

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 9/24/2020**

MINUTES

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

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair. Motion by Mr. Austin to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and unanimously approved. There was no public comment.

**ROAD REPORT**

The crew finished winter sand, and completed planned work on Town Farm Rd, including 10-12 loads tailings and changed one culvert. The road is more than passable and may need the same work next year. A blocked culvert at the high point remains a problem because Mr. Pepin has heard nothing yet from the landowner. Some of the area is probably beyond the ROW. The crew continued stone ditch work on Hinton Hill Rd and will work on Center School/Hudson Rd before the end of the season. Better Roads Program Coordinator Alan May approved work on Bowen Hill Rd, and the grant report can be submitted for reimbursement.

**OLD BUSINESS**

SW Cole submitted a proposal for bore testing the Barton gravel pit; cost is \$10,500. Mr. Austin and Mr. Pepin met at the pit with Patrick Ross of AOT to explore digging the floor and any water table issues. Mr. Ross didn't see any immediate water table issues, but future problems are possible. He recommends getting assistance from Ruggles engineering, who has experience with pits and could help ensure the town gets effective results from testing. Another option would be to excavate and backfill as they go. Mr. Austin will reach out to Ruggles. If the cost is high, he will bring it to the board first. Otherwise, he and Bernie will meet with Ruggles and report back.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Tax map vendor Dean Russell sold his business, and new owner CAI Technologies will honor Charleston's existing contract as long as the board signs a reassignment agreement. The Listers would like to go ahead with it. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to assign the contact to CAI, seconded by Mr. Austin and approved.
- The board discussed recommendations from a recent facility inspection by PACIF Insurance. A can for flammable rags was purchased; backup cameras will be looked at for new truck purchases; a step will be marked with high-visibility paint to prevent falls; fire extinguisher inspection has been requested; and the Clerk will install an exit sign above the basement door. More information is needed about the status of the woodstove, and Mr. Moskovites will contact the Loss Control Consultant for details.
- Possibilities for the next Grants-in-Aid road project were discussed, including Ten Mile Square Rd and Mad Brook Rd. The program has prioritized high-slope roads in the past because these must meet standards by 2025. Mr. Pepin sees Ten Mile Square Rd as urgent because the Town will continue to lose costly gravel until drainage is improved. Ms. Kellogg will inquire about the program's priorities for this year, and the board will

work with Mr. Pepin to select a site at the next meeting. Mr. Pepin raised the possibility of hiring-out the work. Mr. Austin made a motion to participate in the Grants-in-Aid program, seconded by Mr. Young, and the Letter of Intent was approved and signed.

- Vandals spray-painted a few road signs on Ten Mile Square Rd this week. The crew will try to clean them and order replacements if they cannot be cleaned.
- Mr. Austin offered a draft letter to Dennis Fekert of Vermont ANR/DEC requesting a public hearing in the matter of a proposed solid waste permit for Chittenden Solid Waste District. According to Mr. Austin, the District accepted glass for recycling but was disposing of it in their closed landfill in Williston even though glass is banned. When a violation was issued 2016, they doubled tonnage fees and are now seeking a permit after the fact. A hearing would ensure public input in the process but would not obligate the Selectboard to anything. Mr. Austin moved to send the letter to Dennis Fekert by email and mail by tomorrow to request a public hearing, seconded by Mr. Young and approved.
- The Chair asked that the board set out a timeline for developing the 2021 budget at the next meeting, as well as the process for employee evaluations.

Seven Highway and Selectboard orders totaling \$46,959.59 were approved unanimously and signed by all board members.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- A hearing on a proposal to discontinue Taylor Farm Rd will be held October 8<sup>th</sup> immediately prior to the Selectboard meeting.
- Barton Electric is conducting demolition/renovation to buildings on Great Falls Rd and Charleston will see increased traffic there over the next few months.
- The Secretary of State began mailing ballots to all active voters this week.
- Charleston's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains active, and calls will be scheduled as needed.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 8th, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston