

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 1/26/17

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held January 26, 2017. Attending: Selectboard Members Dean Bennett, Meghann Carter and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Constables Jonathan Bruce and Ed Brown; Town Clerk Teri Gray; Resident Priscilla Brown; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Motion by Ms. Carter to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Young and unanimously approved.

Jon Bruce informed the board that he will attend Police Academy training in June, and could be available for as many as 20 hrs. per week after that. The board said they hope to keep the position to more like 10-12 hours per week for both First and Second Constable combined—not set hours but the flexibility to respond to calls as needed. Mr. Bruce agrees with this arrangement, and is happy to have Second Constable Ed Brown continue to handle animal control duties. Mr. Bruce expects to spend 80 hours at the police academy.

Ms. Carter spoke with a VLCT attorney about animal control enforcement options. Among the things she learned: ordinance enforcement and the ability to destroy a dog require the town to annually conduct a dog census and issue a warrant concerning all unlicensed dogs. With the proper ordinance in place giving authority to a certain person/position, Civil Violation tickets can be issued, and the Judicial Bureau follows through on these. Certified mail is recommended. PACIF, which provides the town insurance policy, might be able to subsidize training on animal control and vicious dog hearings; Ms. Kellogg will find out. VLCT's guide book indicates that the town must have a vicious dog hearing if a dog is perceived to be vicious. Mr. Young talked with the Sheriff's department and said there is a process for calling a dog a "dangerous dog" and ordering it out of town.

The board voted unanimously to bestow the Second Constable with Animal Control Officer authority.

Ms. Carter presented the VLCT Model Dog Ordinance for review. There was discussion as the board edited the template, including discussion of the chain of events for issuing tickets and whether or not the town attorney should review the ordinance. Mr. Bennett moved to adopt the VLCT model dog ordinance as edited during meeting, pending legal review, as the matter is time sensitive; seconded by Ms. Carter and approved. An edited version will be sent to Attorney Davies and printed for signatures.

A pending USDA grant application to fund the purchase of a pickup requires three estimates. Mr. Bennett volunteered to seek local estimates. Discussion followed regarding the town's needs: regular cab, full body, tow package, automatic transmission, bed liner, probably a three-quarter ton, a V-plow, gas or diesel considered.

The board will not be able to send a representative to the VCLT bylaws vote.

Vermont Disabled American Veterans requests approval to hold a coin drop on Route 105 in East Charleston on July 1st. Mr. Bennett moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Young and approved.

Mr. Young called executive session at 8:30 to discuss a personnel issue. Exec Session concluded at 8:40; with the board approving the following action: the board will request in writing that crewmember Dwight Moulton get an eye exam and physical; the letter to be presented during the weekly road meeting on Tuesday, January 31st.

Wage increase requests from the Listers' and Clerk's offices were reviewed. Motion by Ms. Carter to approve, seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved. The Town Clerk will set the hourly rates as follows: \$20 Head Lister Jean Wilson; \$17 Certified Lister Steve Wilson; \$29 Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray, \$17.50 Asst. Town Clerk & Treasurer/Road Assistant Colleen Kellogg.

Ms. Gray and Ms. Kellogg presented the budget that was completed during the 6:00 pm work session for review and adoption, along with the Town Meeting Warning reflecting the same. Motion by Ms. Carter to approve the warning and budget as presented; seconded by Mr. Young and approved.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next Selectboard meeting is February 9th, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Selectboard, Town of Charleston