

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN
SELECTBOARD MEETING
APRIL 7, 2010**

Selectboard Present: Brenda Ferland (Chair); Steven Neill, Doug Ring

Staff Present: David Edkins – Administrative Assistant
Keith Weed – Highway Superintendent
David Duquette – Water and Wastewater Superintendent
Todd Lyles – Police Officer
Debra Clark – Town Clerk
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 meetings are tape recorded and asked anyone wishing to speak to identify themselves for the record.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

Mr. Neill moved to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard meeting of March 17, 2010, as printed. Mr. Ring seconded the motion. With all in favor, the Minutes were approved.

Mr. Neill moved to approve the Minutes of the Non-Public Selectboard meeting of March 17, 2010, as printed. Mr. Ring seconded the motion. With all in favor, the Minutes were approved.

BID OPENING – Street Sweeping, Line Striping & Chip Seal:

Chip Seal: Mr. Neill opened the two bids received for Chip Seal as follows:

- All States Asphalt, Inc. - \$1.94/per square yard
Included a current Certificate of Insurance
- Gorman Group, LLC - \$2.16/per square yard.

Line Striping: Mr. Neill opened the two bids received for Line Striping as follows:

- Highway Safety Systems, Inc. – Total \$3,862.00
- Poirier Guide Lines – Total \$3,592.00.

Street Sweeping: Mr. Neill opened the four bids received for Street Sweeping as follows:

BEM Sweeper Service, Inc. - \$190/per curb mile

Hourly Rates W/Street Sweeper W/Operator - \$120/per hour
Pick-up Truck W/Labor - \$30/per hour
Dump Truck W/Driver - \$55/per hour.
Included a current Certificate of Insurance.

Highway Safety Systems, Inc. - \$210/per curb mile
Hourly Rates WStreet Sweeper W/Operator - \$110/per hour
Pick-up Truck W/Labor - \$75/per hour
Dump Truck W/Driver - \$100/per hour.
Included a current Certificate of Insurance.

Granite State Lawn Care - \$150/per curb mile
Hourly Rates W/Street Sweeper W/Operator - \$125/per hour
Pick-up Truck W/Labor - \$35/per hour
Dump Truck W/Driver – 3 Prices: \$45 for a one ton; \$55 for a 6 Wheeler;
\$65 for a dry axle per hour.
Included a current Certificate of Insurance.

Charlestown Property Maintenance Specialists, LLC - \$178/per curb mile
Hourly Rates W/Street Sweeper W/Operator - \$95/per hour
Pick-up Truck W/Labor - \$45/per hour
Dump Truck W/Driver - \$65/per hour.

Mrs. Ferland advised that the policy is to give the bids to Keith Weed for a review and have him come back to the Selectboard with a recommendation.

TOM LOPIZZO – NH Local Government Center:

Mr. LoPizzo distributed packets of informational material from the NH Local Government Center (LGC). He talked about the services they generally provide to the towns for the dues they pay. Currently the town's dues are \$2,857.00. The NH Municipal Association is the chief lobbying organization in the State. It provides legal services and has attorneys on staff. They have been around since 1941. Charlestown has been a member since close to the founding date. All 234 towns and cities in NH belong to the association. They also provide insurance coverage for the municipalities; Health Insurance, Workers Compensation, Property and Liability and Unemployment Compensation. Charlestown has their Property and Liability, Workers Compensation and Unemployment Compensation. This past January they changed their Health Insurance to another carrier. LGC had their worst year in 15 years in terms of Health Insurance claims. In the future they hope to have something more affordable for the town.

Mr. Neill never got a clear answer on why the Unemployment Compensation rates were given to the town after their budget was finalized. They had to amend the budget figure from the floor during their Deliberative Session. Mr. LoPizzo said the rates were set by the Board of Directors in early October; notices were sent out to the members except for the Unemployment rate. The notices of that rate increase did not go out until after the bills went out. The folks in charge of sending out that notification simply missed it.

Mr. Neill asked how much time and resources have the LGC expended with the firefighters law suit relative to the right-to-know issue. Are the town suffering from all this? Mr. LoPizzo was not sure as he does not have access to that information but felt it could be obtained from Maura Carroll. Mr. LoPizzo does not feel the towns are suffering.

Mr. Neill said when the Town made a decision to change their health insurance it broke up the package. Shouldn't they have been advised that it would have an impact on their other rates. Mr. LoPizzo said "yes" they should have been made aware of that.

Mr. Edkins mentioned that LGC has filed a law suit with reference to the State increasing the town's percentage of the NH Retirement System. Mr. LoPizzo said it is in the courts right now – it might go to trial in May. This is funded through voluntary contributions from 219 towns; some towns do not have employees in the State's Pension Plan.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Transfer Station: Keith Weed reported that a load of cardboard went out last week. They are waiting for the electronics to go out. Demo and trash was picked-up. They lost an employee last week but he will remain on-call for Saturdays. He submitted an application for the Selectboard to consider.

Mr. Neill moved to accept the recommendation of Keith Weed, as they have in the past, for the hiring of the applicant at the same salary as set for part-timers. Mr. Ring seconded the motion but made an amendment that this be subject to the 60 day probationary period. With all in favor, the amendment and motion were approved.

Highway Department: Keith Weed advised that they have been doing pothole patching and graveling dirt roads. If the weather stays the way it is he will probably discontinue the road posting next week. Vehicle inspections are done. Some test holes were done on Michael Avenue; the material is consistent. At this point he won't box that area out. The paving companies will not give them a set bid price this year therefore instead of doing five roads he will leave one road out for a "cushion". He could do individual bid sheets for the five roads but will indicate that one road will depend on the pricing. Mr. Neill suggested putting a clause in the Request for Bids so we can have some flexibility.

Mr. Ring questioned the projects they are finishing up. Mr. Weed explained that they have to go back to Michael Avenue, He would like to replace culverts on Pecor, Jade Meadow and Cheshire Turnpike; plus Morningside and the Beaudry Development. There is also work on the Old Claremont Road. Mr. Edkins explained that we are not ready to go on the Blueberry Hill Mobile Home Park water line yet.

Police Department: Police Officer Todd Lyles reported that they had two indictments for drug charges this past week. The new cruiser is in at Gateway. Tomorrow morning they will take the old cruiser up there for the trade-in. The radar unit will be moved out of the Transfer Station on Friday morning.

Water and Wastewater Departments: Dave Duquette advised that the water meter readings have been done. They will do corrections after Jessica Dennis comes back from vacation. There was a small leak on Norman Avenue but it has been repaired. There were a few sewer issues around town. Their backhoe is down but is being rebuilt. The Old Claremont Road project might be done the last week in May. Relative to Blueberry Hill they are working on the permits, plans and on the wetlands. T.F.Moran will be doing some of the monitoring; Duquette will be monitoring for the Town.

Tree Committee: Aare Ilves reported that the committee is looking for ways to improve the area across the street by Dan's driveway. They are considering a paving project with plantings. Their next meeting is Friday, April 23rd at 10:00 am. Mrs. Ferland advised that the Selectboard had tried to work with Dan in the past but nothing came to fruition; shrubs might be terrorized plus there is the snow plowing. The trees belong to the owner of the building; not the town. Mr. Ilves said they also looked at the area behind the bulletin board. Pat Royce felt there was a written agreement but they have not been able to find it. Mr. Edkins noted that the town has been mowing that area for many years. Mr. Ilves would like to see the agreement when it is found. Mr. Edkins will also check with the Rotary Club and CEDA on the agreement.

Fire Department: Doug Ring had a report from Fire Chief Gary Wallace. In about a week and a half they will have a figure on the new truck. They hope to have it in-house by Christmas. Other things are going well. Mr. Edkins has the leasing documents but would like actual figures so they can be returned soon.

Mr. Neill questioned if under Mutual Aid is going out-of-town to respond with the one older pumper a good situation. It is added wear-and-tear on the truck. Should we wait until we have the new truck. Mr. Ring felt it is worse to just let it sit there. Mrs. Ferland asked if, under the circumstances, does the town have to respond under Mutual Aid. Mr. Ring has not read the contract.

Mr. Duquette asked if anyone can make an extra phone call when the fire department gets called in. He is aware of the alarms going off but they have no way of knowing if they are going to hook onto a hydrant. He would like to be contacted. Mr. Neill felt one way to solve this is to have the fireman contact the Police Department who will contact Mr. Duquette when they are hooking onto the hydrant. Mrs. Ferland said they will try to do something about better communication between departments.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Smith: Mr. Smith lives at 206 Fling Road. He would like to get the road by his house closed off. It is a dead end street. He would like to have a load of gravel dropped off there so people cannot try to go in. Someone has been hot-rodding in there. Mr. Edkins noted that the town cannot spend any money on Class VI roads. Following a discussion there was a consensus to have Mr. Weed look at the area, make a decision as to whether or not it is a safety issue and report back to the Selectboard.

Tim St. Pierre: Mr. St. Pierre lives at 8 Park Street. The Town has a problem with their main sewer line that runs in front of his house. It backed up into his basement for the third time in five years doing significant damage. It was a major issue to get resolved and cost him a fair amount of money. Now the LGC is denying his claim. He is here to appeal to the Selectboard to get involved by looking into it. He doesn't want to force this through the court system. Mrs. Ferland asked for what amount was it denied. Mr. St. Pierre responded that LGC denied it up-front without any amount mentioned. The Town had a letter from the LGC pertaining to this claim. Mr. St. Pierre stated that not only was there negligence of the sewer department but the gross misconduct of Mr. Duquette when he came to their property was reprehensible. His wife had to flee to their house because she was afraid a physical altercation was going to happen.

SELECTBOARD COMMENT:

OLD BUSINESS:

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)

APPOINTMENTS, PERMITS, LICENSES, & RESOLUTIONS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission – Steve Neill:

CEDA – Brenda Ferland:

Planning Board – Steve Neill:

Solid Waste Committee – Brenda Ferland:

Heritage Commission – Doug Ring:

Highway Advisory Board – Brenda Ferland:

Recreation Committee – Doug Ring:

Capital Improvements Program Committee (CIP) – Brenda Ferland:

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 II:

Respectfully submitted,
Regina Borden, Recording Secretary

Approved,

Brenda L. Ferland, Chair

Steven A. Neill

Doug Ring

(Note: These are unapproved Minutes. Correction, if necessary, may be found in the Minutes of the April 21, 2010, Selectboard meeting.)