

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 3/12/15**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held March 12, 2015. Attending: Larry Young, Dean Bennett, Tom Jensen, Bernie Pepin, Duane Moulton, Jonathan Bruce, Darald Moulton, Ted Aldrich, Pat Austin and Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Tom nominated Dean Bennett Selectboard Chair for the year, seconded by Larry and approved.

Minutes of the February 26th meeting were read and approved as read.

Old Business

Following up on the annual meeting with state AOT staff, Tom asked for a highway assistance request list for 2015. Dean moved to accept paving assistance money to dig stumps and patch Durgin Road, seconded by Larry and approved—if needed, the state will hold money for two years. Discussion of joining federal flood insurance to be eligible for 12% state match on FEMA disaster aid (rather than the current 7.5%). There was no interest; cost of participating outweighs benefit. Tom reported that Charleston is ahead of many towns with Road & Bridge Standards adopted and Hazard Mitigation Plan in place, but more is needed for the Emergency Operations Plan: (1) Town needs to set up the school as official shelter site and determine who would open and staff the building. The board plans to attend a school board meeting to discuss. (2) Elements of the FEMA plan must be incorporated into Charleston's plan, and Bruce Melendy of NVDA will help.

New Business

Jonathan Bruce is interested in being 2nd Constable. He is retired from the Army, has experience training military police and now works in corrections. He is willing to complete law enforcement training. Larry said the town must keep the budget down and is not looking for a full time Constable. Tom made a motion to appoint Mr. Bruce and pay him the Constable rate (16/hr) for his training time, seconded by Larry and approved. Per Duane Moulton, training consists of a written test, interview, a 58-hour course week with dorm lodging provided, and then a ride-along.

Selectboard invited Pat Austin to address what is needed to comply with new Act 148 recycling law. The short answer is: nothing now. Town is a member of NEKWMD, and the district will secure an exemption for parallel recycling collection. Recyclable material is still banned from the landfill, and the town complies by employing Darald Moulton to pick up curbside from everyone that wants it. Darald says he is willing to continue and to haul more volume. This is cost effective as Darald is paid hourly, and Lyndonville accepts material for free. By comparison, a hauler could only offer single-stream (non-sorted recycling) pickup, and only two places in Vermont can accept this—in Burlington and Rutland. A study is in the works about the feasibility of a local recycling station. Food waste requirements start in 2017, affecting those producing a ton food waste per week. Fact is, our poor rural area already produces less waste than cities, and much recyclable waste is already diverted from landfills. Previous support for changing the law seems to have fallen apart. Eventually, the town might consider having a recycling transfer/sorting station in town.

Tom moved to appoint Pat Austin as Charleston's representative to the NEK Waste Management District, seconded by Dean and approved. Pat agreed to keep tabs on the matter. The board asked Darald to keep them informed of any problems or additional needs if volume increases.

To fill remaining open offices from Town Meeting, Tom moved to appoint Dale Carpenter as Town Grand Juror, seconded by Larry Young and approved. Dean nominated Larry Young as Fence Viewer, seconded by Tom and approved.

Colleen distributed required PACE program paperwork for review and announced that a representative would attend the March 26 meeting to brief the Selectboard. Larry moved to table PACE discussion until next meeting, seconded by Dean and tabled.

Voters have approved a 35MPH speed limit on Hudson Rd. Tom will call the state AOT to find out how closely speed limit signs must be placed, and then inform Colleen so she can order signs.

Accepted into the minutes: a letter from Lynwood Crown holding the town responsible for any future flood damage to Twin Bridges Road homes resulting from town work to build the road surface. The Selectboard has requested legal advice and has an appointment to speak with the attorney by phone at the March 26th meeting. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Dean moved to reword the town's Wellness Stipend policy so that highway employees on Medicare are also eligible. Provided that proof of coverage is shown, these employees will receive an amount equal to the actual cost of their Medicare A & B and any supplemental plans up to but not exceeding \$250 per month, effective by April 1. This motion was seconded by Tom and approved. Colleen will have a revised draft ready by Tuesday.

Road Report

Bernie reports that all Road Crew employees will attend a chloride workshop by Innovative Solutions in St. Johnsbury.

Voters approved spending the Road Surplus toward gravel. Larry suggests inviting crushing vendor Clark Jeffers to a Tuesday Road Dept. meeting to discuss timely completion. Colleen asked Road Dept. to inform the Town Clerk of any expenses related to this Hudson Rd gravel so that it can be paid out of the correct account.

For future planning, it was noted that the 2016 budget will likely include a truck purchase. Larry suggests adding to the Road Policies in the Town Report—recommending that property owners should lay down any fence posts close to the road in winter to allow the grader wing to push back banks without damaging fences.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting is March 26, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Selectmen, Town of Charleston