department. Mr. Davis explained that if there was extra then the last check (to the Town) was adjusted. Ms. Wood said that the amount of funds the Fire Department received versus actuals spent would need to be resolved.

Mr. Russell suggested that the Fire and Rescue departments should meet with the auditors in July/August if possible.

RECREATION COMMISSION

Deb Stone, Recreation Coordinator, Carlie Krolick and Bill Fraser-Harris, Recreation Commission members, reviewed a draft Recreation budget. Ms. Stone explained that the Driver's Ed instructor/contractor would handle fee collections and pay the Town an Administration fee of \$25 per student.

Ms. Krolick said that the Recreation Commission would discuss the position of Beach Coordinator at the January meeting. The commission would look at models used by other towns. For example, we could pay a Beach attendant extra as a Beach Coordinator, or other person, who would report to the Recreation Coordinator. The commission was working to have a job description for review by the January meeting. Ms. Stone would manage the Beach Coordinator.

Ms. Stone handed a copy of a proposed Recreation budget to Board members, and suggested using a Recreation Reserve Fund to grade the rink for multiuse purposes. An estimate would be obtained to bring before the Board.

10. WARN PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED TOWN PLAN

Mr. Bloch reviewed that the Planning Commission has submitted a draft Town Plan to the Selectboard on 12/03/2008. The Board needs to warn a public hearing 30 days from that date.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to warn a public hearing, First Reading, on 01/12/2008 for a proposed Town Plan pursuant to 24 VSA 4385.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

11. WARNSPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR RECONSIDERATION OF AN ARTICLE VOTED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2008

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to warn a Special Town Meeting on 01/21/2008 for reconsideration of an article voted on November 4, 2008, as requested by petition submitted on 12/02/2008, pursuant 17 VSA 2661.

Following a brief discussion Mr. Stone and Ms. Cole withdrew the motion.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to warn a Special Town Meeting for 01/21/2009 to vote for reconsideration of an article voted on November 4, 2008, as requested by petition submitted 12/02/2008, pursuant 17 VSA 2661.

DISCUSSION:

Gary Farnsworth asked to clarify E.2, vote to increase or decrease a percentage of people who signed the petition regarding a two-thirds vote. Mr. Stone said that it refers to a signed petition. Mr. Bloch clarified that there has to be a special meeting to change that.

Mr. Ladue asked if 1-5 of the petition was verbatim. Mr. Russell replied yes.

VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 nay (Mr. Thornton).

12. DISCUSS CONTINUED POLICE COVERAGE BY SHELBURNE POLICE

Mr. Russell explained that the contract between the Town and the Shelburne Police expired at the end of October. A letter was received asking if the Town was interested in continuing the contract.

Mr. Stone stated that the contract should be renewed now.

There was discussion if the Shelburne Police would be obligated to respond if the State Police called them; and to consider renewing a contract with the Shelburne Police in the spring.

MOTION by Mr. Stone to continue a contract with the Shelburne Police for three months starting in the spring.

Mr. Stone withdrew the motion.

Mr. Russell would contact the Shelburne Police and get a copy of the contract.

13. DISCUSS POTENTIAL ARTICLE(S) FOR TOWN MEETING WARNING

The Board discussed potential items for warning for the March Town Meeting that included the following:

- Management of Town Land (buy/selling) – discussion
- Ancient Roads
- Affordable Housing (Burns Property) – continued discussion with the Vermont Land Trust; for example, three lots/units.
- Town interest in selling septic capacity to the West Village for commercial use; for example, the Flea Market related to management, how much capacity, and specific uses.

14. THOMPSON'S POINT LEASE

MOTION by Ms. Cole, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to approve a 20 year lease on Thompson's Point for Lot 48, Albert William Rudder III, as presented.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

15. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND WARRANTS

The Board signed Bills and Warrants.

Robert Mack reported that someone was living in a trailer on the Knowles Farm and asked if the Town would enforce violations town wide versus spottily. Mr. Stone pointed out that violation matters were to be handled by Tom Mansfield versus the Selectboard.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned and the Board entered Executive Session at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathlyn Furr, Recording Secretary.

These minutes are subject to correction by the Charlotte Selectboard. Changes, if any, will be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the Board.