

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
TOWN HALL  
FEBRUARY 24, 2020**

**APPROVED**

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS:** Chair Matthew Krasnow (via speaker phone), Vice Chair Frank Tenney, Louise McCarren, Carrie Spear, Fritz Tegatz

**ADMINISTRATION:** Dean Bloch, Town Administrator

**OTHERS:** Mary Mead, Juliann Phelps, Wiley Reading

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

6:00 PM Adjustments to the agenda

6:01 PM Consider amendments to the MOU with CVSD for Election Day security

6:20 PM Discuss drafting a comprehensive MOU with CVSD

6:45 PM Adjournment

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Matthew Krasnow called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Adjustments to the agenda**

None

**Consider amendments to the MOU with CVSD for Election Day security & Discuss drafting a comprehensive MOU with CVSD**

Mary Mead suggested starting at the top. She said the language was passive and suggested that there be direct language. The building and the land were given to the school in 1966, Mary said. The Town has used the building as a polling place for as long as can be remembered. Fritz Tegatz said the deal with the school district was not a real estate deal and not using this as the Town's polling place was not even discussed when consolidation was being considered. The district knew full well of the annual activities that took place at the school before the consolidation, Fritz said. Louise McCarren suggested taking a look at this for just Town Meeting Day and addressing all other activities at a later time.

Mary explained the discussion she had with the district. The district is concerned with 1,100 people coming and going on Town Meeting Day while school is in session, none of whom have had background checks. Matt Krasnow said the district suspending school policy for the day is a big deal. Mary said the number is not 1,100 people. Louise said there needs to be a short term and a long-term solution. Maybe moving Town Meeting Day to a Saturday is the solution. Every other school is closed on Town Meeting Day, Mary said. Carrie Spear said the Saturday option is a favorable one. Mary suggested supporting district security requests up to \$1,500 for this March and making a long term

solution after that. Mary said the major and minor elections with numbers is misleading and numbers shouldn't be mentioned in the document.

Fritz said the district needs to be responsible, not the Town. They need to hire who they need to hire and we shouldn't weigh in on that, he said. Mary said Charlotte is the only Town who votes in a school. Carrie said it should have been grandfathered in with the school consolidation. Fritz said these costs the district wants to charge the Town was not part of the deal when consolidation was being negotiated.

Matt mentioned the termination clause. He said the Selectboard could sign the MOU for this vote and then terminate it to later negotiate a long term solution. Fritz said the district wrote a letter and now the burden is on the Selectboard. Their perceived security concerns shouldn't be the Selectboard's concern, he said. Security at the school is not the Selectboard's job. Louise said the Selectboard should reply with the decision that Josh will be there to secure the event and any further security is their burden, not the Town's.

Matt expressed concerns about not having a drafted MOU in place for Town Meeting. Frank Tenney said there needs to be more discussion with the district. It was suggested that Dean alert CVSD representatives of this decision. Fritz said the district might be surprised that there is an objection to their request. Louise said this needs to be communicated to the district as soon as possible to further open communication. Fritz said that it is the school district's responsibility to keep students safe on voting day just like every other day.

Matt reiterated that he doesn't agree with going into Town Meeting without any MOU in place. Louise said to draw up an informal agreement for Town Meeting. Matt said to send an olive branch of \$1,300 for this one meeting. Fritz disagreed and said the olive branch is that the Selectboard agrees to pursue negotiations. Fritz said at this point it is prudent to let the district know that the Selectboard does not agree with this MOU but are willing to work something out. Frank said the security for activities needs to be discussed with the district. Fritz agreed and said all of the players need to be in the room for the negotiations.

**MOTION by Louise McCarren, seconded by Fritz Tegatz, to decline to sign the MOU with CVSD for Election Day security but would like to work cooperatively with the school district to come to an agreement about the use of the facilities.  
VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 Nay (Matt Krasnow); motion carried.**

### **Selectboard Updates**

- Carrie asked to have an item added to a March meeting to discuss the recreation agreement with the commission.
- The library addition will open on Thursday, Fritz said.
- Carrie asked for a list of town lands.
- Carrie asked about the capital spreadsheet and said the Selectboard should be looking at it every couple of months.

- There was a request to be updated on the Mount Philo Access application in a future meeting.
- Carrie said she spoke to the Road Commissioner and that the salt shed will be needed in the next few years but that a new town garage could be put on a ten-year plan. Frank said right now the Town has no equipment and every other town around Charlotte does. Eventually the Town needs to have its own equipment, he said.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION by Fritz Tegatz, seconded by Louise McCarren, to adjourn at 6:49 pm.  
VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.**

Minutes respectfully submitted, Lynn Monty, Recording Secretary.