

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING – MICHAEL AVENUE CULVERT
December 22, 2009**

Selectboard Present: Jon LeClair, Steven Neill, Doug Ring

Staff Present: David Edkins – Administrative Assistant
Keith Weed – Highway Superintendent
Jessica Dennis, Office Manager

Others Present: Erin Darrow, PE – Right Angle Engineering

CALL TO ORDER: Jon LeClair called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Michael Avenue Culvert - The Selectboard, Mr. Weed, Mr. Edkins and Ms. Darrow met individually with representatives of the three low bidders on the Michael Avenue culvert project; Todd Osgood and Vic St. Pierre of Osgood Construction, Kerry and Josh Stevens of K.A. Stevens Construction and Michael and Beth Lemieux of Pine Hill Construction. The Board asked each of the potential contractors a series of questions regarding their approach to the project, scheduling, de-watering methods and re-use of excavated material. The Board also asked each contractor to provide a price for the required payment bond to be added to the bid price. Each contractor answered these questions completely to the Board's satisfaction. The additional prices quoted for the payment bond were as follows: Osgood Construction – No Charge, Stevens Construction - \$1,385.76, Pine Hill Construction - \$1,155.00. When added to the original bid prices the total costs quoted by each contractor were as follows:

Osgood Construction - \$46,950.00
Pine Hill Construction - \$47,355.00
Stevens Construction – \$47,577.76

During a lengthy discussion it was agreed that all three contractors were very capable of accomplishing the project to the Town's satisfaction and that selecting one was a difficult choice.

Mr. Ring moved that the Town accept the bid from Pine hill Construction based on their proposed approach to the project. The motion was not seconded.

After further discussion, Mr. Neill moved that the bid from Osgood Construction be accepted based on their lowest overall cost. Mr. LeClair seconded the motions and with Mr. Neill and Mr. LeClair in favor and Mr. Ring opposed the motion carried.

Ms. Darrow was asked to contact each of the contractors to inform them of the Board's decision and to thank them for their efforts in bidding the project.

Health Insurance – Jessica Dennis informed the Board that a final decision on a health insurance was necessary. The Board had previously given preliminary approval for the MVP High Deductible Plan with a Health Reimbursement Account providing for the Town to

reimburse employees for 70% of their deductibles. She informed the Board that there were still some unresolved issues regarding the treatment of retirees and COBRA participants in terms of the Health Reimbursement Account. She is still trying to resolve those issues but needs a final decision to assure continued coverage after the New Year. After discussion, the board agreed to proceed with the MVP Plan and that adjustments can be made when a final resolution of the retiree/COBRA issues are resolved. It was noted that even if the town has to budget for the deductible reimbursement of retirees and COBRA participants this plan would result in significant savings to the Town.

Fall Mountain Food Shelf Rent – Mr. Edkins presented the Board with a proposed Agreement (attached) among the Town, the Food Shelf and Rebecca & Laurel West concerning the establishment of a joint escrow account into which the rents for the Food Shelf and the Wests would be deposited and expenses for heat, electricity and maintenance would be drawn. It was noted that the Wests propose a significant reduction in their rent amount to be deposited into the account to account for claimed expenses for maintenance of the property. After discussion the Board agreed that they were not comfortable with such an arrangement as it left the Town with little control over the funds appropriated for the Food Shelf rent.

Mr. Neill moved that the Town decline to enter the Agreement and instead to instruct Mr. Edkins to offer the Wests a check as reimbursement for the full amount of the electric bills incurred to date and up to \$500 for reimbursement of heating fuel costs. Mr. Ring seconded the motion and with all in favor the motion carried.

D & S Lamphere – Mr. Edkins reported that he had contacted the Lampheres regarding the Selectboard's reluctance to suspend the practice of crediting their tenants' welfare payments for rent against the unpaid taxes on the property. Mrs. Lamphere responded by stating that they would still prefer such an arrangement on a temporary basis to free up cash flow, despite the high interest cost. The Board reiterated that suspending this practice would not be in the interests of either the Town or the Lampheres and that their original decision in this matter would stand.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Edkins, Administrative Assistant

Approved,

Jon B. LeClair, Chair

Steven A. Neill

Doug Ring

(**Note:** These are unapproved Minutes. Corrections, if necessary, may be found in the Minutes of the January 6, 2010 Selectboard meeting.)