

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 7/12/18**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held July 12, 2018. Attending: Selectpersons Meghann Carter, Glenn Peterson, and Larry Young; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

With a budget update due on the Community Solar Array, this was taken up first so the Town Treasurer could participate. An updated report of project costs prepared by Solar Oversight Committee Member Diana Marckwardt was reviewed to determine if it might be possible to replace the pit gate and install an array fence. The only other unknown cost is legal services to prepare the net metering agreement, which Mr. Young wanted to know before making any decision. Ms. Carter made a motion to seek a three-tiered estimate for a gate, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved. Ms. Kellogg will seek gate specifications from the Road Foreman and gather estimates for the next meeting. The report included a comparison of 18-year and 20-year loans for the project. Because the 20-year loan would keep annual electricity costs in line with what the town currently pays and allow greater flexibility to deal with unanticipated costs, Ms. Marckwardt recommends the 20-year loan. A final loan decision will be taken up at a later board meeting.

Motion by Mr. Peterson to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2018 meeting as written, seconded by Ms. Carter and approved. There was no public comment. Mr. Young informed the board that a mower had been stolen from the West Village Cemetery, and the Cemetery Commission was following up with state police.

ROAD REPORT

At the Foreman's request, Ms. Kellogg contacted Alan May of Better Roads about the possibility of extending the Streeter Road completion deadline of June 30, 2019. Mr. May sees no problem with getting an extension but recommends waiting until May 2019. The board had no objection.

Norm Patenaude of Pike currently expects the Durgin Road bridge resurfacing and membrane application to happen mid-August and will contact the town when he has exact dates. The road may need to be closed 1-2 days during application of the membrane.

Town Farm Road experienced severe washout during a July 1st storm. The highway department had to hire trucking and excavation and buy material in order to make the road passable. Mr. Young and Mr. Peterson discussed possible long-term solutions for holding the road, and Mr. Young is interested in discussing at Town Meeting how much voters want to invest in the road.

The highway crew is working to finish the Hudson Road FEMA Hazard Mitigation project, which involves cleaning up ditching and applying several inches of gravel to the road surface.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Kellogg reports that the final draft of the solar net metering agreement will be ready for signature by this weekend. Changes to the draft are as outline previously by the Town Attorney. Motion by Ms. Carter to approve the document and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved. Ms. Kellogg asked if the board was willing to authorize VEC to begin applying net metering credits to the group accounts. Motion by Ms. Carter to give VEC the go-ahead once the agreement is signed, seconded by Mr. Young and approved.

Ms. Carter, Mr. Pepin and Ms. Kellogg met with Shane Morin of VTrans to find out what's involved in applying to upgrade a road to a Class 2 highway. Mr. Morin recommends that towns apply, since it more than doubles state aid on that stretch of road and increases town-wide paving assistance. The next step is a traffic study. Ms. Kellogg has requested this from NVDA, and Westmore will be doing an informal one with their speed indicator sign. Ms. Carter is interested in seeing Westmore's results. Mr. Young would like to get an estimate from the road foreman about the work needed for the road to meet the 20-foot width requirement for a Class 2 gravel road. Ms. Kellogg and Ms. Carter are gathering information about how Hinton Hill and Westmore Roads meet other required criteria.

Information from VTrans regarding a Model Highway Access Policy for towns was reviewed, along with statute covering road rights-of-way. Mr. Peterson will contact VLCT attorney James Barlow for further information about the town's obligation within the right-of-way.

NEW BUSINESS

A request was received from Orleans-Essex VNA to place an appropriation request on the Town Meeting warning. Per the town's policy voted at Town Meeting 2018, Mr. Peterson moved to—since the organization received an appropriation this year and is not changing the amount requested—include the request on the 2019 Warning, seconded by Ms. Carter and approved. Ms. Kellogg will notify the organization that the request will be included.

An application for employment was received from Steven Hoadley. As there are no positions currently available, Ms. Carter moved to the keep the application on file, seconded by Mr. Young and approved for filing.

Bills and Orders were reviewed and approved for payment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) A Tax Sale to settle delinquent 2017 taxes will be held Thursday, July 17th at 9:00am. Ms. Carter will represent the Selectboard. (2) Sam Perron, NorthWoods, will attend the July 26th meeting to discuss the forest management plan update for the Town Forest. (3) The public is invited to comment on the state's recommendation to consolidate Charleston and Brighton School Districts on July 18th at Newark School.

Seeing no other business or discussion, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Carter, seconded by Mr. Young, and the meeting adjourned 7:52 pm. The next meeting is July 26th at 7:00 pm.

Approved this 26th day of July 2018:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston