

**Town of Charlotte  
Selectboard  
August 15, 2022  
Meeting Conducted At Town Hall and via Teleconference**

**APPROVED**

**Selectboard :** In person: James Faulkner (Chair), Frank Tenney (Vice Chair), Lewis Mudge, Louise McCarren, Matthew Krasnow

**Staff:** Dean Bloch, Town Administrator; Danielle Atherton, Minute Taker (from recording)

**OTHERS:** In person: Scooter MacMillan, Thomas Gates, Justin Bliss, Tom Cosinuke, John Snow, Patrice Machavern, David Schermerhorn, Chris Davis, Caitlin Herr; others were present on Zoom.

***Posted Agenda:***

- 7:00 PM      Contract with CVFRS [possible executive session with CVFRS Corporate Board, per 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(A)]
- 8:00 PM      Contract with Rob Mullin [possible executive session per 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(A)]

**CALL TO ORDER:** James Faulkner called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Contract with CVFRS:** James Faulkner explained he would like to start this meeting as an open forum, but certain topics would require an executive session. These meetings could become lengthy, so this will require multiple meetings. Since this is a special meeting, this normally wouldn't allow public comment. However, at the end of this meeting the Board will allow public comment. The Board will take input and follow up with a response.

**MOTION by** Matthew Krasnow; seconded by Louise McCarren, to enter into executive session for per 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(A)], and to invite the CVFRS corporate board to discuss a contract, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage.

**DISCUSSION:**

- Louise McCarren asked since this is a public document, is this discussion to make changes to it? Matthew Krasnow replied that since this is an agreement, and there have been possible breaches of the document which may cross some personnel or HIPAA issues, there are privacy concerns that they would like to discuss with the corporate board in an executive session. Lewis Mudge suggested a public meeting on this issue. James Faulkner agreed the public should be able to express their concerns.

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION by** Matthew Krasnow, seconded by Louise McCarren, to invite the CVFRS municipal advisory committee into the executive session.

**DISCUSSION:**

- John Snow felt that it is a violation for the Selectboard to go into an executive session to discuss CVFRS personnel. Patrice Machavern and Caitlin Herr also questioned the reasons for the Selectboard to go into executive session. Matthew Krasnow replied that the Selectboard must go into executive session to have the conversation.
- Peter Richardson asked what the disadvantages are to the Selectboard that are being invoked to support the motion to require an executive session? James Faulkner referenced the state statute. Peter Richardson felt that was an enabling opportunity and not a compelling direction.
- John Snow said there must be a finding during the open session to be a clear disadvantage to the town and the municipal advisory committee doesn't feel this advantages them. Matthew Krasnow replied that saying any more without going into an executive session would be a breach of the Selectboard's responsibility for confidentiality. Peter Richardson felt this is excluding the public and it's not justified.
- Louise McCarren asked if CVFRS are all in agreement that they would like this done in an open session. John Snow said the board hasn't voted on that, but he believed it to be so. He said the issue is the compliance with the MOA and executing the clauses of the MOA, which is a great interest for the public. Matthew Krasnow suggested to add to the motion 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(E)]; which is pending or probable civil litigation or prosecution to which the public body is or may be a party, which does transect with the MOA. Peter Richardson asked if legal action was expected in this situation. Matthew Krasnow felt it was probable. John Snow asked if the Selectboard notified the municipal advisory committee of any compliance violations with the MOA as required? Matthew Krasnow said CVFRS notified the Selectboard.
- James Faulkner understood they are opposed to an executive session, but they need to start working together to move forward.

**SECONDING OF MOTION:** Louise McCarren withdrew her second of the motion to go into executive session. Lewis Mudge seconded the motion.

- Matthew Krasnow suggested a 5-minute time limit for the session. Louise McCarren agreed to second the motion with a 5-minute time limit.

**VOTE:** 5 ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION by** Frank Tenney; seconded by Louise McCarren, to come out of the executive session. **VOTE:** 5 ayes, motion carried.

- James Faulkner said the Selectboard wants to have a municipal service and CVFRS is in agreement with that. He would like to compile a list for them to address line-by-line for the next meetings. John Snow thinks it would be helpful if there was a committee on the Selectboard to work with CVFRS to do the grunt work to then bring the policy issues and major discussions to the meetings. Matthew Krasnow felt hiring someone with expertise to work as a consultant for the Town, to work with the CVFRS municipal advisory committee to move forward to make meetings more productive with timelines and benchmarks. (Audio became muffled at 25:05)

- Caitlin Herr said since they are starting from scratch it will take a long time and it will be a lot of work. Getting a license to the district level takes 6 months to a year.

**Next steps:**

James Faulkner asked how they would like to move forward. James Faulkner would like the boards to meet every two weeks. The Board has a resolution in the works. This document says the Selectboard is creating a municipal system with a timeline. The timeline is now set for 180 days. The EMS license could take a while, and the timeline could be modified. The Selectboard wants a municipal service and CVFRS wants the same thing so they both agreed to work together to achieve this goal. The next meeting is scheduled for 8/29 at 7:00pm.

**MOTION by** Louise McCarren; seconded by Matthew Krasnow, to enter an executive session for the contract with Rob Mullin [possible executive session per 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(A)]. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Frank Tenney stepped away from the table.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Friendly amendment by Lewis Mudge, seconded by Matthew Krasnow, to invite Rob Mullin and Dean Bloch to join the executive session. VOTE: 4 ayes, motion carried.

Frank Tenney rejoined the table. Louise McCarren left the meeting.

**MOTION by** Lewis Mudge; seconded by Matthew Krasnow, to come out of the executive session. VOTE: 4 ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION by** Lewis Mudge; seconded by James Faulkner, to adjourn the meeting. VOTE: 4 ayes, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Minutes by Danielle Atherton; suggested edits by Dean Bloch