

**Town of Charlotte
Selectboard
Meeting Conducted At Town Hall and via Teleconference
January 24, 2022**

APPROVED

Selectboard:

In person: James Faulkner (Chair), Louise McCarren

Remote: Frank Tenney (Vice Chair), Matthew Krasnow, Lewis Mudge (in person at 7:25 PM)

Staff in person: Dean Bloch, Town Administrator

OTHERS:

In person: Rene Sanchez

Remote: Bill Regan, Jesse Wegman, Tom Maffitt, Richard Tonino, Meghan Metzler, Lynne Jaunich, Mike Yantachka, Paul Plante, Fritz Tegatz, Carrie Spear.

Posted Agenda:

6:00 PM Adjustments to the agenda
6:01 PM Approve warrants to pay bills
6:10 PM Committee requests for unbudgeted expenditures
6:15 PM Minutes: January 17
6:20 PM Interview Jesse Wegman for vacancy on the Trails Committee for seat with term expiring April 30, 2024
6:25 PM Masking Policy in Town buildings
6:30 PM Potential for allowing remote meetings for committees
6:40 PM Thompson's Point wastewater system budget
6:55 PM Contract for Danielle Atherton for Minutes Taker for DRB & PC
7:00 PM Public Comment
7:05 PM Lynne Jaunich and Meghan Metzler-Champlain Valley School District's FY23 budget
7:30 PM Liquor License renewals-Roland's Place Inc; PineMarten LLC
7:35 PM Building out broadband in Charlotte
8:00 PM Selectboard updates and planning for Selectboards meetings in February; Town Garage; Memorandum of Agreement with CVFRS; Conflict of Interest Policy; Salary Administration Policy; Personnel Policy; Public Informational Hearing
8:30 PM Adjournment

CALL TO ORDER: James Faulkner called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: James Faulkner received a letter from the state in reference to redistricting, and the topic will be discussed before Selectboard updates.

Public Comment: There was none.

Approve warrants to pay bills:

James Faulkner requested Lewis and Matt to sign the most recent bills.

Committee requests for unbudgeted expenditures: None**Review and approve draft meeting minutes:**

January 17: Lewis Mudge requested to add that there was an agreement to remove Article 7 regarding the trails reserve fund around line 113. **Motion by James Faulkner to approve meeting minutes for January 17, 2022, as amended. VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

Interview Jesse Wegman for vacancy on the Trails Committee: Jesse discussed the need for sidewalks in town and wants more opportunities for pedestrians. He would like to complete the town link trail and maintain and improve the existing trails. **Motion by Louise McCarren to appoint Jesse Wegman for the vacancy on the Trails Committee. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.**

Masking Policy in Town buildings:

Louise McCarren suggested to approving the policy for February 2022. **Motion by James Faulkner to approve the masking policy; seconded by Lewis Mudge. VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

Potential for allowing remote meetings for committees: Louise McCarren wants to make sure the technical capabilities exist to continue this; Dean confirmed. James Faulkner wants to make sure the meetings are posted physically and electronically. Bill Regan adds the Trails Committee has not met in person and endorses that there is no need to be at the town when remote is just as efficient. **Motion by James Faulkner and Louise McCarren to allow remote meetings for all of the committees, with agendas to be posted on FPF and Town website. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.**

Liquor License Renewals: **Motion by Matt Krasnow to adjourn as the Selectboard and reconvene as the Liquor Control Board. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.**

Motion by Louise McCarren to approve the First-and-Third Class Liquor License renewal for Roland's Place Inc for 1 year beginning in April, seconded by James Faulkner. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Louise McCarren to approve PineMarten, LLC, d/b/a Stone's Throw Pizza renewal of Second-Class License for 1 year beginning in April, seconded by James Faulkner. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Matt Krasnow to adjourn as the Selectboard and reconvene as the Liquor Control Board, seconded by James Faulkner. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Contract for Danielle Atherton for Minutes Taker for DRB & PC: **Motion by Lewis Mudge to approve the contract for Danielle Atherton as Minutes Taker for DRB & PC; seconded**

by James Faulkner with a friendly amendment to add that Danielle will also be the substitute Minutes Taker for the Selectboard as needed. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Selectboard Updates and Planning for Meetings in February:

Town Garage: James Faulkner discussed the meeting last Tuesday where public input was given in regards to the number of bays, and heated floors. 3 different locations are being considered.

Memorandum of Agreement with CVFRS: James Faulkner is meeting with the CVFRS Board president Fritz Tegatz; schedules are being coordinated to have the two boards meet after Town Meeting.

Conflict of Interest Policy: Lewis Mudge would like board members to review the first draft before it is added to the agenda. James Faulkner requested a separate meeting or a half hour block for that discussion in the future. Rescheduled for 2/14.

Thompson's Point wastewater system budget: Dean Bloch stated that every year the budget is discussed by the operator and engineer and the Advisory Committee. This year there are primarily two increases. The contract for the Operator, which was approved, increased from \$52,000 to \$85,000. Steve & Jake Williams discovered the replacement of mound pumps are necessary; this will be paid from the "sinking fund". Two quotes were obtained, and there is some urgency to proceed due to supply chain issues. The Capitol Improvement Fund has a target balance of \$150,000. This project brings the balance to \$115,000. Tom Maffitt is a leaseholder on Thompson's Point and discussed how this project is needed. Leaseholders will be paying an increase of \$179 in wastewater fees annually. Richard Tonino supports Dean and Tom's statements.

Motion by Lewis Mudge to adjourn as the Selectboard and convene as the Sewage Control Board; seconded by James Faulkner. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Louise McCarren to approve Thompson's Point wastewater system budget for 2023 as presented; seconded by Frank Tenney. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Motion by James Faulkner to adjourn as the Sewage Control board and reconvene as the Selectboard; seconded by Louise McCarren. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Selectboard Updates and Planning for Meetings in February (continued)

Salary Administration Policy: Louise McCarren said she needs to fine tune the document with Frank Tenney and would like to compile a list of issues and have this discussion on either 2/14 or 2/28. Board agrees to discuss at the same time as the Conflict of Issue Policy is scheduled.

Personnel Policy: Dean Bloch and John Klesch have been workshopping this document. Dean has the mark-ups ready but it could potentially be time consuming. Scheduled for 20 minutes on 2/14.

Public Informational Hearing: Dean Bloch stated this is a requirement to be done prior to the town meeting and the Selectboard will be present. Notification will be given via the town website.

Public Comment: (there was none)

Lynne Jaunich and Meghan Metzler-Champlain Valley School District's FY23 budget:

Lynne Jaunich presented the budget mission statements which are to support the implementation of the CVSD Mission and Vision; Meet or exceed Education Quality Standards; Implement key initiatives; Implement and continue to improve budget process via community input and focus; all at a cost the community will support. Meghan Metzler discussed details such as Phase 1: Renovating the facades of the central classroom wing; improved ventilation; first and second floor bathroom upgrades. Phase 2 is on the ballot in spring: Addressing critical life/safety needs; daily commitment of teachers to meet social and emotional needs of students by creating environments where all students belong; installation of semi-permanent murals around the school; CCS Equity Trainings; outdoor winter carnival, field day, harvest festival. ARP ESSER funds were provided by the state which will support the cost of social workers, counselors and teachers. The proposed budget includes funds required to provide academic and emotional support for all students. \$400,000 for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program which is equal to 4 full time teaching positions, including a placeholder for two additional teachers to be deployed if needed. The increases the school has faced were demonstrated such as Facilities/Operations and Maintenance, transportation, food service, technology and central office. 2021-22 budget was \$85,285,440. 2022-23 budget is \$89,397,762 which is a 4.85% increase from prior year. Additional articles on the ballot are Article VIII Fund Balance; Article IX School Bus Replacement and Article X: Capital Improvements Bond. In March 2022 there is \$7.5 Million Bond Article which focuses on safety: fire alarm and electric systems; elevator modernization, hazardous material remediation; sidewalks and paving; card access systems; maintenance projects and HVAC upgrades.

Superintendent Rene Sanchez was introduced. Louise McCarren questioned the salary difference between teachers and asked about the policy on facility usage. Louise has been getting feedback from the town re the unavailability of school property when not in use. Lynne Jaunich offered to share the written policy and suggested a conversation with the recreation director. James Faulkner agreed the majority of the taxes go to the school and the public is unhappy with the fees associated with school and property usage. James and Louise want fair treatment for the taxpayers without fees and feels this discussion needs to be continued.

The Selectboard thanked the School Board Directors and the Superintendent.

Lewis Mudge joined the meeting in person.

Broadband: Louise McCarren prefaced the discussion by saying that there are 239 unserved homes in Charlotte. 20 these are not in Waitsfield Champlain Telecom's service area, which

leaves 219. WCVT is requesting a letter of support for a grant application to provide broadband for these customers and is also requesting \$43,829 of the town's ARPA funds, which is to be matched by state funding. James Faulkner discussed how ARPA funds are being considered to be used. Lewis Mudge discussed how this should not be delayed further since, due to supply chain issues, we could miss out. James Faulkner suggests a meeting since others have interest in how the ARPA funds should be spent. Matt Krasnow supports this motion. Mike Yantachka indicated that no roads would be excluded from broadband coverage; James Faulkner wanted clarification since he was told differently. Paul Plante questions why that amount of internet speed is necessary; it would be a convenience, but DSL is sufficient for many. Mike Yantachka answered it's not needed for everyone but many families struggle with remote schooling and working from home. Matt Krasnow pointed out that interstates are not necessary, but people like the convenience. Frank Tenney can see the importance to satisfy the public. James Faulkner discussed how EMS is interested in using the ARPA funds and maybe a future meeting is necessary. Louise McCarren wanted to clarify the benefit and value of using these funds. Lewis Mudge stressed how timing is of the essence, it being a one-time investment and does not want to delay. James Faulkner said the idea is good but he told other departments this would be a meeting not a decision. Matt Krasnow would like a decision tonight. Paul Plante understands the need, agrees it should not be decided tonight out of fairness. **Motion by Matt Krasnow to approve the letter to Ms. Hallquist in support of Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom's grant application; seconded by Louise McCarron. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried. Motion by Lewis Mudge; seconded by Louise McCarren to approve \$43,829.81 of the ARPA funds be allocated to the Charlotte Fiber Installation Project, to be tabled until Thursday January 27 at 7:00pm. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.**

Louise McCarren moved the Selectboard to adjourn this meeting. VOTE: 5 in favor, none opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Danielle Atherton