

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 12/12/19**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Larry Young and Peter Moskovites; Town Clerk Teri Gray; Jeff Johansen of Newport Ambulance Service; Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg. Selectboard Chair Glenn Peterson joined the meeting by phone.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Glenn Peterson, Chair. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Young and approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Johansen reports that Newport Ambulance purchased a house near the Morgan store to serve as the local substation, and renovations are underway. Overall cost will be \$220,000-250,000, less than other properties considered because there is a well and septic. For 2019, the service responded to 2,826 calls, including 65 911 calls in town, transported at least 7 more from North Country to other hospitals, and participated in 68 mutual aid calls. They run 5 trucks with 3 full time crews, with one truck and 2 people at the substation 24/7. For 2020, they are asking Charleston for a 3% increase, from \$39,252 last year to \$40,430. He presented the 2020 contract and Mr. Moskovites said the board will review get the signed contract back to them by mail.

Motion by Mr. Moskovites to place appropriation requests for the following organizations on the 2020 Town Meeting Warning, seconded by Mr. Peterson, and approved: Orleans County Citizens Advocacy, VSO Symphony Kids, Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, NEK Council on Aging, NorthWoods Stewardship Center, Daily Memorial Library, Rural Community Transportation, and VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force.

VLCT is asking boards to support a resolution on commercial cannabis. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to table the matter until the next meeting while the board has a chance to review it, seconded by Mr. Young and tabled until January 9th.

The town is required to participate in a new Federal Motor Carrier Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse, which involves annual queries on existing drivers and on new hires. Board members gave the clerk approval to distribute the Consent to Query form for employees to sign.

The Treasurer distributed a working draft of the 2020 Budget and 2019 Revenue and Expenses to date. Board members will review before for the Budget Work Session on January 9th at 6:00 pm.

Vermont Department of Health is looking for recommendations for Town Health Officer. Martin Davis' term expires January 31st and he is not able to continue. The Board asked that the vacancy be noted in the town report and mentioned at town meeting to see if anyone is interested.

OLD BUSINESS

- A letter from VTrans Operations informs the board that they will recommend not extending the 35 MPH zone in West Charleston Village as requested by Route 105 property owner Katherine Bastien. The Traffic Committee was to take up the issue at their December 11th meeting. VTrans Operations did find that the 35 MPH sign on the Derby end of town was placed incorrectly and will be relocated.
- Motion by Mr. Moskovites to approve the 2020 Equipment & Materials Rates for Highway Grants, seconded by Mr. Peterson and adopted.
- Applications for FY2021 Better Roads Grants for projects on Mad Brook Rd, Hinton Hill Rd, and Bowen Hill Rd were approved and signed.
- Ms. Kellogg's request for health insurance contribution as well as the officer wage review tabled from November 14th were held until the end of the meeting when they could be discussed in Executive Session.
- There was no discussion on Class 4 Roads or Bly Farm Rd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- Agenda for the County Meeting on December 10th
- Invitation to Retirement party for Sheriff Kirk Martin on Dec. 20th at the Sheriff's Office
- Transportation Curriculum Videos are now available on YouTube.
- VLCT list of benefits
- Selectboard Budget Work Session will be held 6:00 pm Thursday January 9, 2020.

Mr. Peterson cannot continue as Chair. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to elect Mr. Young as the new Selectboard Chair, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved by the majority.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

Mr. Moskovites called for Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Session began at 7:57 pm and ended at 8:14 pm with the following action: A motion to award the Assistant Clerk health insurance eligibility starting January 1, 2020, with the town contributing 50% of the premium for the standard silver plan was made, seconded, and approved with a 2 to 1 vote.

Mr. Peterson offered his resignation from the Selectboard, which was accepted by Mr. Moskovites and Mr. Young.

Seeing no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Approved this 9th day of January, 2020:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston