

**Town of Charlotte
Board of Selectmen
Minutes**

**Monday, January 24, 2005
7:00 PM, Charlotte Town Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Charles Russell
Jennifer Steele Cole
Eleanor Russell
Ed Stone
Francis Thornton

OTHERS: Dean Bloch (Selectboard Assistant)
Ray Curtis, Jr.
Chris Davis
Jane Garbose
Clark Hinsdale, III
Josie Leavitt
Junior Lewis
Dave Miskell
Dorothy Pellett
Bill Powers
Jocelyn Bolick (clerk)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The items on the agenda were as follows:

Adjustment to Agenda / Approve Minutes for January 10, January 17 / Public Discussion / Clark Hinsdale Jr.: Hearing for an application for a Highway Access Permit (HAP-05-01) on Mt. Philo Road / Approval of salary study and adjustments / Approval of budget for Town Meeting / Approval of articles for Town Meeting / Approve Certificate of Town Highway Miles / Approve letter supporting Byways Program grant application / Selectboard Update / Bills and Warrants / Adjournment

Adjustment to Agenda

None.

Approve Minutes for January 10, January 17

Motion made by Ellie Russell, seconded by Jennie Cole:

“To approve the selectboard meeting minutes with corrections for January 10th, 2005”.

Vote: all in favor.

Throughout document, change spelling of “Robin Reade” to “Robin Reid”.

Throughout document, change reference to “Shirley” to “Shirley Allen”. Add name to members present.

Throughout document, change reference to “Alan _____” to “Allan Jordan”.

On page 3, referencing page 63, line 19, change “authenticated site” to “allowed site”.

On page 4, referencing “Definitions” section on page 139, change “development rights from it” to “development rights from conserved acreage”.

On page 5, referencing page 51, remove “and wondering how to keep it affordable”.

On page 5, change “Peter Shupe” to “Brain Shupe”.

On page 6, change “in consultation with the Town attorney, to approve agreements, specify objections” to “in consultation with the Town attorney, to approve agreements, specify objectives”.

On page 8, change “Spin Richardson asked Spin asked” to “Spin Richardson asked”.

On page 9, add line “Minutes respectfully submitted by Kimberly Johnson”.

The January 17 minutes have not yet been distributed, so this item was tabled.

Public Discussion

Clark Hinsdale, III, asked to have the selectboard work plan minutes be updated – Clark said there’s a listing for a recreational fee he’s supposed to pay on a lot he never owned.

Bill Powers said his appraisal went from \$66,000 in 1998 to today’s value of \$175,500 for his camp lot on the lake. His next door neighbor (Leif Carlson) has an identical lot and his new figure is \$153,000. Why is there such a big difference? He would like to have the appraiser take another look (Lot 149).

Clark Hinsdale Jr.: Hearing for an application for a Highway Access Permit (HAP-05-01) on Mt. Philo Road

Motion made by Ellie Russell, seconded by Francis Thornton:

“To open the hearing for Clark Hinsdale’s proposed access on Mt. Philo Road”.

Vote: all in favor.

Clark said this is an access that was part of a subdivision 20 years ago. It would be taking a curb cut in a right of way that has only been used for access for maintaining the septic system. The road was put in when the septic system was built, at least 25 years ago. The proposal is to use it for curb cut access to service a family house.

Ellie suggested a site visit to see the property. Clark said 20 years ago, when they were not proposing to build a house, the Planning Commission told them to go through a review process with an engineer to evaluate a curb cut. Now they would like to use the curb cut. Clark would like to work on the curb cut and septic before he goes before the PC for a final hearing.

Junior Lewis went to look at the proposed curb cut. He feels both sides of the road have a dip. The way that the land lays, it dips to the west. The sight distance, especially this time of year with snow, isn’t easy. Charlie suggested having a site visit with everyone involved. Clark asked if curb cuts are a technical or a political process. Charlie said technical – the select board’s concern is sight distance.

Charlie said this is the first time someone has come in with something that is different than what the PC is recommending. Ellie said if the PC accepts this new sketch, than the selectboard is fine with it. The selectboard has to decide on the application in front of them.

Charlie suggested doing a site visit on February 14th at 5:00, then continue the hearing at the selectboard meeting. This hearing will be adjourned until that time.

Motion made by Ellie Russell, seconded by Francis Thornton:
 “To adjourn the hearing until February 14th at 7:30.”.
Vote: all in favor.

Approval of salary study and adjustments

Ellie went through a review of the salaries in the town and came up with some recommendations.

Motion made by Ellie Russell, seconded by Francis Thornton:
 “To go into executive session to discuss the salary study.”.
Vote: all in favor.

Motion made by Ellie Russell, seconded by Francis Thornton:
 “To come out of executive session.”.
Vote: all in favor.

Motion made by Francis Thornton, seconded by Jennie Cole:
 “To accept the payroll schedule for the town employees and elected officials that Ellie Russell has prepared, effective immediately.”.
Vote: all in favor.

Approval of budget for Town Meeting

CVFRS. Josie Leavitt, Ray Curtis and Chris Davis came to discuss the CVFRS budget. Even though there is an increase of \$8,000 over last years budget, Ray didn't feel that would be enough. There is an increase in payroll, insurance, number of volunteers, etc. Ray feels the budget should increase approximately \$28,000.

Discussion centered on the differences between the December 13, January 2, and 2004/2005 budgets. Ray said the new spreadsheet is not backing out the member incentives. There are only 2 changes – the dispatching, and the EMT payroll. Workman's comp will increase since the payroll has increased.

Josie said Rescue is not pushing for an administrative assistant. They just hired their 2nd EMT, so they're letting the Fire side push for that. Chris said Shelburne has 1 or 2 individuals who do that at their fire department. Josie said if they don't have a candidate for administrative assistant by June 1, then they will use that money for EMT payroll.

Charlie said the proceeds from the sale of the old ambulance will go back into the Capital Reserve Fund. Chris said since the funds to purchase a new one come out of there, it should be simple. Josie is going to look into ambulance rigs and see what sort of ambulance makes sense for the town. Currently the article says it is up to \$140,000. Ellie suggested amending the article at town meeting if it's necessary.

Chris wanted the select board to know that if there's any land that becomes available in the east village, it would be a great place for a substation. Ellie asked if it should be built into the capital budget. Ed said it's a capital budget item and can be built in whenever the town wanted to start. Josie said she felt the more likely solution is something on Spear Street that would serve Charlotte, Shelburne and Hinesburg. Francis suggested reminding the selectboard every year.

Ray said the new sign is over there; as soon as the weather breaks they will put it up.

Roads. Junior Lewis said there's more money in there than he asked for, so it's fine. There are plans for redoing the dirt roads – Junior said there are 29 roads that haven't been touched. Ed said we pave the paved roads to keep them up to snuff, but we need to pay attention to the dirt roads too. Junior said the cost per mile is almost \$52,000 (this year). He feels the first priority is Prindle Road; it's 2.55 miles. Roscoe Road, 1.65 miles; Lewis Creek, 1.6 miles; Monkton Road, .6 miles; Bingham Brook Road, 1.15 miles; Dean Road, 1.4 miles; Guinea Road, .75 miles; Cedar Beach, 1.01 miles; Converse Bay, 1.5 miles; Carpenter, 1.75 miles; Orchard Road, 1.63 miles. These are thru roads that don't dead end.

Ed asked about the remaining shale left in the town. Junior said there's not a lot of gravel left on the dirt roads. Junior said when they build up a road they scrape off the gravel that is there. They will put the shale down, then take that scraped gravel and put it over the shale, then top it with fresh gravel. The roads weren't built to carry the weight they have now. If we do 2 miles per year, that's \$110,000 at this years rate. If it's a mild winter, you can do more. They have been building some of the roads up with money that's left after the winter, but it depends on the winter. Junior feels they should be building up either Carpenter Road or Prindle Road. There hasn't been a lot of snow, but the little storms make the roads slick.

Ed felt that last year's town meeting was a clear mandate to take care of the dirt roads. Charlie said the paving contract came in \$44,000 under what was budgeted – there's some money.

Dean said he went to a seminar last week and they were talking about laying conduit for future projects; Dean was wondering if it made any sense. It would be done to attract telecommunications companies – making it easier for DSL to come in, for example. Junior said it wouldn't be cheap.

Ed said they will be adding \$65,000 more than was requested to Junior's budget. If there's more money after the winter, it can be added to the pot to build up the dirt roads. Charlie said he spoke to the lawyers; unspent money that was to be spent on roads has to be carried over to the next year. It must be spent on items that the voters agreed upon. Junior said he has lost money in the past this way; Charlie said the law requires the money to be carried over now.

Selectboard Budget Review. Charlie said the tax rate is 22 cents, up from 19.8 cents. Charlie said the increase right now is over 10%. Ed said the town is doing a lot more; they've increased the legal budget in anticipation of VELCO, for example. The increase is for things that need to be done. Dean suggested going through the budget and earmarking expense items that could be decreased.

Discussion centered on the copiers at town hall: whether to renew the leases or buy the copiers and purchase a service contract, etc. Ed suggested continuing the month-to-month lease; Charlie said Mary wants to continue leasing the equipment. That way, the service contract pays for everything that needs to be repaired.

The following changes were made during the meeting:

- Library maintenance is reduced to \$7,000 from \$12,000.
- Town hall's equipment line item (the copier) is reduced to \$1,000 from \$7,000.
- Landfill monitor went to \$3500 from \$5000.
- Add in \$5175 to the operating costs of CVFRS.
- Village Planning (under Planning & Zoning) gets reduced to \$2000 from \$10,000.
- Charlie suggested putting \$2,000 in the budget for sidewalk planning.
- Selectboard legal expenses get reduced to \$45,000 from \$75,000.
- Selectboard unanticipated expenses gets reduced to \$15,000 from \$25,000.
- Charlotte Land Trust is reduced to \$5,000 from \$10,000.

The total reduction is \$61,400.

Ed asked about the revenue on delinquent taxes – there's about \$12,000 that has come in; it was budgeted as income of \$30,000. Last year, it came in at \$26,700.

Charlie asked about donations – do we want to level fund them. Yes.

The budget will be finalized and voted on Wednesday, after the hearing.

Approval of articles for Town Meeting

Charlie said the articles were sent to the lawyer; he said they were fine but added language to Article 11 stating where copies of the amended bylaws were available).

Article 9 lists the exact money left in the Thorp Barn Matching Fund; the wording was changed to “all moneys in the Thorp Barn Matching Fund”.

Dean pointed out that the \$10,000 listed in Article 7 is not included in the calculation for the tax rate. Charlie said the money from the state for the land use for the listers is not shown anywhere, either.

Approve Certificate of Town Highway Miles

Motion made by Ed Stone, seconded by Ellie Russell:

“To approve the 2005 Certificate of Highway Mileage.”.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 abstain (Francis Thornton).

Approve letter supporting Byways Program grant application

Motion made by Ed Stone, seconded by Ellie Russell:

“To approve the grant application for the town of Charlotte to the National scenic Byways Program for Lake Champlain Byway Chittenden County Corridor Interpretive Materials submitted by the CCRPC.”.

Vote: all in favor.

Selectboard Update

- None.

Bills and warrants

Signed as appropriate.

Adjournment

Next selectboard meeting: Wednesday, January 26th at 7:00 PM.

Motion made by Francis Thornton, seconded by Ed Stone:

“To adjourn the selectboard meeting”.

Vote: all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jocelyn Bolick.