

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 3/12/2020

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites, Larry Young, and Pat Austin and; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Town Clerk Teri Gray; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Young and approved as written.

Under organizational business, Mr. Moskovites was nominated Selectboard Chair by Mr. Young, second by Mr. Austin, and unanimously elected. The oath of office was administered to Mr. Young, having been previously administered to Mr. Austin by the Town Clerk. The NEKWMD contact list was updated for submission. Ms. Kellogg agreed to email agendas to board members by the prior Tuesday. By agreement of all members, Tuesday Road Commissioner Meetings will not be held regularly, and bills/orders will be approved in Thursday Selectboard meetings only, however, Mr. Young will continue checking-in with the highway crew on these days. Mr. Austin raised the possibility of an earlier regular meeting time, and by agreement of all members, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

ROAD REPORT

Mr. Pepin reports that snowbanks have been pushed back, and roads are getting rough and muddy.

NEW BUSINESS

- Maurice Cerruti approached Mr. Moskovites about new flags for veterans' graves. The Clerk reports that flag purchase is included in the cemetery budget. Board members agreed to send a letter to Mr. Cerruti putting him in touch with the Cemetery Commission and school staff who work with students on this annual activity.
- Motion by Mr. Austin to approve liquor license renewal applications for Scampy's and West Charleston Corner Store, second by Mr. Moskovites and approved unanimously.
- Pricing for roadside mowing and pavement sweeping was received from Patenaude Brush Hogging and David White Trucking, respectively, and found to be comparable with 2019. Ms. Kellogg is instructed to update 2020 contracts and send to vendors.
- Charleston's newly elected, Lister John Westinghouse, has experience with property valuation at state and local level. Motion by Mr. Young to set his wage at \$18/hr, second by Mr. Moskovites and approved unanimously.
- Toni Rushlow and Paula Manzi have volunteered to provide poundkeeper services—to keep dogs picked up by the Constable. The highway crew will pickup the town kennel this spring. Ms. Gray has spoken with insurance staff, and learned the town would require a contract for limited services, Non-Employee Work Agreement, and proof of liability insurance. Board members agreed unanimously to table the matter until more details about services and costs can be obtained. The Clerk's office will ask these individuals to attend the next Selectboard meeting.

- Ms. Kellogg will review the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) for out-of-date information and report at the next meeting.
- Ms. Kellogg will review the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan for met/unmet goals and report at the next meeting.
- Mr. Pepin reports that the Barton gravel pit will need to be 'stripped' this year or next to make material accessible. In whatever year it happens, less gravel will be crushed to stay within the crushing/gravel budget. The town has 16,000 CY stockpiled, and another 10,000 could be crushed without stripping. The Foreman is asked to obtain a quote for stripping and further information about an arrangement that would involve providing winter sand from the pit to an interested town, and the matter was tabled until next meeting.
- Mr. Pepin has found a good deal on a loader and the town might want to purchase now. He presented prices and specs on a Volvo (\$160,000) and a comparable (\$184,000; no bucket). The Volvo has 200 hrs., works with existing quick-connect bucket, and lifts high enough to load 10-wheelers. Motion by Mr. Austin to buy the Volvo Loader with a \$100,000 down payment from the equipment fund and finance the remainder for two years at the lowest interest rate, second by Mr. Moskovites and approved unanimously. The Town Clerk will compare Volvo's rate of 2.6% with bank rate.

OLD BUSINESS

- Selectboard will hold its annual financial meeting with VTrans March 17th at 8am.
- For the information of Mr. Austin, the Chair explained that the Bly Farm Rd matter involved a court order stating that the Davis' own land on the Letourneau/Maxwell side of Bly Farm Rd.
- The Chair called for executive session at 8:30 pm to discuss attorney communication, ending at 8:34 pm with the following action: Board members Moskovites and Young agreed to visit Mr. Davis with Mr. Pepin to make him aware that trees cannot be skidded down the road this time of year—to avoid damage.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

Seeing no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Approved this 26th day of March, 2020:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston