

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 10/12/17

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held October 12, 2017. Attending: Selectboard members Meghann Carter, Glenn Peterson, and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Planning Commission Chair John Kellogg; Residents Jeff Roussell and Larissa Robinov.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm.

Motion by Mr. Young to approve minutes of the September 28, 2017 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Roussell stated he had been before the board a number of times re: loosed dogs living on Crowe Hill Rd, and the dog has been at his property again. He asked why the owner had not been ticketed. Ms. Carter stated the annual Unlicensed Dog Warrant had been issued, and also that Animal Control officer Ed Brown has been given officer number and ticket books and has authority to issue tickets at his discretion. He can give Mr. Brown a call with any issues. Ms. Kellogg will inform Mr. Brown that the household has two unlicensed dogs. He also stated that Lynwood Crown's cows wander and cause property damage, once leaning on a fence and letting out Monte Kennedy's cows. Mr. Roussell asked if the Fence Viewer could do anything or if the Town would levy fines to get him to correct his fences. Mr. Young stated that fence viewers got involved with issues of property line not fence condition. The Town is aware of the problem, and has a paper trail of complaints, but it will probably take the action of someone who incurs damage who is also willing to take Crown to court. Ms. Carter stated the board is wary of taking sides in neighbor disputes, but can check with the league of cities and towns for any advice/precedent. Mr. Young suggests contacting Dr. Senz, who owns pasture on Bowen Hill Rd used by Mr. Young.

Planning Commission Chair John Kellogg shared an article from that day's Chronicle, which reported that two NEK electric utilities came out in opposition to further renewable energy projects for the NEK because the grid already cannot accept what is being generated. They say renewable energy is raising rates for customers. After discussion, the Selectboard voted to table signing of the Installation Contract and Line of Credit docs until they could gather the Solar Subcommittee and Planning Commission for a follow-up conversation. They wonder if the economics on which the original yes vote was based might be changing, and if they have a responsibility to bring this up to voters, etc. Ms. Kellogg will ask all to attend the October 26th meeting.

No new business brought before the board.

OLD BUSINESS

For the USDA pickup grant, Bernie Pepin reports that he has obtained prices for a 350 Diesel with plow and safety/durability features and 6yr/60,000 mi extended warranty that are within the grant budget and hopes for board support to move forward with the purchase. The Town's match is there \$26,100 and budget funds are available due to cost savings/reimbursements on construction projects this year. Mr. Young supports the purchase but would like to extend the warranty to more like 7 years/80,000 miles. Motion by Mr. Young to authorize Mr. Pepin to extend the warranty with up to \$1000 additional, for a

total project budget of \$59,000.00, with funds for the purchase to come from 2017 highway funds, seconded by Ms. Carter and approved. A check will be requested from the Town Clerk, and Mr. Peterson will plan to accompany Mr. Pepin to the dealer on Tuesday, October 17.

The Selectboard authorized Mr. Pepin to sell the Town's existing pickup to avoid further storage and maintenance. Concerning the Town's second International dump truck that has not yet sold, Mr. Pepin hopes to continue using it as a spare. The Selectboard instructed him to put it out for sale when not in use, in hopes that proceeds can be deposited into Highway Equipment Fund (savings) as originally planned.

ROAD REPORT

Alliance Consulting has set a schedule for replacing the bridge/culvert on Cole Rd. They plan to be onsite Friday October 20 through November 14, and the Town is planning for road closure Monday, October 23rd through Friday November 10th. VTrans Technician Jason Sevigny will hold a pre-construction meeting with the contractor; Ms. Kellogg will find out the date so Selectboard can attend.

Mr. Kennedy has received the Selectboard's letter instructing him to remove his stone from the Crawford Hill Rd ditch—it was signed for October 11th. The Selectboard asked Mr. Pepin to allow Mr. Kennedy a week to make good on the request, then if not removed, he should remove it to restore drainage ditch.

Executive Session was called at 7:51pm to discuss highway personnel evaluations, and concluded at 8:39 with the following action taken: Motion by Ms. Carter to increase Mr. Pepin's hourly rate from \$20.75 to \$21.50 starting with the October 15-21 pay period. Ms. Kellogg will inform the Town Clerk/Treasurer. The board will discuss performance reviews with the two highway crew members on Tuesday morning, schedule permitting.

Mr. Pepin reports that he and Ms. Kellogg inspected FY2019 Better Roads project sites on Streeter Rd and Crawford Hill Rd today so that grant applications can be prepared for the November 17th deadline. The crew also worked on Dane Hill Rd, Westmore Rd, and dug out a culvert at the intersection of Westmore/Mad Brook/Cole Rd intersection. Also did some work to correct road drainage issues on Gay Hill Rd, allowing water to flow across driveways that lack culverts. If the cut fills back in, the Town may have to require landowners to install driveway culverts at their own expense, per the Town policy. Ms. Kellogg is instructed to send a letter to landowners Kross and Kukta asking them to leave the work alone or they will need to put in driveway culverts.

Mr. Pepin and Ms. Kellogg will attend the Better Roads program meeting on Tuesday October 24th from 9-12 at the District 9 garage. Selectboard members also encouraged to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm per motions of Mr. Young and Mr. Peterson. The next meeting is Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Approved this 26th day of October 2017:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston