

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 2/9/17

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held February 9, 2017.

Attending: Selectboard Members Dean Bennett, Meghann Carter and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Constable Ed Brown; Resident Priscilla Brown; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg. Solar Subcommittee Chair Tom Jensen joined the meeting by phone.

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 February 9, 2017 meeting as written; seconded by Ms. Carter and unanimously approved.

A proposed dog ordinance as revised by Attorney Bill Davies was reviewed. Ms. Carter moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Bennett, and approved. The ordinance was signed and will become effective in 60 days. Ms. Kellogg will post the ordinance in five public places as required.

With 2nd Constable Brown, the board discussed issuing ticket to Clifford Crowe for failing to license his dog in 2016 as required by law, and per the Town's licensing ordinance adopted in 1996. Crowe's neighbor, Mr. White, submitted a written complaint to the 2nd Constable about Mr. Crowe's dog. Mr. White says his wife was cornered by the dog as she tried to leave for work, and Mr. White had to go outside armed with a hand gun. Mr. Brown obtained a copy of a VSP report from an incident at Derby Wal-Mart during which Crowe's dog bit a man in the parking lot. State Police are willing to meet Mr. Brown at house to issue violation.

Tom Jensen provided two updated budget options to the board—a 25-year or 25-year with a warranty. The warranty would add \$52,000 to the budget, but would include lifetime coverage for the inverters. If we forego the warranty, the Town would have to budget for inverter replacement. The board seemed to agree that the warranty was more cost effective. The total project price is \$300,000, and with a \$50,000 USDA grant awarded, the amount borrowed would be \$250,000. During years 16-25 of the project, the loan will be paid off so the savings will be greatest. The committee sought prices for running transmission lines over the 1029ft span, and underground is cheaper than overhead. Mr. Jensen provided copies of VEC's current net metering regulations, and the board will review these. The required 45-day warning period for filing a (Certificate of Public Good) CPG application will be up the week of town Meeting.

The Town Treasurer will add an account in the "Plant" department to track Community Solar expenses.

Regarding the in-process grant application to USDA for a highway pickup, an estimate from the Ford dealer has come in, and the board is waiting on a third. An estimate will still be needed for the plow equipment; the board instructs the Clerk to contact South Main Auto in St. Johnsbury for a quote on a Fisher V-plow for a 3/4 ton pickup.

A letter to Mr. Crownson on Ten Mile Square Rd, asking him to cease plowing snow into his road, was reviewed and signed. Road Foreman Pepin has also seen scraping activity that is leaving a hump of ice on Fontaine Rd that can't be cut with a plow. Another letter may need to be sent to Allen Carpenter regarding this.

Ms. Carter has reviewed the Town's Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) and finds that the shelter manager and alternate contact (School Custodian & Principal) have both left the school and must be updated. She attended this week's school board meeting to begin a conversation about a collaborative, community-wide plan to staff an emergency shelter at the school. The school staff and board seem open to further conversation, but are unsure of precise duties, have concerns about where to store cots and supplies (outbuilding used to store desks is a possibility), would want to keep shelter costs out of the school budget, and wonder what other schools are doing. Ms. Carter noted that the school's shelter capacity is 100 and wonders if an alternate is needed to serve all town residents. The Town is required to have a plan in place, and the board is interested in fleshing out a comprehensive plan to serve residents in an emergency. An announcement will be made at Town Meeting to ask for interested volunteers. Ms. Kellogg will try to gather information about duties as well as grant opportunities.

The board will hold a pre-bid meeting for contractors interested in bidding on the Cole Rd culvert replacement project on Tuesday, February 21st at 9:00 at the Town Office. Ms. Kellogg will have bid documents ready for Ms. Carter to sign on Thursday the 16th.

Road Report: Mr. Pepin reports that the crew is focused on plowing and sanding.

Executive Session was called at 8:11 to discuss personnel reviews; ending at 9:20. The Selectboard will discuss written reviews with highway personnel on Tuesday morning. The board agreed to schedule annual evaluations for the first regular meeting in December (Dec 14, 2017), and evaluations may be linked to wages. The board requests that the Clerk revise Kiki Margolla's job title to include "Equipment Operator," and Bernie Pepin's to include "Equipment Operator" and "Road Foreman."

Adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next Selectboard meeting is February 23rd, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Selectboard, Town of Charleston