

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 1/14/2021**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites, Patrick Austin and Larry Young; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair.

Motion by Pat Austin to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and unanimously approved. There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- An update of the town's hazard mitigation plan is proceeding on schedule. The town has been asked to provide status updates on previous goals. Ms. Kellogg will draft this for board review.
- Mr. Austin learned from Ruggles Engineering that the town can excavate in the floor of the Barton gravel pit, but it's a different process. Permits may be needed, and the water can't run off the property.
- A working draft of the 2021 budget was reviewed. Various items were discussed including the benefits of adding brush cutting on a non-mowed road each year, interest in repaving Center School Rd, and how payoff of the Barton Pit loan in 2020 affects the budget going forward. Motion by Mr. Austin to approve the proposed budget as written, seconded by Mr. Young and approved unanimously.
- Due to unexpected revenues like extra state highway aid and a Better Roads grant, as well as less-than-expected crushing and fuel costs, the town ended 2020 with a surplus of highway funds in the amount of \$128,978.19. Repaving Center School Rd and building up the Road Equipment reserve fund after the recent loader purchase were discussed as priorities. Mr. Austin made a motion to place an article on the warning to authorize the Selectboard to expend \$50,000 of the 2020 highway surplus to pave and upgrade Center School Rd, seconded by Mr. Young and approved unanimously. Mr. Austin offered a motion to place an article on the warning to authorize the Selectboard to transfer \$78,978.19 of the 2020 highway surplus to the Road Equipment reserve fund, seconded by Mr. Young and approved unanimously.
- A special meeting will be needed to approve the final Town Meeting Warning. Board members agreed to warn a meeting at 3:00pm on Thursday January 21st for this purpose.
- The Charleston School Board voted on the 13th to approve (1) Australian ballot voting for their annual meeting and (2) a remote informational meeting on March 1st at 6:00 pm. The Selectboard and School Board will hold a virtual informational meeting together on March 1st via Zoom.
- The Town Report is proceeding on schedule and a working draft will be provided to Selectboard members next week.
- Mr. Austin provided an update on the Chittenden County Solid Waste District permit decision, and made a motion that the Selectboard send a letter to VT ANR and the VT

Attorney General opposing the settlement, seconded by Mr. Young, and approved—with Mr. Moskovites voting against. Mr. Austin will work with the Clerk to send out the letter.

NEW BUSINESS

- The 2021 service agreement with Newport Ambulance Service was reviewed and signed.
- The following requests for 2021 appropriations will be placed on the town meeting warning: Charleston Historical Society (\$500); Dailey Memorial Library (\$1100); Echo Lake Protective Assoc (\$1000); Island Pond Library (\$700); NorthWoods Stewardship Center (\$800); and Orleans County Citizens Advocacy (\$500).
- Charleston's 2021 town mileage certificate was reviewed, with the only change being the discontinuance of Taylor Farm Rd in 2020, and signed by the Chair for submission to VTrans.

Thirteen 2020 General and Highway orders totaling \$216,171.96 were approved and signed. Six 2021 General and Highway orders totaling \$45,603.18 were approved and signed.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm. The next meeting will be a special meeting to approve the Town Meeting warning on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 3:00 pm. The next regular business meeting will be held Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Approved this 21th day of January, 2021:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston