

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 1/14/16**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held January 14, 2016. Attending: Dean Bennett, Larry Young, Meghann Carter, Bernie Pepin, Jean Wilson, Blair Moulton, Duane Moulton, Teri Gray and Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting were accepted as written.

ONGOING BUSINESS

In the matter of William Heanue's property tax appeal to the State Appraiser, Lister Jean Wilson suggests getting an independent appraisal by a local real estate appraiser. All board members agreed, and Colleen was instructed to write the homeowner to request appraiser access to his home.

Second Constable Jonathan Bruce will test for the Police Academy on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

An email from Derby State Police Barracks Commander Walt Smith reports that owners of loose livestock are subject to fines and responsible for damage. When an incident occurs, he recommends the town notify the offending owner with a certified letter.

Diana Marckwardt submitted a report on behalf of the Subcommittee on Solar Options, including a request to place a funding article on the town meeting warning. The request and article were approved. The report and project budget information were accepted into the minutes.

Charleston's adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted to FEMA and awaits final approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Jean Wilson reports that the town's Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) – a function of the disparity between listed values and sale prices – has gone up to 22.16%. Because it's over 20%, the town will have to reappraise soon. The town can hire outside appraisers or conduct reappraisal themselves, and funds have been building to cover this. To allow time, she recommends reappraising for the 2018 Grand List. No action needed at this time.

Charleston voters are reminded that there are two Lister positions up for election in 2016. Those interested should see a Selectboard member or Lister Jean Wilson.

Volunteer Fire Fighter Duane Moulton discussed Newport City Council's proposal to operate a dispatch center at a cost of \$218,000. Charleston's share would be \$9,900 if all 16 towns join, and must notify Newport by March 16 to be live on July 1. About 50% of towns are on board. State Police also want to provide dispatch service and will charge as much as \$30-40K for one town. Duane and Blair warn that if the town does nothing, we'll be forced to pay more. Because the service extends beyond fire to ambulance, CVFD doesn't want to take on the expense in their budget, and recommends adding the \$9,900 to the town budget. DiSanto of Newport City is happy to meet with Selectboard. The board will discuss more and respond to CVFD after next meeting.

An Aquatic Nuisance Grant application to fund the Echo Lake Milfoil Prevention boat greeter program has been prepared by Cindy Swanson of Echo Lake Protective Association and will be submitted. The Subcontractor Agreement form was reviewed, approved and signed.

An appropriation request letter from Charleston-based NorthWoods Stewardship Center was reviewed and will be included on the Town Meeting warning per town policy. Teri Gray proposes that the board consider changing the appropriation requirements, allowing organizations receiving consecutive years of previous support to have requests included on the warning based on a letter and not a petition. The Clerk's office will draft a possible policy for review in 2016.

NVDA has initiated a dues system and requests that \$767 dues be included in the town budget rather than as an appropriation. To ensure that the town government has access to NVDA assistance, motion was made to include the item in the budget and approved.

Colleen brought to the board's attention several old Receivables due from residents for culverts and grader use that were published in the 2014 town report, and asked the board if the items should appear once again. It was the board's preference to publish the amounts again for 2015.

The Vermont Veteran's Home request a web link to their facility on the Town website. Motion by Dean to approve, seconded by Larry and approve. Colleen will add the link.

Teri presented the 2016 annual non-arbitrage/tax anticipation note, which was approved and signed.

The town's annual Certificate of Highway Mileage was reviewed and 2015 changes were verified. The document was approved, signed and will be submitted to the state.

Disabled American Veterans' request for a "Coin Drop" on July 2, 2016 was reviewed and approved. Colleen will notify DAV.

#### ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT

Discussion of recent road conditions and success in catching up. Observes good work ethic and mechanic skills among current employees. Department employees request the board consider a cost of living increase for 2016; to be discussed at the budget session.

Colleen reports that the Cole Rd Hazard Mitigation Grant is ready to be awarded pending Hazard Mitigation Plan approval, and requests that the cash match be included in the 2016 highway budget. The town was denied TAP funding for ditching on Gratton Hill Rd, so a grant request will be submitted to Better Backroads for the project. She continues to work with the state garage and FEMA office to provide additional documentation needed for the pending Hudson Rd Hazard Mitigation grant request.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm. The next business meeting is January 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm. There will also be a Budget work session on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Town Clerk's Office. The Selectboard Clerk will warn the session.

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston