

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, May 9, 2022**  
**Charlotte Town Hall 159 Ferry Road and via teleconference**

**APPROVED**

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS:** *In person:* James Faulkner, Chair, Frank Tenney, Vice Chair, Lewis Mudge

*Remote:* Matthew Krasnow, Louise McCarren

**ADMINISTRATION:** Dean Bloch, Town Administrator (*in person*)

**OTHERS:**

*In person:* Robert Mack, Peter Trono, Moe Harvey, Charles Russell, JD Herlihy, Stuart Bennett, Ken Spencer

*Remote:* Sarah Reeves, Corey McDonald, Junior Lewis, Michele Morris, Paul Plante, Scooter MacMillan, John Quinney, John David, Linda Hamilton

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 5:15 PM Site visit—Dorset Street (west side) south of Carpenter Road for Highway Access Permit application by George and Claire Aube
- 5:45 PM Site visit @ 4035 Mt. Philo Road for Highway Access Permit application by Mitchell B. Shifrin
- 6:30 PM Adjustments to the agenda
- 6:31 PM Approve warrants to pay bills
- 6:35 PM Committee requests for unbudgeted expenditures (time allotted if needed)
- 6:36 PM Minutes: April 24, 2022
- 6:40 PM Bid opening—Ash Tree Removal on Thompson’s Point
- 6:45 PM Chittenden Solid Waste District—presentation of FY23 budget
- 7:00 PM Public comment
- 7:05 PM George and Claire Aube—request for a Highway Access Permit (HAP-22-03), Dorset Street
- 7:15 PM Mitchell B. Shifrin—request for a Highway Access Permit (HAP-21-04) at 4035 Mount Philo Road to serve three proposed building lots
- 7:25 PM Beach Attendants’ Pay
- 7:35 PM Speed bumps or humps on Lake Road near Town Beach
- 7:45 PM Charlotte Grange—request to hold Memorial Day celebration/remembrance on Town Green, May 30, 2022
- 7:50 PM Liquor license renewals (as Liquor Control Board)
  - Pelkey & Hogan’s Charlotte Village Winery, Inc., d/b/a/ Charlotte Village Winery o Renewal of 1st Class Restaurant/Bar License to Sell Malt and Vinous Beverages
- 7:55 PM Village Loop Trail—contract for April Moolaert, North Woods Ecological Consulting for wetland delineation

- 8:00 PM Personnel Policy—updates
- Mileage Reimbursement
  - Remote work
  - Recommendations from Town Attorney
- 8:15 PM Town Garage
- Waive \$500 fee for conditional use review
  - Review cost estimate
  - Allocate ARPA funds for Town Garage
  - Resolution of Necessity for Capital Construction Project
  - Declaration of Official Intent of Town of Charlotte to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from Proceeds of Indebtedness
  - Distribution of a Request for Bids
- 8:40 PM Selectboard communications with press
- 8:50 PM Selectboard updates
- 9:00 PM Adjournment

**James Faulkner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.**

**Adjustments to the agenda**

None.

**Approve warrants to pay bills**

Warrants were signed.

**Committee requests for unbudgeted expenditures (time allotted if needed)**

None

**Minutes: April 25, 2022**

MOTION by Louise McCarren, seconded by Matthew Krasnow, to approve the minutes for April 25, 2022 as amended. VOTE: 3 ayes, 0 nays, (2 absent at time of the vote)

Frank Tenney and Lewis Mudge arrived to the meeting in person.

**Bid opening—Ash Tree Removal on Thompson’s Point**

Five bids have been received for the tree removal project and they will be voted on at the next meeting.

- DJ’s Tree Service and Logging Inc. \$36,750
- Greg Smith \$19,500
- Teacher’s Tree Service \$18,500
- Chris’ Lawncare and Mini-Excavating \$17,000
- Bartlett’s Tree Service \$23,450

**Chittenden Solid Waste District—presentation of FY23 budget**

Sarah Reeves, Executive Director for CSWD presented on the FY23 budget for CSWD.

She stated that they are funded by three main sources: user fees/fees that are charged for materials left at their drop off centers; solid waste management fee which is a fee they charge haulers when they bring materials for the landfill; and from the sale of materials such as compost and recycling. They don't receive revenue from the towns. They don't receive any revenue from property tax, sales tax etc. Sarah Reeves is anticipating revenue of just over \$14 million dollars. Cost of goods sold subtracted from this revenue comes to \$13,859,528 and the expenses for the year comes to \$13,808,706. Solid waste management fee is \$3,327,625. Tons equal 125,250. There will be no increase for the haulers; it will remain at \$27/ton.

Materials Recovery Facility is a little bit different this year. There is a significant increase on the processing fee to pay the operator facility. This contract expires next month. Estimating a significant increase due to this contract renewal and for hauling materials due to anticipated transportation cost increases. \$80/ton is covering the costs at the moment. Revenue could increase here but they have no control over this market so they have budgeted this amount conservatively.

For the Organics Diversion Facility, they will be increasing the tip fee from \$60/ton to \$65/ton. Compost levels are leveling back to pre-COVID-19 levels. For the Drop Off Centers, they are anticipating fairly flat revenues. Expenses are up due to the transportation fee increases.

Subsidy by program for FY23: the most heavily subsidized program is the Environmental Depot, by choice of the board; there are no fees for the drop off of hazardous waste. With the administrative programs, they are anticipating revenue in excess of the program's costs.

The town of Charlotte will have \$5,000 to use from Community Clean Up Fund each year.

Lewis Mudge stated that he understands that they are looking at \$3.9 million in new investments for next year. He asked what the Capital Reserve Fund is currently. Sarah Reeves stated that before this year the Capital Reserve Fund was just over \$5 million and will likely be around \$7.5 million once this year is added. By the end of this fiscal year the reserves will be at about \$8 million.

Lewis Mudge asked where the new site will be; Sarah Reeves said that it will be in Williston. She stated that there will be several community forums so that it is clear what voters will be voting on. They're looking at making a more efficient, cleaner and safer facility with more technology. They're currently hand sorting and things are not cleaned or sorted well. The equipment will do the first sort and the employees will just be doing quality control. Lewis Mudge got confirmation that the November vote will be a bond vote.

Ken Spencer, the Town Representative to CSWD, stated that he's excited about the MRF despite the expense because it ensures future revenue and will makes things more efficient. Sarah Reeves stated that the current MRF is 30 years old.

**MOTION by Lewis Mudge, seconded by Frank Tenney, to approve the proposed FY23 budget for CSWD. VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 nay (McCarren); Motion Carried.**

**Public comment**

None

**George and Claire Aube—request for a Highway Access Permit (HAP-22-03), Dorset Street**

James Faulkner stated he was present at the site visit along with Junior Lewis, Dean Bloch, and Louise McCarren. James Faulkner read Junior Lewis' report that stated there are no culvert requirements. The sight distance to the south is 235 feet and 400 feet to the north. Eight to ten trees need to be cut to the north for the sight distance to be 400 feet. The posted speed limit is 35 mph. Louise McCarren stated that there was one neighbor present that voiced support of the project. Frank Tenney noted that this particular access is being changed from agricultural to residential. He asked if in the future if this were to get upgraded to two lots will it need another approval from the Selectboard. Dean Bloch stated that it wouldn't need to come back to the Selectboard for approval unless the road was used to access more than five homes.

**MOTION by Louise McCarren, seconded by James Faulkner, to approve George and Claire Aube's request for a Highway Access Permit (HAP-22-03), on Dorset Street with the condition of 8-10 trees to the north be cut and the slope to be 3% away from Dorset Street for at least 20 feet from the edge of the road shoulder. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

**Mitchell B. Shifrin—request for a Highway Access Permit (HAP-21-04) at 4035 Mount Philo Road to serve three proposed building lots**

James Faulkner stated that he was present at the site visit along with Junior Lewis, Dean Bloch, and Louise McCarren. James Faulkner read Junior Lewis' report that stated culverts are not required for this project. Sight distance from the north is 450 feet and from the south is 500 feet.

**MOTION by Frank Tenney, seconded by Louise McCarren, to approve Mitchell B. Shifrin's request for a Highway Access Permit (HAP-21-04) at 4035 Mount Philo Road to serve three proposed building lots with the condition that the slope be 3% away from Mount Philo Road for at least 20 feet from the edge of the road shoulder. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

**Beach Attendants' Pay**

Nicole Conley, Recreation Director, stated that they are having trouble finding beach attendants. She feels this is across the board and not just a problem for the town of Charlotte. Seasonal part time jobs are simply difficult to fill. They would like to be able

to increase the beach attendants' pay so they might be more successful with hiring beach attendants. Matt Krasnow stated that it's not an option to not have the beach fully staffed with this being such a big revenue generator for the town and for the Recreation Department. He asked what the suggested wage increase would be and Nicole Conley stated that they are looking at around \$14 or \$15/hr. Usually, they have 7 beach attendants and currently they have received 3 applications and only 2 possible returning employees. All beach passes have increased by \$5 which will account for the increase expense of the beach attendant's pay. Louise McCarren stated that she was in favor of Nicole Conley being able to pay what she needs to in order to get quality folks for the beach attendant positions. Charles Russell asked why there is a range vs just a set amount for an entry level position. Matthew Krasnow explained that it's a range dependent upon applicant experience.

**MOTION by Matthew Krasnow, seconded by Lewis Mudge, to increase the Beach Attendant pay rate to a maximum of \$15/hr with the rate to be decided upon by Nicole Conley at the time of hire based on the applicant's experience. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

#### **Speed bumps or humps on Lake Road near Town Beach**

James Faulkner stated that there have been some concerns about the speed bumps at the beach. Last year there were some reported accidents due to the speed bumps. Lewis Mudge stated that he has only heard of positive feedback about the speed bumps. He feels the angle of their installment could be discussed as to increase biker's safety. Louise McCarren stated that she completely supports the speed bumps but she would like the design left to Junior Lewis' expertise. James Faulkner stated that an alternative is a speed hump which are effective as well and they are not as "jolting" as a speed bump.

Matthew Krasnow stated that there are also some prefabricated speed humps that are removable but they are likely expensive and would need to be taken care of. He is in favor of the speed bumps that Junior Lewis did last year. Junior Lewis stated that a speed bump would be the easiest, fastest, and cheapest. The speed hump will require more cold patch to be used. He feels the speed bump worked well last year but this year they could be put in straight vs at an angle. He reported there were two cyclist accidents and one motorcycle accident due to the speed bumps on an angle last year. Frank Tenney asked about a speed table. Louise McCarren stated that she agrees with Lewis Mudge that the bikers tend to ride too fast and they are a danger as well.

John David Herlihy stated that as a former avid cyclist and a motorcyclist, riders are trained to take obstacles perpendicular for the route across it and if the speed bumps are at an angle the riders are going to swerve to take them at an angle. Charles Russell stated that he has concerns with cyclists hitting something on an angle when the pavement is wet. He feels strongly that they shouldn't be on an angle. He has heard that signs in the road have worked better than speed bumps in the past. He wonders if there has been a speed study with the increased traffic/use of the beach due to COVID-19. Junior Lewis stated that the town does have a speed cart that could be used.

**MOTION by Lewis Mudge, seconded by James Faulkner, to approve the Road Commissioner to install speed bumps at the town beach and at an angle as to his professional assessment of the situation. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

**Charlotte Grange—request to hold Memorial Day celebration/remembrance on Town Green, May 30, 2022**

James Faulkner stated that this would be the first time for this celebration to take place. Louise McCarren stated that this celebration is very personal to her and her husband and a great opportunity to honor the folks who fought and those who were lost. Lewis Mudge asked what the plan was for facilities since there are no port-o-lets on the application. James Faulkner stated that the port-o-let issue could be resolved by making the library facilities open to the public during the ceremony. Linda Hamilton attended following the vote and stated that it is her understanding that due the ceremony being under an hour they don't need to have facilities.

**MOTION by Frank Tenney, seconded by Louise McCarren to approve the Charlotte Grange request to hold Memorial Day celebration/remembrance on Town Green, May 30, 2022. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

**Liquor license renewals (as Liquor Control Board)**

**MOTION by Frank Tenney, seconded by Lewis Mudge to recess as the Selectboard and convene as the Liquor Control Board. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

**• Pelkey & Hogan's Charlotte Village Winery, Inc., d/b/a/ Charlotte Village Winery o Renewal of 1st Class Restaurant/Bar License to Sell Malt and Vinous Beverages**

**MOTION by Frank Tenney, seconded by Louise McCarren, to approve the Pelkey & Hogan's Charlotte Village Winery, Inc., d/b/a/ Charlotte Village Winery's Renewal of 1st Class Restaurant/Bar License to Sell Malt and Vinous Beverages. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

**MOTION by Frank Tenney, seconded by Lewis Mudge, to adjourn as the Liquor Control Board and reconvene as the Selectboard. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

**Village Loop Trail—contract for April Moolaert, North Woods Ecological Consulting for wetland delineation**

James Faulkner stated that Bill Regan is unable to attend the meeting tonight. The Trails Committee has decided to have someone do a wetland study. Lewis Mudge asked if the wetland delineation could affect the landowners and Dean Bloch stated that they wouldn't be affected. Matthew Krasnow asked for clarification of where the study was to take place. Dean Bloch stated that the section in need of the study is south of Ferry Rd on the Village Loop Trail. This study will help the trails committee to decide what needs to be done with that portion of the trail dependent on if the area is deemed as a wetland or not and the class of wetland it may be. Matthew Krasnow asked if this is being put out to

bid and Dean Bloch explained that April Moulart, North Woods Ecological Consulting has proposed to do the work for just under \$1,000. She has done other work for the town in the past. A surveyor will need to map it if the town needs to apply for a permit application. Lewis Mudge stated that it's a lot of work for a very small section of trail. James Faulkner stated that the trails committee can't go forward with the trail work without this section of trail being taken care of. The money for this will come from the Trail Reserve Fund.

**MOTION by Louise McCarren, seconded by Matthew Krasnow, to approve the contract with April Moulart, North Woods Ecological Consulting for wetland delineation for \$999. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

### **Personnel Policy—updates**

#### **• Mileage Reimbursement**

Dean Bloch stated that this issue was raised by an employee. The mileage reimbursement is 58.5 cents/mile. With the increase in gas prices, it seems as though the amount of reimbursement per mile should also increase. Louise McCarren stated that in her opinion that this should be left to Dean Bloch's discretion with relation to fluctuating gas prices. Dean stated that if this is how they choose to proceed that he would consult with James Faulkner on any change since he himself also gets reimbursed for gas mileage. Matthew Krasnow asked if Dean Bloch has checked in with the state as to what their state policy is at for reimbursed miles? Dean Bloch stated that he can check in with the state but that he believes that they are matched with the IRS rates which is adjusted each calendar year. James Faulkner suggested that they wait to hear what the IRS does with their rates.

#### **• Remote work**

Dean Bloch stated that it has been requested by employees to have a portion of their work hours as remote work. Some call it "work-life balance," with a portion of work hours being on site and a portion of work hours being from home. The rationale is also for environmental purposes, economic purposes and for overall general wellness. Dean Bloch asked other towns in Vermont and Chittenden County towns, and he got some policies from these towns, some of which are based on a VLCT policy. In order to approve it you have to have an agreement with the employees and specify certain factors that would have to be approved by supervisors. It does seem as though it's common today in the work force. It's practiced in the Recreation Department. Lewis Mudge clarified that this is a hybrid model. James Faulkner explained that this is to create a policy.

Robert Mack stated that in his opinion the public expects to have a service in a public office and employees need to be there for such because they're paying for it. Peter Trono stated that in his opinion the taxpayer expects a person at the town office to be there in person. He went on to say that it's frustrating to come in when you're doing a project and want to talk with a Zoning and Planning Administrator, Town Clerk, Town Planner, or Town Administrator, and they are not there. He feels there might be other positions that this hybrid work model could work with but for those, he feels it's not possible.

Lewis Mudge said that the policy would reflect these needs. Louise McCarren suggested that there may be a technology fix to the problem. The citizen could have a zoom session with the staff member in need if they came in to find the employee working from home. James Faulkner indicated that Dean should draft a policy to bring to the Selectboard for review at a future meeting.

- **Recommendations from Town Attorney**

Dean Bloch suggested that a Selectboard member could be delegated to go through the recommendations from the town attorney. Lewis Mudge stated that he has a copy of the draft and that he went through it and has been waiting for it to come up on the agenda for further discussion. He stated that he thought that was the plan three months ago for all members of the Selectboard to review it and come back to the table for further discussion. This was confirmed by James Faulkner and it will be put on the agenda for the next meeting for a block of 30 minutes.

Robert Mack asked when Larry Lewack's hourly wage would be changing back to his normal wage since the Zoning Administrator was hired in February? James Faulkner stated that at this time it remains appropriate to pay Larry Lewack the higher rate since he's helping the new staff adjust still. It was decided to add this topic to the next Selectboard meeting agenda.

### **Town Garage**

- **Waive \$500 fee for conditional use review**

Dean Bloch stated that the Land Use Regulations require conditional use review for a public facility. In the Land Use Regulations, a municipal facility is a permitted use and a zoning permit is all that is needed. There's no need to go to the DRB, but there was discussion during the sketch plan review that the provisions for municipal facility in the regulations refer to "public facility," and public facility is conditional use. The engineer felt that it wouldn't hurt, and it would clear any concerns for the application for conditional use to be submitted. Frank Tenney asked if there is a separate fee for site plan? Dean Bloch explained that there is a separate fee for site plan review; it's \$500 for each but the Selectboard waived the site plan fee.

**MOTION by Frank Tenney, seconded by Lewis Mudge to waive the \$500 fee for conditional use review for the town garage. VOTE: 5 ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

- **Review cost estimate**

James Faulkner stated that an estimator was hired to determine the cost of the town garage; and the subcommittee met and there was concern about the amount. The total project budget is estimated for \$3,762,049.

Peter Trono requested that the estimated costs be shared and he asked for clarification on the Professional Fees numbers. Dean Bloch read from the estimate sheet that the Professional Fees include Architectural, Structural and ME&P Engineering at \$292,200, and Pre Construction Services at \$8,000, totaling \$300,200. Peter Trono stated that it doesn't make sense to hire someone for architectural design when the proposed town



garage is a prefabricated building. He suggested looking at the building drawing and discussing the items that aren't needed like one bathroom instead of two. Peter Trono also stated that Junior Lewis told him he doesn't need a full sized kitchen. James Faulkner explained that the prices today, in particular steel, are experiencing inflation and therefore the cost estimate of the town garage won't compare to the total cost of other town garages built in the past not effected by the pandemic market inflation. Junior Lewis stated that the trucks with plows measure at a 40 foot width. The 60 foot long bays are to allow for something to pull in front of that, (graters, loaders, other trucks), for storage and there will be an additional door on the north end of the building. Peter Trono asked if it would be possible to have 4 bays instead of 6 bays and add 25ft to the width of the building with doors on both sides of the building? Junior Lewis stated that the equipment that can't be stored in the garage would end up being parked outside of the building. Peter Trono asked if all of the building needed to have flooring with radiant heat or if half of the flooring could be such and the size of the boiler could be reduced? Junior Lewis stated that they would need 4 bays heated and the other two bays could go without the radiant heat. Junior Lewis stated that he wasn't sure if a door could be on the front of the structure/Route 7 side with the land use regulations. Frank Tenney stated that as far as he knew the zoning regulations prohibits vehicles from parking on the front of the structure. Matthew Krasnow stated that he agreed with the idea of reducing the size of the heated base. Continuing the building line, the skin and the roof system with a demising wall and a gravel pad with the rest of the building on peers. He feels it would be a significant cut in costs by decreasing the cubic yards of concrete needed for a slab and all mechanical and electrical parts needed. Price of materials isn't where they were when the Ferrisburgh or Hinesburg Town Garages were built. It is more helpful to look at how to minimize operational needs and maximize the goal of being able to have a building that can serve the town for the long term. Having cold dry storage is almost as important as the heated space. Peter Trono made the point that in the future if there needed to be space added on additional concrete could be poured at that time. Frank Tenney stated that he wonders as well if it might be feasible to have the building made wider with two bays with the capacity for 4 trucks, one parked in front of the other, in each bay with a door on both sides of the building. Peter Trono stated that this is what he's suggesting and he wondered about a weight bearing wall down the center of the building and to look at the option of using wood since it would be substantially less expensive. James Faulkner stated that this was discussed with the architect and he stated that it would be 30% more with wood because it requires insulation, rafters, sheathing, and labor costs etc. The prefabbed steel is insulated in the panels themselves. Robert Mack stated that he would like to hear from Junior Lewis in regard to the drain in the building that's going to the pump station. He wonders if it's necessary. James Faulkner stated that the challenge is that with four trucks a 500 gallon tank would fill quickly. Peter Trono asked about a separator. James Faulkner said that they are looking into ways to handle the oil collection to maybe having one bay for all the mechanicals and they're checking into the codes. Peter Trono asked if the radiant heat keeps the floors dry because he knows that the frames of the trucks will rust out quickly if it doesn't. Dean Bloch stated that that is one of the proposed benefits of the radiant heating.

Moe Harvey stated that it was his understanding that a four bay garage estimate was supposed to be made available and that if the town wanted to add two more bays that that could be done easily in the future. James Faulkner stated the architect early on in discussion stated that \$400,000 would be the savings but later on he stated that there wouldn't be much money saved from reducing to a four bay from a six bay because the mechanicals are there anyway and the savings will only be on the shell. The estimate for the four bays isn't confirmed yet because the estimator is on vacation for the next two weeks. Another contract will need to be made for a four bay garage estimate. The ARPA money is over \$1 million, the highway fund \$400k and the reserve funds is \$200k.

Mary Mead stated that paving was in Junior Lewis' budget. She stated that to date as of right now, Junior Lewis hasn't used even 50% of his budget and in her opinion, he could go ahead and do his paving as there is a paving grant. Surplus funds go into the highway reserve funds so Junior Lewis could pave and there will still be money being added to the highway reserve funds outside of the paving. Dean Bloch stated that there is a legal opinion that the budget is approved and it's managed by the Selectboard.

Peter Trono asked if Junior is going to be renting the building for use once built as a contracted employee for the town? James Faulkner stated that Junior Lewis is going to be leasing the new town garage building once it's built. He warned Peter Trono if he wanted to lease to Junior Lewis at a high rate that the town will end up losing Junior Lewis as the Road Commissioner. James Faulkner went on to state that all the equipment belongs to Junior Lewis so a little give and take is appropriate here. Junior Lewis stated that if the lease is high his fees will have to increase to cover it. JD Herlihy stated that as a resident of the town he doesn't understand how the cost of the building fits into the town. He doesn't understand how to judge the cost since he doesn't understand the bigger picture of how the Road Commissioner or a Public Works Department would work in Charlotte. He feels this should be laid out for the town's people, such as the planning meetings that are going on. He feels without educating the public on the process and future plans for the building it's going to be difficult to get the support needed from the town residents to approve this expense. James Faulkner stated that there are a lot of unknowns but to keep the Road Commissioner Charlotte needs to have a Town Garage. The longer that Junior Lewis stays as the Road Commissioner, the less the town will have to pay out for the building because Junior Lewis' budget is much lower than what some other contractor's budget will be. Junior has all the trucks and equipment and without him the town is looking at a much larger expense. Peter Trono asked if Junior Lewis would make any changes to the plan or if he was happy with it the way it is. Junior Lewis stated that he would like the plans to be basic and estimated as low as possible to allow for the approval of it from the town residents. He feels that the building isn't simply all about what he needs but what the town wants in the town garage for the next 30 years or however long the building lasts. Peter Trono asked if he approved of Matthew Krasnow's idea as stated earlier in the meeting and Junior Lewis responded that he did agree with his ideas. Junior Lewis stated that the storage in the upstairs of the town garage is needed for the Emergency Management equipment and for his items as well, such as signs and barricades. Peter Trono asked if Junior Lewis would be okay with a flat roof as opposed to a pitched roof. Junior Lewis said he'd be fine with that. There

is an upcoming meeting for the advisory committee for the town garage planning. James Faulkner invited Peter Trono to attend.

Louise McCarren and Matthew Krasnow left the meeting.

- **Allocate ARPA funds for Town Garage**

James Faulkner stated that one of the most important things the town needs is a town garage because otherwise the roads won't be safe to drive on. The ARPA fund is around \$1,088,000 currently. Last meeting it was discussed that it would make sense to have \$1 million to be allocated for the town garage project. Frank Tenney stated that he felt like it wasn't necessary to allocate the ARPA funds prior to knowing for certain how much the project is actually going to cost. James Faulkner stated that allocating a portion of the ARPA fund to the town garage will decrease the amount of the bond needed. Lewis Mudge stated that it will also represent the Selectboard's dedication to decreasing the overall cost to the taxpayers and James Faulkner concurred with this statement.

**MOTION by Lewis Mudge, seconded by Frank Tenney, to allocate the remaining ARPA funds of \$1,088,000 to the town garage project pending final approval of the estimation. VOTE: 3 ayes, 0 nays, (2 absent, Krasnow and McCarren); Motion Carried.**

- **Resolution of Necessity for Capital Construction Project**

N/A

- **Declaration of Official Intent of Town of Charlotte to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from Proceeds of Indebtedness**

N/A

- **Distribution of a Request for Bids**

N/A

**Selectboard communications with press**

James Faulkner asked how the Selectboard wants to respond to the press. Frank Tenney stated that he simply doesn't talk to the press. Lewis Mudge stated that if it's something in his purview he will speak to the press otherwise he will refer them to the Chair. James Faulkner stated that he doesn't want to limit free speech. Frank Tenney stated that in his opinion nobody on the Selectboard including the Chair should be representing the Selectboard as a whole to the press. If the press wants to know what the decision was of the Selectboard they can look at the recordings of the meetings or the meeting minutes to see the motions made. If anyone of the Selectboard members speak to the press it should be of their own opinions but not a representation of the Selectboard as a whole. If the press wants to know something from the Selectboard as a whole they are welcome to come to one of the meetings and ask their questions. Lewis Mudge stated that he feels there is nothing wrong with a Selectboard member stating their own particular stance on an issue. Frank Tenney agreed with this and stated that he feels that it's an unfair burden to the Chair to have to speak for the Selectboard as a whole to the press. James Faulkner

stated that he gets multiple calls and if he takes the call, he is careful with what he states as it can be misconstrued. He feels that if the press wants information, they can get it from the Selectboard meetings because there is transparency in the meetings. Scooter MacMillan stated that he doesn't like intervening in a Selectboard meeting he much prefers to speak to members individually. He doesn't see any way to pass a policy that states the Chair will handle all questions from the press on behalf of the Selectboard as a whole. Lewis Mudge clarified that that isn't being suggested here but rather a general discussion.

### **Selectboard updates**

Lewis Mudge stated that he is still in disbelief at the Town Garage building estimate of \$3.7million. Dean Bloch stated that at some point it could be helpful to get a sense of what tax impact is acceptable. Lewis Mudge stated that in a few years the education tax will be increasing. He feels a discussion in open meeting once the official numbers are in, would be very important. Frank Tenney and James Faulkner concurred with this view. Frank Tenney stated that building the town garage is a necessity and it won't be a waste of time or money as it's something that the town will need in the future. James Faulkner stated if it comes to finding another Road Commissioner with their own equipment like Junior Lewis it will be easier to find someone for the job if there is an operational town garage as enticement. Lewis Mudge asked what Junior Lewis' plan is for the winter if this doesn't get built. James Faulkner stated that if it doesn't get built Junior Lewis will get by for one more year but he won't run after that if there is no town garage. James Faulkner stated that it is very challenging to manage all the moving parts of this project. All the different input, planning, permits and the lack of supply and builders' availability not to mention all the inflation.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION by Frank Tenney, seconded by Lewis Mudge, to adjourn. VOTE: 3 ayes, 0 nays, (2 absent, Krasnow and McCarren); Motion Carried.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted, Brooke Milo, Minute Taker. Edits by Dean Bloch.