

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 1/12/17**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held January 12, 2017. Attending: Selectboard Members Dean Bennett, Meghann Carter and Larry Young; Charleston Principal Jessica Applegate; Listers Jean Wilson and Steve Wilson, Second Constable Ed Brown; Residents Lynne White, Priscilla Brown, and Jeff Roussell; Pierre Dupuis; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Young to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2016 meeting as written; seconded by Ms. Carter and unanimously approved.

Resident Lynne White reports that her neighbor, Clifford Crowe, does not control his dog—the dog chases her child and she fears for his safety. She has heard that the dog has bitten other people on at least two occasions. She knows the Town has a leash law and she asks that it be enforced. Second Constable Ed Brown reports that when he visited Mr. Crowe to ask him to license his dog, Mr. Crowe said he cannot leash the dog or it becomes violent. Ms. Kellogg confirmed that Mr. Crowe has not yet obtained a Town license for his dog. Mr. Roussell expressed frustration that there is “no bite” to the dog ordinance, and wonders if the town can get the sheriff’s department to issue tickets. There was discussion of possible actions, including writing a letter that sets a deadline to license and leash the dog, and the Selectboard agreed to follow up with the Sheriff’s Department and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns legal advisors to find out what the Town’s options are. Mr. Brown supports a system of issuing a warning that the resident must come to the town to settle, and suggests the town find a way to recoup kenneling costs from dog owners.

Mr. Roussell asked for any update on the problems he had previously with his neighbor’s loose cows. The board replied it has taken no action since sending two letters to Lynwood Crown asking him to contain his livestock and worth with Mr. Roussell to resolve any issues.

Jessica Applegate introduced herself as the new principal of Charleston Elementary. She attended to make a personal connection and thank the road crew for sanding the school driveway and parking lot. She encourages the Selectboard and Town crew to call her with any questions or concerns. There was discussion of the school population, which was 114 at the October count. In the coming months, the school will be looking for a bus driver and someone to run the food service program. She invited residents to attend the school’s public budget meeting on February 8, 2017 at 5:30pm.

Lister Jean Wilson asked the board to sign an Errors and Omissions document to settle the 2016 Grand List. After the Grand List was lodged, it came to light that a certain deed that had broken up a parcel was invalid. The parcel was re-combined, reducing the Grand List. She also reported

that the Town has received an order to reappraise by 2019, which was both expected and planned for. Right now, the town must submit a reappraisal plan to the state. The basic details of this plan are: (1) it is a whole-town reappraisal; (2) it will be done by the Listers with John Westinghouse as consultant; and (3) it will take 2 years to complete it – in time for the 2019 Grand List. Both Listers have taken training courses to build professional appraiser skills and learn new software that will be used. The Town has reserve funds that should cover reappraisal. After the board reviewed the written plan, Ms. Carter moved to accept the plan and instruct the Clerk to draft a cover letter for their signature; seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved.

Mr. Dupuis is interested in working out a deal to purchase a dump truck the town has for sale. He had previously offered to trade \$23,000 in material from his gravel pit. Mr. Bennett said the board couldn't consider less than \$30,000, and that it must be in cash to help build the town's equipment reserve fund. Mr. Dupuis offered that same value in stay mat, but no agreement was reached and the discussion ended.

Ms. Kellogg informed the board that Constable Jonathan Bruce could not attend but will be present to brief the board and discuss Constable duties on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Brown agreed to attend as well.

Tom Jensen and Diana Marckwardt submitted a written update on the town Solar Project. They are working on the new application for a Certificate of Public Good, which will start with a 45-day pre-notice. They are gathering estimates for running lines and conduit and they are in budget. Because new rules do not allow the customer to use net-metering credits against fees, the fees portion of electric bills will still be paid and the array can be smaller. They are working on recalculating this. The site map will also be updated. After the 45-day period, the CPG application can be made.

The State Dept. of Health requests the board's recommendation for a Town Health Officer. Mr. Bennett moved to recommend incumbent Health Officer Martin Davis, seconded by Mr. Young and approved unanimously. Ms. Kellogg will prepare the form for the board's signature.

Charleston-based NorthWoods Stewardship Center requests an appropriation of \$800 be placed on the town meeting warning, same as last year. Motion by Mr. Bennett to approve, seconded by Ms. Carter and approved. The request will be on the warning.

The board agreed to schedule a budget work session for Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next Selectboard meeting is January 26th, 2017 at 7:00 pm. There will be a budget work session immediately preceding at 6:00pm.

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston

