

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 11/12/15**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held November 12, 2015. Attending: Dean Bennett, Larry Young, Meghann Carter, Bernie Pepin, Tom Jensen, Diana Marckwardt, Mark Hinton, Dennis Sample, Robert Barber and Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Minutes of the October 22nd meeting were accepted as written.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Solar Subcommittee

Diana Marckwardt and Tom Jensen request Selectboard approval to revise the town's USDA grant application to include solar panels only—an equipment grant is simpler than a construction project. They submitted a state 'project review' stating that no further permitting or Act 250 would be needed. They report that the VEC queue for net metering projects is full for 2016, but recommend that the town apply for a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) to get in line for 2017. They presented proposals from installers: Aegis \$335,690 for 119kW array; Building Energy (Derby UU Church installer) \$270,000 for 100,000kW; and still waiting for Solar Tech. All are reputable and UU Church has had a good experience. They request Selectboard decision about which installer to name, and assured the board that specific information will be ready for voter review at Town Meeting. Dean suggests the town go with the low bidder as the installer can change later. Meghann moved to submit the USDA grant application for panels only and name the low-bidder, Building Energy, as the installer on the CPG application, seconded by Dean and approved.

Road Reclassification

- Line Farm Rd – Robert Barber, representing Three Town Farms, and Dennis Sample stated that the abutting owners would like Line Farm Rd thrown up. Barber says he has other access to the property. Abutting landowner Ray Helenek did not attend but submitted a like request in writing. Meghann noted there is a livestock fence across the road. Dean stated that the proposal was to downgrade the road to a legal trail. Throwing up the road completely is different, and ownership reverts to the original deeded owner. Larry raised concerns about rights-of-way for future property owners if discontinued. Meghann suggests designating as legal trail for now; it could always be revisited later. Larry moved to downgrade Line Farm Rd to a legal trail, seconded by Meghann and approved.
- Citizens Rd – Mark Hinton of Great Bay Hydro says his company would like to see the road remain Class 3 or discontinue to a private road. He has spoken with Ken Trip of VEC, who favors discontinuing the road entirely. VEC wants to reduce vandalism (broken insulators, lights shot out) and plans to rebuild/expand the substation. Even if owned solely by Great Bay Hydro, VEC's easement allows them complete access to powerlines and infrastructure. Dean asked if they had addressed ANR and NFCT concerns about maintaining recreational river access. Mark reports that his company maintains the access, as public recreational access is required per their federal operating agreement. Dean moved to discontinue Citizens

and turn it into a private road under the ownership designated by statute, seconded by Larry and approved. Colleen will draft the decision for Board review and inform all parties of ownership and effective date. Dean believes it is effective immediately, and the town will cease all maintenance.

- Peterson Field Rd – Board noted there is a livestock fence across the road. As there is only one abutting owner, the road does not have much public value. Larry move to change it to a legal trail, seconded by Dean and approved.

### Animal Control

Colleen reports that State Police Officer Callie Field contacted the town to let us know that Marsha Descheneau's training does not make her an animal control officer. She has no authority without being appointed or elected by the town. For the record, Dean stated that the Selectboard has not authorized her to conduct any animal control activities, and if she takes action she acts entirely alone. On a related note, Larry said he's spoken with Second Constable Jonathan Bruce, who plans to have law enforcement certification in time for town meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

Dean presented an estimate from Worth's for gutters and toppers for the town garage to consider for 2016. This would prevent the need to shovel the roof. Larry moved to table the discussion until next year's budget is known.

### ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT

Bernie reports that the town has made purchase agreements on truck, excavator and low-bed trailer. The trailer has been picked up and added to insurance and will be registered Monday. The excavator is at the dealer to have the bucket installed. Sheldon Trucks has looked at the crack developing on the Mack hood, and will take full responsibility for fixing it. The grader has been out on some roads, and roads in general are in pretty good shape. He is concerned about the failing bridge on Hudson; fears we'll lose it without some emergency repair. Robert Barber reports that Town Farm Rd needs work; he's never seen it so bad.

Based on Highway work logs, Colleen presented a tally of labor, materials and equipment expenses for work on Class 4 roads during 2015 totaling more than \$9,000. After exceeding the \$7,500 budget, further Class 4 work is unlikely for this year.

Colleen provided brief updates on the following: return of FEMA funds to close out disaster 4022 is still waiting on FEMA processing. The Townwide Hazard Mitigation Plan was been submitted to FEMA for final approval but can take a couple months. She continues to monitor the status of Hazard Mitigation Project assistance requests, including grants for Hudson Rd, Cole Rd and an emergency shelter generator. She will gather information about posting weight restrictions with DMV to help the Board decide if action is needed.

Meghann announced that NorthWoods will host a workshop on Hazard Mitigation planning and state ERAF funds associated with FEMA funding on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Meghann and Colleen will attend.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

Larry called for executive session at 8:06 to discuss a personnel issue. Session ended at 8:15 with no action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm. The next meeting is December 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm. The December 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be cancelled.

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston