

Charlotte Selectboard
December 14, 2009 Meeting

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

Administration Present: Dean Bloch

- Meeting called to order at 6:33pm by Charles Russell.
- **Energy Committee Discussion of Meetings & Tasks. Action Under Consideration: Appoint Committee Members.**
 - Discussed the protocol of emails and how discussions cannot be held via email – one-on-one communication is fine though. The proper chain of command is all comments are submitted to the chair, and the chair then relays those comments to the entire committee.
 - Quorums were clarified for the committee: Since there are 7 board members, at least 4 members must be present in order to make any decisions – if less than 4 show up, they can still meet but cannot make a decision.
 - All meetings must be held in a handicap-accessible venue and minutes must be made available to the public. (Dean clarified that an elected chair and minute taker are yet to be determined.)
 - The budget was discussed. Jennifer Chiodo wanted to know how much money would be approved/earmarked for the committee so they know what is reasonable to expect in coming years when they research and apply for grants. It was requested that the \$5000 agreed upon at the Selectboard meeting on 11/23/09 remain as an annual working budget. Ed Stone would like to know what the budget would be for and suggested asking for a little and growing from there. Winslow Ladue explained that the Selectboard must determine the value and purpose of the budget request – the Energy Committee must submit their request in a formal letter and they will submit it as a budget item.
 - Charles Russell mentioned conflict of interest issues since three members work in energy. Any conflicts of interest must be handled by excusing oneself from the vote and discussion; they cannot influence the vote in any way. Dean Bloch suggested crafting a written plan regarding conflicts of interest.
 - Motion to appoint Anne Bijur, Jennifer Chiodo, Hans Ohanian, and Suzy Hodgson to two-year terms and Catherine Hughes, Michelle Lussier, and David Pill to one-year terms at 6:59pm by Jenny Cole. Motion seconded by Ed Stone and approved unanimously.
- Agenda approved with no changes.
- No public comment.
- Minutes from November 23, 2009 reviewed and amended by the Board. Motion made at 7:10pm by Jenny Cole to approve with edits; motion seconded by Ed Stone and approved 4-0 (Frank Thornton abstained).
- **Budget Review (Discussion Only)**
 - Town Hall has rotted out windows that need to be taken care of (\$5-7k). Charles Russell recommended putting \$10k into the Reserve Fund so it doesn't need to be specified where it is going.
 - Speed monitoring box on telephone pole should be put under Traffic Enforcement.
 - **Fire & Rescue – 7:21pm**
 - FY '11: There has been a -0.64% budget change since last year but rising fuel and insurance costs make it difficult to budget. They also need to replace SCBAs (air tanks) at the rate of one per year for the next 10 years. This could be budgeted in annually or done as one lump sum. The floors need to be redone/cleaned and fluorescent bulbs need to be changed.
 - Charles Russell wanted to know if they are currently on budget for the YTD. The Chief said that so far they are close. There are also a

lot of volunteers who, once they are brought up to speed with certifications, can perform job duties that paid positions would normally do.

- The current trend is that Fire & Rescue revenue will decrease \$15k due to people being unable to pay for rescue/ambulance rides.
 - Need to budget for replacing 1990 rescue truck.
 - **Trails – 7:58pm**
 - Budget was revised. A fund is set up similar to the Conservation Fund – budget will be put to a town vote and budgeted over 10 years or so (3-tenths of a cent = \$35k/year; would come out to approximately \$10/year per Charlotte resident).
 - They need to budget for the co-housing trail portion concentrating on the rec path and would pay for the rest with the usual operating budget, which is typically not completely utilized (it has not yet been seen in writing, but the estimate for crushed stone on that area is \$50-75k). They also want a Web site, kiosk, trailhead, and grant writer and need \$5k matching in order to apply for grants. [Jenny Cole mentioned that the town Web site is available to all committees and they offer training sessions.]
 - Charles Russell inquired as to whether exchange work or breaking up work would cut down costs.
 - A decision will be made in early January.
- **Shelburne Police Contract – 8:14pm**
 - Citizens are concerned that traffic control is too condensed – there needs to be an equalization on Spear, Greenbush, etc.
 - The contract is currently at 20 hours – an up-to-date report should be available by Wednesday or Thursday (12/16 or 12/17) showing a breakdown of days and hours that the Shelburne Police are being utilized by Charlotte.
 - Ed Stone wondered if the Shelburne Police presence in Charlotte can be upped to 40 hours a week. [Chief of Police] thinks that may be possible – they need to look at training people and adding more part-timers. It was determined through discussion that the whole town of Charlotte cannot be effectively covered with only 20 hours per week from the Shelburne Police.
 - It was suggested by the Chief that a meeting be set up with Junior (?) and the Selectboard to discuss speed limit signage – there are some roads that do not have enforceable speed limits due to poor signage.
 - Winslow Ladue asked if the Shelburne Police are likely to increase their capacity and if there is a number they could be given – the Chief declined to commit to a number at this time.
- **Grants for Affordable Housing from Charlotte Housing Trust Fund**
 - Four applications were submitted for feasibility studies and new construction.
 - **Jim Donovan & Patricia O'Donnell – Feasibility Study.** Winslow Ladue motioned to approve, Jenny Cole seconded the motion and it passed 4-1 (Frank Thornton opposed).
 - **Allan Jordan – Feasibility Study.** Winslow Ladue motioned to approve, Jenny Cole seconded the motion and it passed 4-1 (Frank Thornton opposed).
 - **Mark & Ann Dillenbeck – Renovation Project.** Winslow Ladue motioned to approve, Jenny Cole seconded the motion and it passed 4-1 (Frank Thornton opposed).
 - **Steven Davis & Elizabeth Leonard -- New Unit Construction Project.** Winslow Ladue motioned to approve, Jenny Cole seconded the motion and it passed 3-2 (Ed Stone & Frank Thornton opposed).
- **Allan & Trudi Jordan – Request for Waiver Fees for Subdivision & Wastewater for a 6-Lot Subdivision**
 - Ed Stone motioned to approve at 9:30pm, Jenny Cole seconded the motion and it was approved 4-1 (Frank Thornton opposed).
- **Spear's Corner Store – Renewal of Second Class Liquor & Tobacco License**

- Motioned to convene as Liquor Control Board made. 9:45pm The renewal was approved unanimously. Reconvened as Selectboard at 9:45pm.
- **NIMS – Adoption of Resolution**
 - Winslow Ladue motioned to adopt the resolution at 9:55pm; Jenny Cole seconded and it was approved 3-0 (Frank Thornton & Winslow Ladue abstained).
- **Budget Discussion**
 - Ed Stone’s only change for FY ’11 was regarding employees being at 3% or level fund (?) – he also believes that expenses need to go up to \$40k. The Board currently appears to be on track with a \$30-40k budget.
 - Community member Stephen Brooks inquired about getting a wireless router in the Town Hall. Charles Russell said they need to weigh the benefits with the costs (security, etc.)
 - Add \$20k as a line item to paint Town Hall (under Town Hall maintenance \$\$) instead of taking from the reserve fund – Charlotte taxpayers would prefer to see this as a line item.
 - Bring traffic enforcement up to at least 30 hours a week from 20.
- **Potential Articles for Town Meeting 2010**
 - Reserve fund
 - Fire vote
 - Dog kennel – possibly Comfort Hill in Vergennes
 - Central septic system
 - Sidewalks
 - Bike path to school, ferry to village, Hinesburg Rd. towards Hinesburg
 - Discussion about trails for all (dogs, horses, ATVs, etc.)
 - Land “out back”
 - Underpass
 - Public access at Thompson’s Point
 - New well at the beach
- **Approval of Bills & Warrants**
 - Jenny Cole motioned to approve the lease for Gilroy Irrevocable Trust 1991 Lot #17. Ed Stone seconded & it was passed 4-0 (Frank Thompson abstained).
- The meeting was adjourned by Ed Stone at 10:56pm.

Minutes submitted by Meaghan Nooney