

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

Selectboard Present: Doug Ring, Brenda Ferland

Staff Present: David Edkins – Administrative Assistant  
Edward Smith – Police Chief  
Regina Borden – Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Ring, Acting Chair in the absence of Steve Neill, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He welcomed everyone. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. He advised that meetings are tape recorded and asked anyone wishing to speak to identify themselves for the record.

Mr. Ring called the Public Hearing to order at 7:03 PM.

**PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG Blueberry Hill Waterline Extension Project:** Mr. Edkins introduced Donna Lane who is the Grant Administrator for this project. Ms. Lane advised that they had to hold a Public Hearing before they could apply for the project, which they did, and this second Public Hearing is on the progress before they close the Grant out. These Public Hearings are to allow for public comment. This project is almost completely done; the water is hooked-up and flowing. The pump house is there. The project began in October and they did run into issues here and there. The generator will be fired up this week. They expect that by February 6<sup>th</sup> everything will be done. She is about ready to close the project out in the next week or two. There were no public comments.

Mr. Ring closed the Public Hearing at 7:07 PM.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):**

**Mrs. Ferland moved to approve the Minutes of the regular Selectboard meeting of January 18, 2012, with one correction: under Public Comment – Rob Henning– change the spelling of “Dr. Lance” to “Dr. Lantz”. Mr. Ring seconded the motion. With two members in favor, the motion was approved.**

**Mrs. Ferland moved to approve the Minutes of the Non-Public Selectboard meeting of January 18, 2012, with one correction: Change the spelling of “Dr. Lance” to “Dr. Lantz”. Mr. Ring seconded the motion. With two members in favor, the motion was approved.**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Police Department:** Police Chief Ed Smith finished the Annual Compliance forms for the Department of Training. He finished and submitted his portion of the new Town History and is working on his report for the Annual Town Report. Tomorrow he will be attending the 100<sup>th</sup> Day Ceremony at the North Charlestown School and will be

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participating by volunteering to be one of 100 people to walk one mile so they have walked a total of 100 miles. The event starts at 8:30 AM.

**Highway Department:** Mr. Edkins advised that Mr. Weed was not able to attend this meeting but they have been spending a lot of time salting and sanding. Mr. Ring mentioned that they had cleaned-up Patch Park today.

### **SELECTBOARD COMMENT:**

**Heritage Commission:** Mr. Ring, on behalf of the Heritage Commission members, pointed out that they still do not have a State flag in this office. Mr. Edkins advised that Senator Odell said he would be glad to get the Town an indoor flag. Mr. Ring mentioned that the Heritage Commission members also discussed the fact that there is no Town emblem nor are the past Selectboard members' names on display in this office.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Entrance to the Selectboard Offices:** Mrs. Ferland mentioned that there should be a plaque with the Town emblem on the outside of the door to the Selectboard offices.

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

**Purchase Orders:** The Selectboard approved and signed the following Purchase Orders: 1) Highway – Cargill Deicing Technology for road salt in the amount of \$9,721.18. Mr. Edkins reported that Mr. Weed advised that more money was spent on road salt and sand this January, even though it was mild, than all of last January.

**Abatements:** The Selectboard approved and signed a Property Tax Abatement for improvements to real estate that are intended to provide handicapped accessibility for the owner and are exempt under State law.

**Land Use Change Tax:** The Selectboard approved and signed the Land Use Change Tax for property that was taken out of Current Use for a house on the Old Claremont Road.

**Silsby Library Building:** A quote was received for some interior painting in the Library Building that was encumbered with last years funds. There are also some plaster repairs that are necessary but a quote is needed.

**Board of Tax and Land Appeals:** Mr. Edkins advised that the BTLA scheduled TransCanada for their Appeal on August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> but the Town attorney will not be available on these dates so she is asking that it be postponed again. This will be the third time that it is postponed. If the Town should lose, the interest has just been adding up. Mr. Edkins is waiting for the attorney to contact him.

**APPOINTMENTS, PERMITS, LICENSES, & RESOLUTIONS:** None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**New Hampshire Big Tree Program:** The Selectboard acknowledged receipt of a letter from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service, NH Big Tree Program, congratulating Charlestown as being the home of the Sullivan County Champion Eastern White Pine. It is the fourth biggest one in the State.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT:**

**Boy Scouts:** Mr. Crainich, who is affiliated with the Boy Scouts, approached Mr. Edkins about camping out for a weekend at Halls Pond and they will clean up the area while they are there. Mr. Edkins talked with Dick Holmes of the Conservation Commission and Dave Duquette of the Water Department and they do not have a problem with them camping on the back side of the pond. Mr. Ring felt it would be a good project. Chief Smith questioned if there is cell service up there in the event of an emergency. Mr. Edkins will check on that.

**Town Report:** Mr. Edkins advised that they are starting the Town Report. He did a report for the Planning Board and asked if the Selectboard would like him to do one for them. If so, he asked them to let him know what issues/accomplishments they would like him to include. They mentioned the Grant for the Water Project at Blueberry Hill Mobile Home Park and the Fling Road Bridge.

**HB1619:** Mr. Edkins called the Selectboard's attention to HB1619 that was recently introduced. It would exempt the first \$50,000 of property value from taxes. One-third of Charlestown's housing stock is mobile homes that are less than that amount. It would be a disaster for Charlestown. Mr. Edkins wrote to Representative Weber from Walpole who was a co-sponsor of this bill and copied the other legislators and wrote to the Local Government Center to express the Town's concern.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Nancy Houghton:** Mrs. Houghton asked Mr. Edkins if he had a response to her email. Mr. Edkins has the general information but does not have the detail on the other questions.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Conservation Commission – Steve Neill:** Mr. Edkins noted that Mr. Neill did not leave any information on their last meeting.

**CEDA – Brenda Ferland:** Mrs. Ferland was not notified of their last meeting. Their next meeting will be on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Planning Board – Steve Neill:** Mr. Edkins reported that they have not met since the last Selectboard meeting.

**Solid Waste Committee – Brenda Ferland:** There have been no recent meetings.

**Heritage Commission – Doug Ring:** Mr. Ring reported that they met on January 24<sup>th</sup>. They re-elected the same officers. They are working on the third Town History. He brought in a list of their publication choices but it will not happen until mid-summer. They are also looking to put one or two more benches out this summer.

**Highway Advisory Board – Brenda Ferland:** There have been no recent meetings.

**Recreation Committee – Doug Ring:** Mr. Ring advised that they had a great Winter Carnival without snow and ice. The chili cook-off was a success. Mr. Fairbank took care of the First Aid kits. Mr. Edkins sent a letter to Mr. Henning. He reminded everyone that when an injury occurs they need to contact Ms. Dennis in the office.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 II:**

**Mrs. Ferland moved to enter into a Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II to discuss (a) Personnel. Mr. Ring seconded the motion and, on a roll call vote with all in favor, the motion was approved.** The time was 7:36 PM.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:01 PM. No announcements were made.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mrs. Ferland moved to adjourn this meeting. Mr. Ring seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion was approved.** The time was 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Regina Borden, Recording Secretary

Steven A. Neill, Chair

Doug Ring

Brenda Ferland

(**Note:** These are unapproved minutes. Corrections, if necessary, will be found in the minutes of the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Selectboard meeting.)