

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
TOWN HALL  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**

**APPROVED**

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS:** Lane Morrison, Chair; Carrie Spear, Jacob Spell, Mathew Krasnow, and Fritz Tegatz

**OTHERS:** Dean Bloch, John Hammer, Susan Ohanian, Sylvia Knight, Bob Wright, Claudia Mucklow, Lydia Clemmons and others.

**ITEMS TAKEN UP:**

- 11:00 a.m. Performance evaluation of the Town Clerk/ Treasurer. *Discussion only ( Executive Session)*
- 12:00 p.m. Comments to Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding the 2015 Draft Vermont State Rail Plan. *Action under consideration: approve*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Morrison, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

None.

**SELECTBOARD UPDATES:**

Mr. Morrison reminded the Board that warrants must be signed on a weekly basis. Most Board members have a key, which allows them to come in during off-hours to sign documents. The new members, Mrs. Spear and Mr. Spell, have not yet received keys. Mrs. Spear said that she would like a key. Mr. Spell said that he can make it to the office during regular hours to sign warrants and does not need a key.

**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE TOWN CLERK/ TREASURER**

Mr. Morrison explained that as an elected official, Mrs. Mead is not required to have a performance evaluation. Though it is not mandatory, Mrs. Mead requested a performance evaluation meeting with the Board. Mr. Morrison explained that the Selectboard would take public comment before entering into executive session to discuss Mrs. Mead's self-appraisal.

Mr. Hammer voiced his satisfaction with Mrs. Mead's long run of great clerkship. Mrs. Mucklow expressed similar sentiments.

**MOTION by Ms. Spear, seconded by Mr. Tegatz, to go into executive session to conduct the performance review of the Town Clerk/ Treasurer, Mary Mead.**

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

**MOTION by Mr. Tegatz, seconded by Mr. Morrison, to come out of executive session.**

**VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried**

**No action was taken.**

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE COMMENTS TO THE VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION IN REGARDS TO THE 2015 DRAFT VERMONT RAIL PLAN.**

Mr. Morrison explained that a few different approaches had been discussed in terms of what document(s) to send out to the Agency of Transportation. With the input of several people, the original 14 page document had been reviewed and condensed to 10 pages. Mr. Morrison noted that there had also been discussion regarding a two or three page cover letter, which could be sent in addition to the ten page document. The purpose of this meeting is to determine which document(s) to send. Mr. Morrison stated that it would be his preference to send the condensed 10 page version.

Mr. Spell handed out copies of the proposed cover letter to the Selectboard members and the audience. Mr. Spell explained that the purpose of the cover letter was to highlight the major concerns of the Town, in a way which would separate the Town's concern/opinions from the citizen's group.

Mrs. Clemmons stated that the cover letter did not fully represent the citizen's group position, and with such limited time to review the letter, she could not support distributing it.

Mr. Krasnow stated that he felt like the ten page document reflected the concerns of the Charlotte Citizens, which were expressed at the opening meetings.

**MOTION by Mr. Krasnow, seconded by Mrs. Spear, to submit the ten page document as the official endorsed comments to the Vermont Agency of Transportation cornering the 2015 Vermont Railway Plan.**

***Discussion:***

Mr. Tegatz stated that he agreed to endorse the safety concerns, but he did not agree to support the group's solutions. Mr. Tegatz stated that he would have to perform research to understand the possible consequences of the solutions that the citizen group is recommending before he could endorse them.

Mr. Krasnow explained that he felt the recommendations proposed by the community group were fair and that he supports their full request. The State may or may not take into consideration the recommendations. Mr. Krasnow noted that this could be the only time to comment on the rail plan and he feels a strong approach is necessary.

Mr. Spell stated that he does not feel comfortable signing off on all of the language in the ten page document and feels the town should have a separate response.

Mr. Morrison explained that it is his understanding that by endorsing this ten page document, the town is acknowledging that its citizens have concerns regarding the proposed Railway Plan, and the town supports the citizens in its submission of these comments to the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Krasnow suggested taking the first paragraph of the ten page document to use as a separate cover letter. The paragraph explains who generated the comments and that the Selectboard endorses/ supports the substance of the comments.

**MOTION AMENDMENT: Motion to use the first paragraph of the ten page document to be signed by the Selectboard as a cover letter, with the remainder of the 10 page document as an attachment.**

***Discussion:***

There is discussion about which document(s) should use the town letterhead. Mr. Tegatz would like to differentiate between the town's cover letter and the remainder of the 10 page document.

Mr. Krasnow suggested printing the cover letter on town letterhead, which will refer to the rest of the document as "Attachment One". The header on the top of the document could be changed to reflect this title.

Mrs. Clemmons stated that she would support this recommendation.

**VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 Opposed. Motion Carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Mr. Tegatz, seconded by Mr. Morrison, to adjourn the meeting.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Britney Tenney.