

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 2/08/18**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held February 8, 2018. Attending: Selectboard members Meghann Carter and Larry Young; Planning Commission Chair John Kellogg; Derby Line Ambulance representative Becky Miller; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Becky Miller was present to update the board on the status of Derby Line Ambulance (DLA) and ask that Charleston consider them for service, now and in the future. At the time of the last Selectboard meeting, she had been let go as chief and apologized that no one from DLA showed up in her place. DLA is “still there” and has 3 ambulances, employees, a brand-new ambulance and other new equipment. The IRS is keeping their Medicare income until back employee taxes are paid, but that debt is not their customers’ responsibility. Other towns are still thinking about going with DLA, and they will offer service to Brighton. DLA wants to remain an autonomous entity, and with enough business—say Brighton, Morgan, and Charleston—DLA could maintain 911 service; if not, they could specialize in hospital/Dartmouth transport for a year. If DLA dissolves, Newport could be the only option. Ms. Miller says it is not beneficial to have Newport respond to Holland, Charleston, East Charleston. Thinking of the patients, time is of the essence. DLA is a paramedic service but their average call is ALS (Advance Life Support). She reported that Orleans has had to cover for Newport twice in two weeks, and Newport PD transported a patient. DLA’s price is less than Newport, and a lot less than Lyndon, and other towns are still thinking about it. New board directors have joined DLA, and they are looking for 3 more. They invite local Selectboard members to serve, even if the town doesn’t contract with DLA. Ms. Carter stated that while DLA’s price was good, the Selectboard was very concerned about their stability, and impressed with Newport Ambulance’s stability and high-quality staff and operations. Ms. Carter stated that ambulance service in the NEK was at a critical point, and there is urgent need to provide more reliable service to townspeople.

John Kellogg was present to provide an update on the recently organized Community Solar Oversight Committee, which is replacing the Subcommittee on Solar Options as the Charleston solar array takes shape this year. This committee was organized under the Planning Commission and reports to Selectboard. Mr. Kellogg reports that resident Hap Eliason has agreed to serve on, even chair, the committee. Mr. Kellogg will talk with other members Tom Jensen and Diana Marckwardt and recommend Mr. Eliason’s appointment to both the Planning Commission and the Community Solar Oversight Committee at the March 8th meetings of the Planning Commission (6:30pm) and Selectboard (7:00pm). Ms. Kellogg reports that committee members will meet at the site with Building Energy and VEC on February 13th.

Motion by Ms. Carter to approve the January 25, 2018 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Young and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Asked about Brighton's February 6th ambulance meeting, Brighton's Town Administrator reported in an email that he sees Lyndon North continuing for at least a little while now that Morgan has signed on for 6 months. Brighton is still considering options including having Newport Ambulance site a vehicle in Brighton, and also starting their own squad. If they go that route, they will try to get surrounding towns to partner.

NEW BUSINESS

VTrans is soliciting dates for the Town's annual financial meeting. The Selectboard instructs Ms. Kellogg to try for March 13th or 20th.

Mr. Young suggested moving the Road Report to earlier in the meeting—just following Public Comment—so that the Road Foreman can head out earlier. Ms. Carter agreed and the agenda will be revised going forward.

ROAD REPORT

Charleston has offered to host a Vermont Local Roads Flagger training on April 25th, since Roger Patenaude is due for training.

Ron Moulton has decided he will not work as a Town driver this summer. Road Foreman Bernie Pepin would like to hire Ted Aldrich. Mr. Young moved to table the matter until the full board could discuss it, seconded by Ms. Carter and the matter was tabled until a later meeting.

Fontaine Rd resident Clifford Crowe is again violating No Parking zones on his road and has vehicles in the way of the town plow. In a letter last May, Mr. Crowe was warned that parking restrictions would be enforced and that vehicles would be towed at the owner's expense. Mr. Pepin has determined that towing is needed. The Selectboard supports this but will first give Mr. Crowe advance written notice of the action. Ms. Kellogg will draft a letter for board review.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Meeting is coming up on March 6th at 10am.

The Orleans Historical Society has requested that the Town waive petition requirements for appropriations. Ms. Kellogg has already informed them that voters are deciding this question for the future.

Seeing no other business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm. The next meeting is February 22nd at 7:00 pm.

Approved this 22nd day of February 2018:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston