

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 12/28/17

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held December 28, 2017. Attending: Selectboard members Meghann Carter, Larry Young and Glenn Peterson; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Rep. Brian Smith; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 6:58 pm.

Motion by Ms. Carter to amend the December 14, 2017 meeting minutes to read “to adopt the Fencing and Utilities Policies *as written*” instead of “*are written*” seconded by Mr. Young and approved as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At the invitation of Mr. Young, Brian Smith discussed new road regulations and the cost to Towns. For example, increased requirements to use erosion stone in ditches will cost Towns plenty when ditches are full and need cleanout. Rep. Smith would like to initiate a Selectboard caucus to meet weekly or biweekly to address issues faced by towns. Other examples of costs handed down from the state are larger costly street signs and automobile inspection. He feels the State is not addressing the needs of towns and townspeople. Rep. Smith serves on the General Affairs Committee. If marijuana is legalized, he will suggest taxation to fund education and reduce property taxes. He plans to introduce bills to save people money. He asks that the Town of Charleston write him a letter stating concerns about the future costs of road mandates and the clean water act, the associated permit fee—any concerns the town has.

Mr. Young stated the Town is trying to cut back on winter sand to address pollution concerns and prevent sand from spoiling the surface material. The driving public is used to more sand and may not be happy.

OLD BUSINESS

First Constable Jon Bruce will attend the January 25th meeting. He is scheduled to attend Police Academy Training in March and will complete paperwork within two weeks. Ms. Carter stated that the board will need information about availability in order to propose funding for the position in the 2018 budget. In a previous discussion, the board favored a maximum of 10-12 hours per week—not set hours but responding to calls as needed. Ms. Kellogg will pull together Constable Fund balance, previously-voted wage information, etc. to inform the budget process.

Ms. Carter reported on a recent meeting with Lyndon Rescue, which provides Town ambulance service. Lyndon has been advised that if funded as usual, their operation will have to close in 6-8 months. Their 2018 request from Charleston is \$54,695.87, up from \$14,701.00. They don't have enough money coming in, there too many “dead legs” in which the vehicle is empty and they are not paid, pay varies based on training level, and they can only afford to pay people during the day so night crews are volunteer. Lyndon offers EMT training to increase the number of qualified personnel. Ms. Carter invited the director to attend the January 11th Selectboard meeting. The Selectboard is interested in pricing and coverage information from Newport Ambulance and Derby Line Ambulance. Ms. Kellogg will contact those two companies.

Ms. Carter is interested in VLCT “on-site trainings,” which cover topics requested by the Town. She proposed budgeting for two of these each year at a cost of \$415 per training. Mr. Pepin stated that the highway employees are required to take 15 training hours each year.

The Town’s 2005 Chevrolet pickup sold to R. Lovelace for \$1717.00 on 12/28 per the approval of Ms. Carter and Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Young moved to enter executive session to discuss highway employee uniforms, seconded by Mr. Peterson. Executive Session began at 7:52 pm and ended at 8:08 pm with the following action: Ms. Carter stated that due to budget increases faced by Town, the board cannot approve the full cost of uniforms but would like to satisfy the request in part. The highway department is asked to choose the item they want most—shirts, jeans or jackets and the Town will pay half.

NEW BUSINESS

Selectboard reviewed the annual request from NVDA for a contribution of \$767 for support services provided to the Town. Ms. Kellogg listed some of the supports that benefit the Town and Highway administration, such as Road Foreman meetings, training in online resources, grants assistance, consultation on road and infrastructure maintenance problems, and the upcoming Road Erosion Inventory. Motion by Ms. Carter to add this amount to the Training, Workshops and Dues budget item, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved.

An \$800 appropriation request from NorthWoods Stewardship Center was accepted for review. Per the Town policy to waive petition signatures from Charleston-based organizations that have received previous support, Mr. Peterson moved to include the request on the Town Meeting Warning, seconded by Mr. Young and approved. The request will appear on the Warning.

The Orleans Historical Society is requesting an appropriation of \$500 and is working on gathering petition signatures.

Town Treasurer Teri Gray has arranged for the 2018 Tax Anticipation Note through Community National Bank, and documents were presented for Selectboard signature.

ROAD REPORT

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Selectboard will hold a budget work session on January 11, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

The School Board hopes that voters, taxpayers and parents will attend the January 10th school board meeting at 5:30pm at Charleston Elementary. They are facing potential budget increases and would like to shape a budget that voters are likely to approve. To make that happen, they need input well before Town Meeting.

Due to the New Year’s Holiday and the close of the financial year, there is no need for a Road Commissioner’s meeting on January 2nd. That meeting is cancelled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm. The next meeting is January 11th, with a budget work session immediately preceding at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 11th day of January 2018:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston