

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 3/22/18**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held March 22, 2018. Attending: Selectboard members Meghann Carter, Larry Young and Glenn Peterson; Residents Sam Stevens and Crystal Langmaid; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Motion by Mr. Peterson to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2018 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Young and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sam Stevens and her husband would like to install electric service under East Echo Lake Rd for their new house. It will be a 500' line to avoid further disruption of a hayfield. Road Foreman Bernie Pepin told her that it's fine as long as electric company specs are followed and the line is buried 4' deep. All members agreed to approve, especially since it will cross rather than follow the road, and the VEC permission form was signed.

Crystal Langmaid is interested in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable position and would like information about job duties. She is an EMT, works full-time for North Country Hospital, and chairs the Home and School Association. Board members explained that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable takes calls and responds to complaints about loose animals, and the former 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable was also a certified flagger for highway projects. Carter asked about training needed; Ms. Kellogg will research upcoming animal control training. Motion by Ms. Carter to appoint Mrs. Langmaid as 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable for a one-year term ending March 5, 2018, seconded by Mr. Peterson, and appointed. Mr. Young advised her to seek backup from Constable Job Bruce in any uncertain situations. 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable Langmaid will follow up with the Town Clerk about employment paperwork and other details in preparation for service.

OLD BUSINESS

The Solar Oversight Committee requests board approval to hire JBL for conduit/vault exaction, installation and burial. The price is on par with town crew costs and frees up the crew for road maintenance. Motion by Ms. Carter to hire JBL, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved. The Committee also recommends a proposed remote monitoring package, which will enable the Town and the installer to watch array function, production and avoid down time. It will cost \$3700 for 5 years (\$700 per year after that). Motion by Ms. Carter to approve, second by Mr. Young, and approved. Ms. Kellogg will gather further detail about how any problems will be addressed. Building Energy has requested that the pit access road be cleared to allow drying before work begins; the board was agreeable and Ms. Kellogg will contact Mr. Pepin to request this. Ms. Kellogg is looking into insurance coverage for the array.

There is no update yet on the Durgin Bridge project. The Town expects a budgetary estimate soon and then will submit the grant application.

## NEW BUSINESS

Delinquent Tax Collector Grace Frizzell requests Selectboard approval to set a June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, after which delinquent taxes will be turned over to the Town attorney for tax sale—same as in previous years. Motion by Ms. Carter to approve, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved.

Mr. Peterson reports that Constable Jon Bruce will follow up on complaints about dogs belonging to the Scelza/Moulton family on Hinton Hill Rd being loose and on neighbors' properties. The Selectboard signed a letter to the family asking them to license dogs and keep them on their own property, which will be mailed certified mail.

Following up on an email conversation with Newport Ambulance Service about what to do when the ambulance needs emergency road maintenance, the board wants to be clear that the Town cannot provide towing and asked Ms. Kellogg to pass along contact info for Wright's Towing. NAS can keep emergency numbers for highway crew in their trucks, and Ms. Kellogg will ask for the best numbers to use.

Mrs. Langmaid asked if the town will revisit ambulance response times, and offered to collect this. She has heard of a couple recent calls that had to be diverted to Lyndon Rescue. Ms. Carter explained that the Town has a year contract with Newport but will be requesting quotes in the fall for next year, including Derby Line. Mrs. Langmaid thinks that Derby Line may be closing, as the director is now with another service. Ms. Carter also said that Derby is putting together a committee to seek ambulance solutions for the area. Mrs. Langmaid has concerns about regionalization because it eliminates competition. She says that many people don't realize that EMS workers cannot live on what they make.

## ROAD REPORT

Mr. Peterson has been contacting landowners on Hudson, Streeter, and Gratton Hill Roads about moving fences in advance of road projects.

Jason Sevigny of VTrans sent over information about topics discussed at the annual town highway financial meeting. Regarding the lift attachment for the bucket, he recommends that the town be very cautious about aerial lifts and ask OSHA/VOSHA for guidance. Ms. Kellogg will contact them. In the event that the Town has not been able to pin down details before the grant deadline, the Chair instructed Ms. Kellogg to go ahead with an application to PACIF for the shoulder 'reclaimer' equipment. Regarding material deposited on the roadway from abutting property owners, Title 19 section 11 reinforces the town authority. Regarding taking down trees in the right-of-way, Title 19, section 9, sub-sections 901&904 give authority to the Selectboard to make decisions and does not mention the tree warden. Regarding Mr. Pepin's question about working in the highway right-of-way, statute reinforces the right of a municipality to perform needed maintenance in this area, and if needed, Mr. Sevigny would be happy to meet with any landowners to explain this.

Ms. Kellogg reports that some Towns have applied to the Ecosystem Restoration grants program to purchase equipment that helps promote water quality—a roller compactor for grader, for example—and wondered if this is a possibility for the reclaimer. The board agreed to have Ms. Kellogg look into both grants for the equipment, and Ms. Carter advised her to contact Ben Copans to get a Watershed ID.

Mr. Young contacted the Browns about using the old town garage on their property for storage. They are putting the house up for sale soon, but may be interested.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seeing no other business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm. The next meeting is April 12th at 7:00 pm.

Approved this 12th day of April 2018:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston