

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 11/14/19**

MINUTES

Attending: Chair Glenn Peterson, Selectpersons Larry Young and Peter Moskovites; Gloria Bruce with U.S. Census Bureau; Listers Jean Wilson and Steve Wilson; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:52 pm by Glenn Peterson, Chair. Motion by Mr. Peterson to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Young and approved as written.

There was no Public Comment or Road Report

NEW BUSINESS

Gloria Bruce, NY Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau, explained that the federal government counts residents every ten years by law, and the data affects the allocation of public funds in our community. Because of a concern on the part of Bureau that the public might be mistrustful about sharing personal information, she asked to make informational materials available at the Town Clerk's Office and Town Meeting. The board was agreeable to this, and the Clerk's office will post information.

Jean Wilson presented the 2019 Grand List Errors and Omissions Certificate for board review. She explained that once the Grand List is lodged and turned over to the Town Clerk to send tax bills, the listers cannot change it, except through this process. A couple things came up after lodging: (1) .25 acres had to be removed from one parcel and added to the neighboring parcel because the ownership was incorrectly assigned when the deed was filed years ago; and (2) an input error regarding the amount of lake frontage on one parcel was corrected. Listed values have been corrected and new tax bills sent. Motion by Mr. Peterson to accept the E&O Certificate, seconded by Mr. Young, and approved and signed. The Certificate will be signed by the Town Clerk and filed in the Grand List.

Colleen Kellogg submitted a request for town health insurance benefits through BCBSVT, asking the town to make a 50% contribution. There was discussion of existing benefits for full-time highway employees, employee hours, and the board agreed to make a final decision at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

A draft of 2020 Equipment and Materials rates to be used for grants was discussed. The final version will be ready for approval at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

A report of hourly wages and stipends for town employees/officers was received from the Treasurer. The board will review and make recommendation/decision for any changes at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

An appropriation request was received from Orleans County Child Advocacy. Motion by Mr. Peterson to place the request on the 2020 Town Meeting Warning, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the proposal to reclassify the Class 4 section of Batchelder Road to a Legal Trail, and the public hearing held earlier that evening on the matter, board members have heard no objections. Board members agreed that a legal trail would bring the benefits of addressing landowner's ongoing problems and limiting town maintenance but would also maintain the public right of way to meet any future town needs. Motion by Mr. Young to reclassify the .63 mile section to a legal trail thereby restricting motorized vehicle access to abutting landowners only, seconded by Mr. Peterson and unanimously approved. Ms. Kellogg will prepare the Order and Report documentation to submit to VTrans.

Mr. Peterson called for executive session at 7:43 pm to discuss attorney communication. Ended at 7:49 pm with no action taken.

Mr. Peterson is waiting to hear from Mrs. Langmaid about the town dog kennel.

The ongoing Class 4 Roads discussion was tabled for this meeting but will be taken up at a later meeting.

Ms. Kellogg reports that the Better Roads grant deadline was extended to December 13<sup>th</sup>. She and the Foreman conducted site visits and will get a final draft to the board in time for the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Bills and Orders were approved for payment.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Newport Ambulance has closed on a Morgan property. The director will attend the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss substation plans and the 2020 budget.
- Town Planning Commission meeting 6:30 pm on December 12, 2019
- Selectboard budget work session 6:00 pm Thursday, January 9, 2020.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Approved this 12th day of December, 2019:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston