

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
SELECTBOARD MEETINGS
MARCH 23, 2009**

APPROVED

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

OTHERS: Ellie Russell, Dale Knowles, Vanessa Crowley, Robert Mack Jr, Hugh Lewis Jr, Bill Fraser-Harris, Justin Bora, Dave Trombley, Eric Lemery, Stephen Brooks, Mark Brooks, Tim Mullen, Richard LaBoeuf, Jay Strausser, Shirley Bruce, Ruth Hill, Suzy Hodgson.

(Note: The warned agenda was heard out of order, but appears in the published order for continuity.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Russell called the Selectboard meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. ADJUSTMENT TO AGENDA

Add: Approve Arbor Day Declaration

MOTION by Ms. Cole, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to designate May 1, 2009 as Charlotte Arbor Day as presented.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Robert Mack Jr reviewed Vermont and federal grant applications submitted to purchase an SSD Manure Management System and Green Star project systems. The state-of-the art systems would reduce the use of large liquid manure trucks on town roads and would cut a large percent of run off. Total cost of the systems was \$300,000 without tractors. Mr. Mack asked for Town funding of up to \$25,000. Funding would be sought from Ferrisburgh, the Lintilac Foundation and Shelburne Farms.

4. REVIEW BIDS FOR TOWN LAND MAINTENANCE AND BRUSH-HOGGING

The Selectboard reviewed Town Land Maintenance and Brush-hogging bids for 2009.

Mr. Fraser-Harris suggested stipulating start and end dates for the contracts and five payment periods.

Following a discussion the Board awarded the bids:

- Town Beach/Lake Field, etc. Town Green, Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge and Berry Farm Ballfield to Dale Knowles for a total of \$22,005.
- Melissa & Trevor-Mack Trail Shoulders, Co-housing Trail, Trails at Plouffe Lane Landfill to Prestons for a total of \$1,990.
- Brush-hogging Barber Hill, Landfill Greenbush, Landfill-Plouffe Lane to Prestons for a total of \$660.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to award the Town Land Maintenance and Brush-hogging contracts for 2009 as follows:

- **Town Beach/Lake Field, etc. Town Green, Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge and Berry Farm Ballfield to Dale Knowles for a total of \$22,005.**
- **Melissa & Trevor-Mack Trail Shoulders, Co-housing Trail, Trails at Plouffe Lane Landfill to Dick and Ward Preston for a total of 1,990.**
- **Brush-hogging Barber Hill, Landfill Greenbush, Landfill-Plouffe Lane to Dick and Ward Preston for a total of \$660.**

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

5. MONKTON ROAD – Discussion About Reconstruction and Potential Impact on the Scenic Character of the Road

Hugh Lewis Jr, Charlotte Road Commissioner, explained a proposal to reconstruct Monkton Road without impacting the Scenic Road designation. The road would not be

widened. A 6" elevation was planned for one area. The road would remain at 18' wide behind Marty Illick's property as requested.

Mr. Russell read a memo, dated 03/23/2009, from Marty Illick and a Scenic Roads specification standard. Mr. Lewis explained that a gravel top dressing would be put on the shale base. If one-half of Monkton Road was done that would translate into one-quarter mile of roadway. If there were any left over highway funds this spring then the other two scenic roads would be reconstructed.

Mr. Ladue noted that a state geologist would come to map Charlotte geology. The state was also interested in mapping seasonal water spring locations. Mr. Ladue asked Mr. Lewis if he would mark known springs on a town map, such as springs located off Hinesburg Road, Ferry Road or Converse Bay Road.

The Board thanked Mr. Lewis for his report.

6. GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER – Petition to Install and/or Replace 27 Utility Poles within the Highway Limits of Lake Road and Hill's Point Road

Erick Lemery, Green Mountain Power representative (GMP), and Dave Trombley, Champlain Valley/Waitsfield Telecom representative, explained a proposal to place fiber optic wires on existing GMP poles. Mr. Lemery submitted a site map and noted poles that would be replaced.

Mr. Russell asked why fiber optics would be place above ground versus buried. Mr. Trombley replied that there were existing poles to locate on. Placing the fiber optics on the poles would save costs, be easier for access and maintenance. The fiber optics would go to homes versus point-to-point between nodes. Mr. Lemery reiterated that poles would be replaced.

Mr. Stone stated that burying the lines was seen as a better deal for the Town versus overhead, and asked for a cost comparison of overhead installation versus burying the lines. Mr. Trombley replied that Hill's Point was a distance issue. A long distance compromised copper wire, but fiber optics would not be compromised. DSL operates over a copper line, said Mr. Trombley.

Ms. Cole pointed out that the power lines to homes on Hill's Point Road homes were underground.

Mr. Lemery reported that there has been discussion with homeowners. Most residents did not respond to notices that were sent out. Four of the homeowners are out of the right-of-way. To bury the line would require that someone offset the cost. A big piece is excavation costs. Comcast already co-exists on the poles. A question was would they bury their line also. Most of the Hill's Point Road poles are from the 1950s and need to be replaced. The poles on Lake Road need to be replaced and wire re-installed.

Mr. Stone said that the Charlotte Town Plan calls for lines to be buried, and asked for a cost comparison presentation at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Ladue asked if the company would charge a higher rate to customers on a monthly basis if the fiber optics were buried underground versus an up-front cost.

Stephen Brooks, resident, said that the Town Plan says any change, or new line "will" go underground versus "favor". Ms. Cole noted that teh plan also discussed co-locating utilities.

Mr. Lemery said that currently we just need to trim some trees and install overhead lines. If the lines were buried then all the cedar trees would need to come out.

7. VLCT LEADER PROGRAM

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to appoint Gloria Warden as Wellness Leader Coordinator for the VLCT Leader program.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

8. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH LANDWORKS AS A CONTRACTOR TO ASSIST THE PLANNING COMMISSION WITH OBTAINING PUBLIC FEEDBACK FOR EAST CHARLOTTE VILLAGE PLAN

Ellie Russell, Charlotte Planning Commission member, reviewed a selection process for a contractor to assist the Planning Commission regarding the East Charlotte Village Plan.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to award a contract to Landworks as a contractor to work with the Planning Commission with obtaining public feedback for the East Charlotte Village Plan, and to authorize the Charlotte Selectboard Chair to sign the terms and conditions of the contract on behalf of the Town of Charlotte.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

9. SOLID WASTE ISSUES

Stephen Brooks, Charlotte Chittenden Solid Waste District representative, and Mark Brooks Shelburne Chittenden Solid Waste District representative, briefly reviewed a plan to re-locate a tri-town drop-off center from the current location in Hinesburg to a new site in Charlotte. A potential site was identified on the Tree Works property off Hinesburg Road.

Mr. Russell pointed out that as per the new Zoning Regulations the only permitted area was the Commercial/Light Industrial district by the railroad tracks in the West Charlotte Village. The Hinesburg Road site was not a permit-able area, stated Mr. Russell.

Stephen Brooks pointed out that the Legislative Charter imbues CSWD with eminent domain rights.

Mark Brooks submitted a site map and pointed out the Hinesburg site and noted that the Tree Works lot was an elevated area and screened from the roadway. It was a central area for Hinesburg, Charlotte and Shelburne residents to travel to, said Mark Brooks.

Mr. Thornton pointed out that Hinesburg Road was heavily traveled with speeding issues. Mr. Stone explained dangerous sight views and dips in the road.

In response to further Board questions, Mark Brooks said that the proposed center would be open five days a week with manned gates when open. No commercial haulers were allowed at drop-off centers. An alternate site was the former Valley Garage on the north side of Hinesburg Road. Mr. Russell suggested that the J & A Auto site on the north side of Hinesburg Road might be better suited.

The Board would consider the question of a CSWD drop-off center at the next Selectboard meeting.

10. UPDATE ON THE BURNS PROPERTY

Mr. Russell passed out a draft Process for the Burns property – 2009 handout for Board review and discussion.

Ms. Cole read the written draft.

There was a suggestion to add: #3, Water discussion – resolve current well use, or drill a well under Land to Habitat for Humanity by end of January, 2010.

11. REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATION – EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to recess the regular meeting and enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Real Estate Negotiation Matters, and to invite Tim Mullen, Richard LaBoeuf, Jay Strasser, and Shirley Bruce to attend.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The Board recessed the regular meeting and entered Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

The Board adjourned Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting at 9:36 p.m.

12. ENERGY ISSUES

DISCUSS CREATION OF ENERGY COMMITTEE

Suzy Hodgson, Energy Committee representative, handed out Informational Sheet copies for Board review, and asked for Board support for Energy Committee appointments. Mr. Stone spoke in support of the proposed committee and asked Ms. Hodgson to forward names of potential committee members.

Ms. Hodgson explained that there were many projects, which needed to be prioritized. There is an alternate transportation initiative "Way to Go" proclamation for the Board to sign, said Ms. Hodgson.

MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Ms. Cole, to support and authorize the Charlotte Selectboard Chair to sign a Proclamation "Way to Go" Community Challenge on behalf of the Town of Charlotte.

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

The Selectboard Chair signed a Way to Go proclamation document.

It was the consensus of the Selectboard to support creation of an Energy Committee, and to support a Vermont Community Climate Change grant application in principle. Ms. Hodgson would provide a draft for Board review at the next Board meeting, Monday, March 30, 2009.

13. MINUTES OF February 9, 2009; Town Meeting minutes

Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

14. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND WARRANTS

The Selectboard signed bills and warrants as presented.

15. ADJOURNMENT and EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Ms. Cole, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to adjourn the meeting and to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Zoning Violation Matters.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned and the Board entered Executive Session at 10:28 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.