

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 10/22/2020**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites and Patrick Austin; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Reno Gervais and Stacey Roesse of Brighton Snowmobile Club; Highway Crew Roger Patenaude and Ted Aldrich; 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 Pat Austin to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Reno Gervais and Stacey Roesse were present representing Brighton Snowmobile Club. Previously, the Selectboard had agreed to consider approving VAST access on the Town Forest property if the club got permission from adjacent landowners. They now have permission from the Barrett's on Crowe Hill/Westover Rd. The goal is to move the trail off Hudson Rd. The proposed route would use Hudson only to get from the Levin property to Crowe Hill Rd, then over the Barrett property using an existing logging road, and onto the town's property. One or two culverts would be installed on the Town Forest property, and the club has grant funds for this. Maps of the proposed route were reviewed. Mr. Austin made a motion to approve Brighton Snowmobile Club to use the Town Farm property to connect with the Barrett property for VAST trail access, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and approved unanimously. A VAST Landowner Permission Form was reviewed and signed.

Highway employees were present to discuss wage reviews and the winter work schedule. Multiple employees would like to see a regular schedule and rate for annual raises—perhaps a standard percentage for good performance at the time evaluations are done. Ted Aldrich is interested in working as a fill-in plow driver, and would like to figure out a schedule and equitable rate since this would be a new arrangement for the town. Mr. Pepin supports a plan to have a fill-in driver to avoid leaving the town short-handed in case of emergency or illness. Various possibilities were discussed including on-call and staggered schedules to rotate 4 drivers weekly, but no final decision was made. Board members said they are unable to make decisions about raises before they work on the budget, but they are in favor of having a policy regarding raises, and they will continue to discuss this. The Treasurer's office will prepare information on winter hours and raise history for the next meeting.

**ROAD REPORT**

Bernie Pepin said summer work is pretty much wrapped up and they are preparing for winter. He's received complaints about rough roads, especially high-traffic ones. The town has been out grading every day that the weather allows, but it takes about two weeks to grade all over town, and rainy days got ahead of them this week. There was discussion of whether more grading time is needed, as well as the need to move the grader efficiently around town. Brush cutting has started on Town Farm Rd, and it looks good. He said the chloride tank has been patched as long as possible and will need to be replaced by spring. The cost is \$2000, and he asked the board if

he should purchase now or in next year's budget. Board members said they would let him know as budget discussions proceed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- A contract with OPH Consulting, authorized previously, was approved and signed.
- A draft of the Decision and Order discontinuing Taylor Farm Rd was approved and signed and will be sent to the required parties.
- Mr. Austin talked with Nate Sicard of Ruggles Engineering, who had ideas about permits that may be needed to excavate the Barton pit floor but did not see a problem with the plan. Mr. Sicard will meet with Mr. Austin and Mr. Pepin in early November to go over details. Mr. Sicard was cautious about bore testing because the town could spend quite a bit of money with little result if the bore hits stone and can't go further.
- No action needed on the CSWD permit hearing. Mr. Austin will participate.
- Regarding a landowner request to reclassify part of Maple Ridge Rd as a legal tail, board members discussed options including a "pent road" which can be gated by permission. Board members will review the AOT Orange Book. The matter is still under discussion.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Motion by Mr. Austin to place appropriation requests in the amount of \$1,650 for Rural Community Transportation and \$50 for GreenUp Day on the 2021 Town Meeting warning, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and approved.
- A letter of resignation was accepted from First Constable Jonathan Bruce. Board members asked the Clerk to make an announcement on the town website and neighborhood forum that the Selectboard is seeking interested individuals for the office.
- Ms. Kellogg presented information from FEMA about eligible and ineligible costs for the town's COVID-19 FEMA assistance application. A decision must be made to withdraw ineligible costs in order for the application to proceed, and withdrawal was approved by both Selectboard members. Ineligible costs will be submitted to the state under the LGER grant program.

Seven Highway and Selectboard orders totaling \$808,750.92, which includes a payment of education tax to the school, were approved unanimously and signed by all board members.

The Chair called for Executive Session at 7:18 pm to discuss communication with the town attorney and personnel evaluations. Session ended at 7:25 pm with the following action: Employee evaluations were tabled until the following meeting when all Selectboard members will be present.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston