

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 12/13/18**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Meghann Carter, Larry Young, and Glenn Peterson; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Planning Commission members John Kellogg and Hap Eliason; Resident Alan Davis; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Meghann Carter, Chair. The minutes of the November 8, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Mr. Peterson to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Young and approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alan Davis reported that a Barrett's truck is being parked in the traveled portion of Bly Farm Rd. Ms. Carter said the board would look into it to see if action was needed. Mr. Davis also reported that snow from the dwelling across Bly Farm Rd is being pushed across the road, with the effect of filling and freezing the ditch so water doesn't get to the culvert in the spring. He also said snow is being deposited in such a way as to get in the way of the milkman, and he wants this snow moved. Responding to a letter he received from the town asking him to pick up winter sand from the yard with 5-gallon buckets rather than his tractor, Mr. Davis said that he had done so for years because it was his understanding that it was permitted, but it was not accurate to say that he had done so several times in 2018. Mr. Young explained the current practice: the board doesn't mind if taxpayers take a couple buckets of sand for their driveways, and he asked Ms. Kellogg to include information about this in the next Town Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Seeing as the Selectboard hearing on the proposed 2018 Town Plan received no further comment or objection, Mr. Young made a motion to approve the 2018 Town Plan as written and submit to NVDA for approval, seconded by Ms. Carter and approved. Mr. Kellogg said he appreciates the board's support and will submit the Plan to NVDA and report back.

A notice was received from the Barton Zoning Administrator regarding an application for subdivision of a property next to the Town's pit in Barton. There are no concerns and no action is needed.

A 2019 dues request for \$767 was received from NVDA. Motion by Ms. Carter to include in Training and Dues budget line item as before, second by Mr. Peterson and approved.

Motion by Ms. Carter to place the following appropriation requests on the 2019 Town Meeting warning: ELPA \$1000 to support Milfoil Prevention lake monitoring; Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging \$600 to provide services to older Vermonters; Northeast Kingdom Human Services \$1074 to provide emergency/crisis services; Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter \$500 provide care and homes for pets; Rural Community Transportation \$1650 to provide transportation to elderly and disabled; Umbrella \$700 to decreasing impact/incidence of domestic violence; Vermont Rural Fire

Protection Task Force \$100 for the Dry Hydrant Grant program; Friends of VSO \$100 for Symphony Kids school programs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved.

ROAD REPORT

Mr. Pepin reports that things are as expected--the crew continues plowing and sanding. He said Mr. Davis was correct about snow being pushed across Bly Farm Rd. He has seen a truck parked by the road, but it is always gone by the time he plows in the morning and has not been in his way. There was discussion of maybe using the bucket loader in spring to remove snow so the culvert will function. Mr. Pepin reports that, like all towns, there has been trouble with ice on roads this winter and they are doing their best with salt.

Mr. Carter and Mr. Young called for Executive Session at 7:28 pm to discuss a personnel matter. The session ended at 7:31 pm with no action taken.

A state bridge inspection report finds that Bridge 19 on Westmore Rd is developing undermining and recommends monitoring by the town with no further action at this time. VTrans is aware. It was noted that the crack on the Durgin Rd bridge has not yet been repaired.

Noting some damage to guardrails, the board urges drivers to keep plows well clear of guardrails.

There was discussion of anticipated 2018 highway expenses and upcoming needs. Based on an inspection this fall, repairs are needed to the garage stovepipe and the concept of insulated pipe was viewed favorably. Mr. Pepin will get specific estimates for pipe and welding work. The work cannot be done until spring. The board was interested in getting voter approval to apply surplus 2018 road funds for this repair, so Ms. Kellogg will speak to the Town Clerk & Treasurer about warning this article.

Ms. Carter suggested the town look into creating a depreciation schedule and replacement plan document for town equipment. Discussion of whether replacement should be based on a number of years or end of warranty. The board asked Ms. Kellogg to research this, and ask Derby about their plan. Discussion of the need to replace a loader in the next year or two and if the town would sell one or keep and repair both. Mr. Young suggested that the Hough no longer had any value, but the town could get something for the Volvo.

ANNOUNCEMENT & INFORMATION

Warning: A proposed County budget will be presented at a meeting on January 14, 2019 at 8:00 am.

The Selectboard will meet for 2019 budget planning on Thursday, December 27th at 6:00 pm.

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next regular meeting is December 27th at 7:00 pm.

Approved this 27th day of December, 2018:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston