

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 7/8/2021**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites, Larry Young, and Patrick Austin; Animal Control Officer Sarah Jenness; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; Orleans-1 Representative Brian Smith; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair. Pat Austin moved to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2021 meeting as written, seconded by Larry Young and unanimously approved.

**ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT**

Sarah Jenness has responded to calls about a loose dog whose owner is now in prison. It's a strong dog with a high prey drive that she could not safely kennel at her home. Renee Falconer has kennels and could board a dog for the required 10-day hold period at a rate of \$18 per day, after which the dog can be transferred to a shelter. This would not be needed often as most pets are returned within hours thanks to social media. All board members agreed to authorize the ACO to board impounded dogs with Renee Falconer as needed. Ms. Jenness recommends that the town reducing the 10-day hold period specified in the dog ordinance to 5 days. Other area towns hold for 3-5 days and this is sufficient. The board will take this up at a later meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brian Smith is connecting with Selectboards. He welcomes hearing from towns about any issues he should take up in Montpelier, and also welcomes questions—if he doesn't have the answer, he will get it. Remote sessions have hindered information about legislative action, but they will be back in their seats in January. He met with the Orleans County Sheriff this morning and was asked to reach out to Charleston on her behalf. Board members said there have been smaller local issues and complaints about speeding. He welcomes calls.

**ROAD REPORT**

The Chair reports that the Road Foreman is improving and eager to return to work. Board members agreed to pay him for a few hours a week to supervise crew and take their calls.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A Grants-in-Aid ditching project on Center School Rd is complete, and Doug Morton of NVDA has been notified to inspect the job.
- Prep work for paving on Center School Rd is also complete. Mr. Austin said Gray's Paving estimates an August timeframe.
- The Foreman is confident that a Mad Brook Better Roads project can be completed this year as long as winter sand is taken care of now, and the crew is working on this. Grant extensions are not available.
- The bid deadline for the garage roof has passed with no proposals received. Mr. Austin suggests that the problem could be addressed in the short term by blowing in 10-12 inches of insulation,

putting the roof cap on properly, and possibly changing screws. Long term, he favors getting rid of the stove and chimney and replacing with a more automated heat source, like a Modine system. Ms. Kellogg will inquire about ARPA eligibility.

- The Foreman will make phone calls to pursue quotes for work in the Barton pit.
- The board tabled discussion of a damaged ditch on Bly Farm Rd. Mr. Austin said the state has been notified of potential discharge into a stormwater ditch.
- The Clerk's Office is obtaining a quote to offer short- and long-term disability for employees—for Selectboard consideration.
- The Tax Sale for delinquent 2019 and 2020 property taxes will be held at the town office at 9:00 am on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Moskovites will represent the Selectboard.
- Regarding a camper recently placed at the Rice property in West Charleston Villages, VTrans said it is beyond the state ROW. They suggest stopping by to inquire about the resident's intentions, and VTrans will help if there are any ANR issues to explore.
- A resident called Mr. Young concerned about high speed near his property and blind drive on Hinton Hill Rd. Mr. Young suggests posting two "Reduce Speed" signs in the area, and all board members agreed. Ms. Kellogg will order the signs.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- In preparation for tax bills, the board must decide about the late homestead filing penalty—up to 3%. The fee was waived in 2020 due to COVID and confusion about tax deadlines, and Ms. Gray suggests doing the same this year. Mr. Moskovites moved to waive the penalty for 2021, seconded by Mr. Austin approved unanimously.
- The board has heard no concerns regarding ambulance service and will wait until budget time to meet with NAS.

Six Selectboard Orders totaling \$30,157.41 and eight highway orders totaling \$33,217.42 were approved for payment.

#### INFORMATION

- Board of Abatement will hold hearings at 6:00 pm on July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Town Office.
- The Board of Civil Authority will meet at 5:30 pm on July 22<sup>nd</sup> just before the Selectboard meeting to conduct the biennial Voter Checklist Purge. Board members were given voter checklists and asked to make note of any voters they believe should be sent a challenge letter.
- Vermont Department of Taxes notified the town of 2021 education rates: Homestead 1.4603 (was 1.5294 in 2020); Non-homestead 1.6339 (was 1.6167 in 2020)

Mr. Austin moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moskovites, and unanimously approved, with adjournment at 7:21 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 22<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston