

Charlotte Selectboard
January 11, 2010 Meeting

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

Administration Present: Dean Bloch

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Charles Russell.
- **Public Comment:** Nancy Wood made a request for a stop sign at Ferry Road & Converse Bay Road – the Board has talked to Junior before about this and he deemed it unnecessary. The Board will follow up.
- Minutes from December 14, 2009 approved with edits: motion made by Jenny Cole, seconded by Winslow Ladue, approved unanimously at 7:09pm. Minutes from December 21, 2009 approved with edits: motion made by Ed Stone, seconded by Jenny Cole, approved at 7:11pm (Winslow Ladue abstained).
- **Eustis Cable Enterprises, Ltd. – Petition on behalf of Comcast Cable for the use of a public right-of-way (North Shore Road) for the underground installation of 790 feet of coaxial cable.**
 - Installed cables in right of way without permission – the Board needs to consider approval for work that has already been done.
 - If the cable is damaged by the town, Comcast will repair the line without cost to the town – they will fix the road to its previous condition within five days.
 - Motion to table the issue by Ed Stone, Jenny Cole seconded, passed unanimously at 7:19pm.
- Motion made to convene as liquor control board at 7:19pm. **Old Brick Store – renewal of 2nd class liquor license:** Ed Stone moved to renew, Winslow Ladue seconded, passed unanimously at 7:19pm.
- Reconvened as Select Board at 7:20pm.
- **Flood Hazard Map – addition of areas associated with the LaPlatte River and Mud Hollow Brook to the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map as an approximate Zone A**
 - At the last meeting, the accuracy of the map presented by Rob Evans was questioned – particularly regarding the crossing near the road. 8 ft. was considered adequate but Allan Jordan has measurements from his engineer that would dispute that number. They are waiting for this dispute to be resolved between Rob Evans and Allan Jordan’s engineer.
 - Allan Jordan would like the Select Board to accept the flood plain delineation as shown on the map he presented at the meeting.
 - Jenny Cole would like to know what Rob Evan’s opinion of the engineer’s map is, since he is not there to review it himself.
 - The question remains as to whether the Board has enough information to go to FEMA with the updated map.

- Charles Russell thinks that it might be better to keep the map as a local map, and not submit it to FEMA to be used as a federal map.
- The deadline to submit the map is January 27, 2010. Motion to table the issue was made and approved unanimously at 7:50pm.
- **Fire & Rescue Budget Review**
 - Charles Russell expressed concern that the revenue numbers are not nailed down and wondered if the audit has been done. Fire & Rescue stated that there is a draft but they are not prepared to talk about it tonight.
 - The goal of seeing the revenue numbers on the budget is to have better info when determining the budget. The Select Board wants to be fair when it comes to zeroing out budget items across departments. Fire & Rescue receives revenue from the following sources:
 - Special funds for the fire department & rescue squad – not large accounts
 - Verizon – guaranteed \$24k/yr. for the next 5 years at least because of an existing contract with them
 - Barrows trust
- **Review of Town Budget**
 - Fire & Rescue possible change to budget? As per discussion, not changing.
 - Intramurals/recreation – James Woods Rec – the budget that was sent does not include soccer. Jenny Cole wondered about the correlation between the school & intramural budgets.
 - Equalize traffic enforcement & court fines.
 - Trails budget: If voted down, the budget will only be \$1,000; the trails committee needs \$5,000 for the grant application they have been putting together. The grant can award up to \$20k to the town for recreation & trails with \$5k matching. With this money, the trails committee would begin working on the co-housing trail (Rte. 7 to Greenbush Rd – approx. 1 mile). This could be done over 2-3 years.
 - The deadline for the application is Friday 1/15 at 4:30pm – the commitment for the matching funds needs to be made now.
 - Motion to allow the chair of the Board to sign the grant was made and passed.
 - The Donations Committee met and made recommendations to donate to the American Red Cross (they have received no letter from them yet), Visiting Nurses Association and other social service agencies that help Charlotte residents. It was determined for the Association for the Blind of Vermont did not benefit as many Charlotters as other associations may. It was determined that the American Red Cross would be zeroed out since they haven't sent a letter, and the VNA will be given the \$8k they've asked for.
 - Cemetery budget needs to remain at \$17,500 – there is work that needs to be done in addition to maintenance (mowing, trimming).
- **Annual Town Meeting Articles**
 - [See Annual Town Meeting notes]

- Change to Article 7: “Will the Town vote to create a reserve fund (‘Charlotte Trails Development Fund’) for the purpose of providing funds for the development of trails for recreational use?”
- Change to Article 9: “Advisory motion only: Will the Town investigate the locating of a staffed Chittenden Solid Waste District drop-off facility within Charlotte to receive trash, recyclables and re-usables directly from households (commercial waste haulers will be prohibited)?”
- **Town Web Site**
 - The town Web site is currently hosted by GovOffice, which provides a service for towns of various sizes. The town currently pays \$504/year for hosting, maintenance and customer support.
 - The site needs to be updated: reorganize navigation, enhance usability, simplify homepage, dropdowns/rollover navigation, different search box area. The town would continue with GovOffice, but would utilize a new and improved template that would allow functionality that the old template does not allow for.
 - There are options that GovOffice provides that the town needs to better utilize to enhance user experience.
- Motion to approve draft Town audit made by Ed Stone at 10:03pm, Jenny Cole seconded, motion was approved 4-0 (Fred Thornton abstained).
- **Keenan Final Plan Decision:** Ed Stone motioned to instruct the Town Attorney to enter an appearance; Jenny Cole seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
- The Select Board entered executive session at 10:05pm to discuss a real estate negotiation.
- The Selectboard came out of executive session at 10:30 pm. No action was taken.
- The Selectboard adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by Meaghan Nooney