

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 12/10/15**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held December 10, 2015. Attending: Dean Bennett, Larry Young, Meghann Carter, Bernie Pepin, Teri Gray, Larry Burdick and Becky Miller (Derby Line Ambulance), Walt Smith (VT State Police), Nickolet Simpson and Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Minutes of the November 12, 2015 meeting were accepted as written.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- Colleen spoke with VT AOT and found that the main reason to post weight limits on the DMV website is to assign liability in the event of damage. The Board's main concern is to allow access to agriculture and forestry vehicles and feels it unlikely that damages could ever be recouped. Motion by Larry to continue posting Hudson Rd and Bridge 5 restrictions on the DMV website, seconded by Meghann and approved.
- The decision letter and order regarding Line Farm Rd, Petersen Field Rd, and Citizens Rd was reviewed for accuracy and signed. Assistant Clerk is instructed to send copies by certified mail on Monday to interested parties and to VTAOT with highway map changes.
- No further action concerning animal control

NEW BUSINESS

- Larry Burdick of Derby Line Ambulance said his organization would like to cover Charleston, and presented a quote for \$19.50 per capita, which amounts to \$19,948.50 for the town, or \$9,974.25 for half the town. Larry Young said the Board had considered splitting the town earlier in the year, but was unable to contact Derby Line to discuss it, and so went with Lyndon Rescue. Dean said there have been no complaints. Mr. Burdick said Derby Line is closer to some Charleston residents, and they have someone on duty 24/7. When they don't have a second crew, they are backed up by Newport. Resident Nickolet Simpson said she has talked with West Charleston residents who still request Derby Line. The Board will consider the option and compare with pricing and coverage from Lyndon Rescue. The Board instructed Colleen to set up a meeting with Lyndon Rescue to discuss pricing, Charleston calls, and ambulance service fliers being distributed to residents.
- Colleen presented the Adoption Agreement needed for town employees to participate in the state Deferred Compensation program. The program will be voluntary and require very little administration by the town. Motion by Meghann to approve, seconded by Dean and approved.
- Dean said it was time to appoint a Chair of the Planning Commission for a 3-year term, and the current chair, John Kellogg, is willing to serve. Larry moved to appoint John Kellogg, seconded by Meghann and appointed to a 3-year term ending December 2018.

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT

Bernie reports the crew is making progress with town roads including clearing guard rails and ditches, and addressing a bad spot on Fontaine Rd. Roads are in pretty good shape for this time of year.

Projects he would like to pursue include: setting poles for a 25 x 25 tin pole barn for equipment. Would also like a concrete pad in the Charleston pit to keep screened material clean.

Larry and Colleen met this morning at the Derby Garage with District Techs to discuss outstanding grants and road projects for the coming year. The town has applied for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant to make major repairs to a stretch of Hudson Rd, and the gravel put up this year should cover the municipal match. A FEMA Hazard Mitigation 404 grant to replace a culvert on Cole Rd will require a \$32,000 cash match. The Board will figure the amount into the budget. The town will know in January if a TAP grant for ditching on Gratton Hill Rd will be approved. If not, we'll reapply for 2017 grants. Groundwork was started on a structures grant to replace Bridge #5 on Hudson Rd. The town was also informed of low-interest equipment and project loans available to municipalities, and upcoming water quality requirements were discussed as they relate to highway projects.

ANOUNCEMENTS & INFO

- Town Attorney Bill Davies informed the town that he had to appear for a pre-trial hearing in the matter of Davis v. Maxwell. It may be sent back to mediation, at which point he would request the town be excused.
- NEKWMD had notified the town of a proposed per capita assessment, but has since voted down the measure.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

Larry called for executive session at 8:30 to discuss a personnel issue. Session ended at 8:42 with a decision to give \$300 Christmas Bonuses to Highway and Clerk's Office employees.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. The next meeting is January14, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Selectboard, Town of Charleston