

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE  
SELECTBOARD MEETINGS  
FEBRUARY 13, 2006**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eleanor Russell, Chairperson; Jenny Cole, Charles Russell, Ed Stone, Frank Thornton.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Dean Bloch, Selectboard Assistant.

**OTHERS:** Marty Illick, Linda Hamilton, Dorothy Pellett, Norm Pellett, Scott Orr, Patricia Coleman, Robbi Stanley, Jim Dickerson, Bill Kendel, and others.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the School Board members.

**2. ADJUSTMENT TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

None.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5. CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION AND CHARLOTTE CENTRAL SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION**

The Selectboard meeting was convened at 7:10 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

**6. TOWN BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Ms. Russell explained that the Selectboard had determined that it was unlawful to contribute to some groups that Charlotte had contributed to in the past. The Lewis Creek line item was removed from the budget. Clarification from the Secretary of State and the Town Attorney (Steve Stitzel) indicated that the Selectboard interpretation was a misunderstanding. The Lewis Creek request was for \$600 and \$500 was budgeted. To reinstate the line item it could go before the Town as a budget adjustment, or come to the Selectboard later for a budget adjustment, explained Ms. Russell. Ms. Illick said it would be good to do a budget adjustment after Town Meeting.

Ms. Russell said staff would inform the Sports Alliance that Town funding was available. Funding could come from the Selectboard discretionary fund.

Ms. Illick asked if the \$600 Lewis Creek allocation was a problem. Ms. Hamilton clarified that it was better to use Town Meeting time for more significant items. If needed, Town input could be brought up from the floor. Mr. Russell suggested saying the Town was adding the funding back in due to some misunderstanding. A question is how best to add it back in. We can bring up as a Selectboard request to amend the budget at the Town Meeting.

Ms. Russell reviewed seven factors driving the Town budget that increased the budget by 19.6 percent as follows:

- A gravel road issue brought up two years ago resulted in a 5-year Gravel Road Plan. Some road work has been done.
- The Rescue Department requires 24-hour coverage and EMT volunteers were needed.
- A Fire/Rescue half-time assistant - \$5,000 was added to an initial \$7,000 budget line item.
- Staffing needs for the Selectboard and Planning Office would sift 10 hours per week from the Planning Office to the Zoning Administrator to assume some of the Planning duties.
- Benefits increase for health insurance is 9 percent this year.
- Membership incentive was increased \$7,500 for Fire and Rescue for increased volunteer hours.
- Program expense for Senior Center and Recreation programs are offset by program revenue. It is a "pass through" line item.

Ms. Illick asked what the Town anticipates doing for gravel once the Titus gravel pit was used up after the five year lease ends. Mr. Stone reviewed a brief history of gravel/dirt road upgrades, which have not really been done. The Town has a ten-year plan. The five-year plan covers upgrades to connector roads, and secondary roads (dead-end roads) would be done later. After closure of the Titus shale pit the cost will be about the same to shift to a gravel pit elsewhere. The Town anticipates a 4-6 percent increase per year. After the roads are all done they should last for some time.

Ms. Illick asked if MPO money could be used to help the local road situation. There are earmarks. Mr. Stone said the earmarks are coming.

Mr. Pellett asked if the shale pit material was running out. Ms. Russell said it was anticipated that the Highway Department would use it up in five years because the lease runs out in five years.

There were no further questions,

## **7. PROPERTY NEGOTIATION**

**MOTION by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to convene the meeting and enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Property Negotiations, and to invite the Selectboard Assistant to attend.**

**VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

The Selectboard convened the meeting and entered Executive Session at 9:50 p.m.

**MOTION by , seconded by , to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the meeting. VOTE: .**

The Selectboard adjourned Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at p.m.

**8. BILL AND WARRANTS**

The Selectboard signed Bills and Warrants as presented.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by , seconded by , to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** .

The meeting was adjourned at 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.*