

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN
SELECTBOARD MEETING
MARCH 4, 2009**

Selectboard Present: Brenda Ferland, Jon LeClair, Steven Neill

Staff Present: David Edkins – Administrative Assistant
Keith Weed – Highway Superintendent
David Duquette – Water and Wastewater Superintendent
Edward Smith – Police Chief
Regina Borden – Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Brenda Ferland called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. She advised that the meeting is tape recorded and asked anyone wishing to speak to identify themselves for the record.

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT: Brenda Ferland, on behalf of the Selectboard, announced that this year's Town Report was dedicated to Jim Aldrich with gratitude for all his work for the Town. She expressed hope that he enjoys his retirement. Mr. Aldrich thanked the Selectboard for the honor. He passed the book around and asked the Selectboard to sign it for him.

Mrs. Ferland called this Public Hearing to order at 7:06 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING – Amendment to Prevention of Nuisances Ordinance:

Brenda Ferland read the amended portion of the Ordinance. "No person shall plow snow or ice across any public roadway to the opposite side snow bank without the express written approval of the Highway Superintendent". The fine will be increased from \$10.00 to \$100.00. Mr. Edkins explained that there is an existing Ordinance but there were still problems with people plowing snow across the road. There also is a Highway Winter Maintenance Policy that contains the same language but that is a policy and not an ordinance so there is no penalty.

Ken Champney stated that he has been plowing snow across the road for years; it is the only way he can plow his driveway when the snow is heavy. He displayed a sketch of his property and the roadway. Steve Neill recommended that he talk to Keith Weed about working out a solution. Keith Weed agreed to meet with Ken Champney tomorrow.

Paul Howard explained that he has no choice but to plow the snow across the road as there is no other place to put it. He always pushes the snow well back off the asphalt. His property is across from White House Auto Body on Willard Street. Keith Weed will meet with him to look at the area.

Phil Shaw agrees in principal with the ordinance but the Town has to meet the residents half-way. He feels the Town will have to figure out a different way to plow snow in some areas. Previously he talked to Steve Neill about using the wing in the rural areas as

snow removal is more efficient but in the village, where the driveways are closer together and smaller, he liked the way the plowing used to be done when Pete Jewell was doing it. He used the one-ton truck. There is not a lot of space for the village residents to put their snow as opposed to the out-lying areas. Some people he talked to will not complain for fear of being loaded up more the next time. Keith Weed will talk to Pete Jewell but the burden to keep the roads open and wide enough is on the town.

Steve Neill recommended that the Selectboard table this matter until the next meeting to see if there is some middle ground for the plowing. There is no urgency at this time of the year. Keith Weed will report back on his meeting with Pete Jewell during the next meeting. Mrs. Ferland closed this Public Hearing at 7:21 pm.

Steve Neill moved to table this proposed Amendment until the next meeting. Jon LeClair seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion was approved.

MINUTES OF MEETING(S):

Steve Neill moved to approve the Minutes of the regular Selectboard meeting of February 18, 2009, as printed. Jon LeClair seconded the motion. With all in favor, the Minutes were approved.

Steve Neill moved to approve the Minutes of the first Non-Public Selectboard meeting of February 18, 2009, as printed. Jon LeClair seconded the motion. With all in favor, the Minutes were approved.

Steve Neill moved to approve the Minutes of the second Non-Public Selectboard meeting of February 18, 2009, as printed. Jon LeClair seconded the motion. With all in favor, the Minutes were approved.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Highway Department: Keith Weed reported the department has been busy cleaning up after the storm last week and the storm last Monday. All their work has been storm related.

Transfer Station: Keith Weed advised that the truck was down again for three days last week but is back in service now. Tomorrow they will take a load up north; they are still doing two trips a week. This week has been slower.

Police Department: Police Chief Ed Smith reported that the deer crossing signs went up on Route 12 near Hemmingway Farms. He met with R & R Communications in connection with the dispatch problems. He wrote a letter to the Governor expressing his displeasure with the move and consolidation of the Claremont/Newport courts and the effect it will have on the Town and his department. A number of vehicle stops have been made in connection with the new signs on Main Street; in another week or two they will start giving out tickets for passing on the right. For the November election they enforced

a one-way traffic pattern around the municipal complex and it worked out well. The Selectboard approved doing this again next Tuesday for the voting.

Water and Wastewater Departments: Dave Duquette reported that the heating system in the Old Springfield Pump Station is fixed. Dave Edkins, Keith Weed and he talked to St. Pierre, Inc. and the engineer on the Gristmill Park on February 16th. They want to start the sewer line on March 23rd but will wait to see how the weather goes. The Water System Emergency Action Plans were checked by Dave Edkins; he asked the Selectboard to sign them. He has been working on the Wastewater Emergency Action plan for almost a month. The inspector went through it; as soon as it is complete the Selectboard will receive their copies.

Steve Neill and Dave Edkins met with Irving Oil today and now have their “888” emergency numbers. They were willing to get the parts and fix the Old Springfield Pump Station but since it was fixed they hope to get reimbursed for the parts. Copies of those bills will be sent to Irving Oil by Dave Duquette.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

SELECTBOARD COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION – Payroll, Purchase Orders, Vouchers, Warrants, Abatements, Etc.: The **Payroll, Vouchers, Warrants and Abatements,** were approved and signed.

Purchase Orders: The following Purchase Orders were approved and signed by the Selectboard: 1) Library – Claremont Glass Works \$3,137.00; 2) Water – Applied Air \$757.56; 3) Water – Gurney Bros. \$902.50; 4) Transfer Station – Osgood Welding \$1,030.23; and 5) Transfer Station – Peabody Electric \$1,908.95.

There was a consensus of the Selectboard to have the Town Attorney send a letter to Caterpillar to see if the Town can get some satisfaction on all the Transfer Station truck repairs and towing bills.

Notice of Intent to Cut: The Selectboard approved and signed the Notice of Intent to Cut for Ted Putnam, Putnam Farms, on the Gowen Crossing Road.

Audit Requirements: The Board signed an acknowledgement that the Town is required to provide a copy of the Annual Audit to FEMA if they receive more than \$500,000 in any one year. This is in connection with the ice storm reimbursement.

APPOINTMENTS, PERMITS, LICENSES, & RESOLUTIONS:

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Contract for Generators: Dave Duquette put together a Request for Proposals for the maintenance of generators. Steve Neill asked Dave Edkins to check with the Ambulance Service to see what the cycle is for their generator maintenance contract.

Elderly Exemption: Jessica Dennis wanted the Selectboard to be aware of the fact that the Department of Revenue Administration requested some wording changes on the Elderly Exemption application form. It is more comprehensive than the previous form. Following a discussion the Selectboard felt that everybody should fill out a new form for the Elderly and Disabled exemptions and then be on a two-or-three year review basis. This will not affect the Veteran's Exemptions as they do not change.

Charlestown Historical Society: A letter was received from the Charlestown Historical Society. They are grateful for the room in the Town Hall for their archives but they would like to have a small museum. If the new Police Station is approved by the voters they would like to be considered for the current space when it becomes available.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT:

House Finance Committee Meeting: Dave Edkins advised that the House Finance Committee will be holding a hearing on the Governor's proposed budget on Thursday, March 12th. Charlestown could lose about \$300,000/year plus they are reducing their contribution to the retirement fund for police officers but expect the towns to make up the difference. Dave Edkins and/or Brenda Ferland will try to attend this meeting.

NH Municipal Association: The meeting scheduled for this past Monday that was cancelled because of the storm has been re-scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th. Dave Edkins plans to attend.

Stimulus Money: It does not look like the Town will get much money for the water/sewer projects due to the large number of pre-applications submitted.

Gristmill Property: St. Pierre, Inc. proposed a change order for the Gristmill project. They talked to National Grid about not having to encase the electric conduit in concrete for the entire length. They have offered a credit for the change. The Selectboard will review it and decide if they want to approve that.

Rotary Club: The Rotary Club has scheduled a "Meet the Candidates" meeting at the Town Hall tomorrow night at 7:30 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission–Steve Neill: There were no meetings since the last report.

CEDA –Jon LeClair: There were no meetings since the last report.

Planning Board –Brenda Ferland: The Planning Board met last night. They discussed the Morway subdivision in North Charlestown. One abutter has an attorney who

submitted a list of information she would like. This was continued; a site visit was tentatively scheduled for April 7th at 5:00 pm. The request from the NH Electric Coop to remove a hazardous tree on the Old Acworth Stage Road, a scenic road, was approved.

Solid Waste Committee –Steve Neill: There were no meetings since the last report.

Heritage Commission –Brenda Ferland: The Heritage Commission met. The Tree Committee was advised that they no longer need to report to the Heritage Committee. The signs in North Charlestown for the Village area are ready to go except one landowner has not yet given permission for the sign.

Highway Advisory Board –Jon LeClair: The next meeting will be on March 17th.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Steve Neill moved to enter into a Non-Public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II to discuss (a) Personnel and (c) Reputations. Jon LeClair seconded the motion and, on a roll call vote with all in favor, the motion was approved. The time was 8:05 PM.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:35 PM.

OTHER BUSINESS:

OLD FORT #4: It appears that Old Fort #4 will not re-open in the spring but they hope to re-open in the fall. Therefore it is possible that the Town will get the cannon back. The Selectboard felt that the other Town-owned items at the Fort should also be returned. The items need to remain insured.

Gristmill Property: In fairness to the other bidders, there was a consensus of the Selectboard to require encasement of the electrical conduits as spec'd out in accordance with the bid documents.

ADJOURNMENT:

Steve Neill moved to adjourn this meeting. Jon LeClair seconded the motion and, on a roll call vote with all in favor, the motion was approved. The time was 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina Borden, Recording Secretary

Approved,

Jon B. LeClair

Steven A. Neill

Douglas Ring

(**Note:** These are unapproved Minutes. Corrections, if necessary, may be found in the Minutes of the March 18, 2009, Selectboard meeting.)