

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 05/11/17

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held May 11, 2017. Attending: Selectboard Members Dean Bennett, Meghann Carter and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Bennett to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2017 meeting as written, second by Ms. Carter and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

An updated version of the LEOP was submitted for approval by Bruce Melendy of NVDA. Motion by Ms. Carter to approve the plan as written, seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved. Ms. Kellogg will distribute the final plan with the adoption date to board members.

Ms. Kellogg expects to hear back soon from Dan Lavilette of Red Cross about June dates for Shelter Fundamentals training. He did indicate that Wednesday evenings were good for him. Ms. Carter stated that Terry and Arlene Rollins are interested in participating.

Ms. Carter reported that the Town's application to the Public Service Board for the Solar Project is complete. An invoice for legal services from Downs Rachlin Martin was approved by the Selectboard. Fees incurred in the process will be rolled into project financing and will not increase the project budget approved by voters.

Rock Ovitt submitted an invoice to the town for some tractor work on Calhoun Rd. In response, a letter to Mr. Ovitt was signed, indicating that it is not the town's policy to pay for unsolicited work, and that road problems should be reported to the Town Garage.

Regarding Margaret Maxwell's written request to be granted driveway access to her other buildings, Town Attorney William Davies advises that the Town do nothing without the consent of both Maxwell and Davis and suggests that Mrs. Maxwell request access from Mr. Davis. Since Atty. Davies did not address the matter of subdivision in his comments, the board will follow up with him and clarify how subdivision might affect the situation before responding to Mrs. Maxwell.

Ms. Kellogg asked how to go about pursuing a guard rail for the office parking area. The Selectboard instructed Ms. Kellogg to get an estimate from Lafayette for a 35' rail with half end cap. The Town can supply the beam railing; would just need posts, hardware, half end, and installation.

Mr. Pepin requests purchase of one new radio for the 4th truck. Since the truck has not sold yet, he uses it as a spare and cannot communicate without taking a radio from another truck. The wiring is already there, so no installation is needed. Motion by Ms. Carter to purchase the radio, seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved.

ROAD REPORT

Mr. Pepin said he is aware that Selectboard members have received complaints, but the highway department knows where there is work to be done and has a plan to get to it. Extreme ice this winter, spring frost, and spring rain isn't helping. There was discussion of the need to extend grader hours and overtime in the spring to get all roads graded sooner. The Selectboard informed Mr. Pepin that until all roads are graded, if there is work to be done and the weather is good, the Foreman has the authority to instruct the operator to be work over the weekend.

Mr. Pepin attended a Road Foreman's meeting on the upcoming Municipal Roads General Permit, and distributed handouts to the board. He noted that the Road Erosion Inventory will include evaluation of the shop and yard and some kind of sand containment will likely be needed.

He also attended a demonstration class on roller and retriever equipment, and plans to try using a "retriever" tool to reclaim road shoulders—it will break up the shoulder so material can be grabbed by the grader. Scott Scelza will start building them this summer.

The newest Mack truck was transported by wrecker to Charlebois for transmission testing. They identified a problem with a wiring harness and sent the truck on to Mack because it's still under warranty. The problem was caused by Tenco running hydraulic hose in the same location as the wiring harness, and the hydraulic hose chafed the wiring harness and caused it to fail. Tenco told Bernie that they stand by their work, so the Town forwarded Charlebois' bill to Tenco for payment.

Mr. Pepin reports that he put good material down on Bly Farm Rd to get it into good shape, and a couple days later the ditch was full of manure. He'd like landowners to not work against road maintenance and would like the Town to have some recourse when they do.

On a similar issue, Mr. Bennett and Ms. Carter looked at stormwater concerns around the intersection of Dane Hill and Crawford Hill Roads due to major clearing and landwork there. Mr. Pepin has already installed six loads of erosion stone to armor ditches and slow the water, but much more is needed. The landowner's crew excavated a ditch too big and too deep and failed to revegetate as required—even removed cattails that had previously reduced water velocity—contributing to further erosion. The Selectboard instructed Ms. Kellogg to invite Mr. Kennedy to the next board meeting to discuss how he can help address the problem.

The Selectboard asked Ms. Kellogg to check with District 9 about the one-page spec sheet for the Hudson Rd Culvert at Bowen Hill, so that estimates can be sought. The Selectboard agreed

to get estimates from Gosselin, Mario Paul, and JBL once the spec sheet is in-hand.

Mr. Pepin reports that work to the International truck that was damaged in an accident is thorough and complete. The Town has already received payment from the insurance company, and the Selectboard approved payment to Awesome Welding based on the estimate price.

Discussion of seasonal weight limits on Town roads and whether or not to post all roads on the DMV restrictions website. Mr. Pepin said this is required for enforcement, along with more detail on the posters. The matter was tabled until Constable enforcement is available.

Selectboard members have been notified that school bus and milk trucks cannot make the turn at Fontaine Rd, and “No Parking” signs need to be replaced and enforced. Mr. Pepin will check to see if signs are there and order replacements if needed. Ms. Kellogg will inform the Crowe family that the Town will be enforcing this.

Due to safety considerations, the highway crew will no longer perform abrasive blasting but will do limited spray finishing only, per unanimous decision by the Selectboard.

The Town’s USDA Community Facilities grant for a pickup truck was approved for funding. USDA will need a Selectboard member to sign grant documents at their St. Johnsbury office. Chair Meghann Carter will be the signer.

Lister Jean Wilson submitted a proposal from Russell Graphics for this year’s Tax Map update and printing. Motion by Ms. Carter to approve, seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved.

The Selectboard and Mr. Pepin want the garage security cameras back up and working ASAP. Erik Somoroff has been researching camera replacement options. The Town could get refurbished cameras for \$185 each, \$200 installation, plus approximately \$40 for an improved surge protector, for a total cost of \$1165. The board questioned the installation charge; Mr. Pepin will contact Somoroff about purchasing the refurbished cameras.

Bills were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm. The next Selectboard meeting is May 25th, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Selectboard, Town of Charleston