

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 10/14/2021**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Patrick Austin, Peter Moskovites and Larry Young; ACO Sarah Jenness; Richard Spiese of VT DEC; Foreman Bernie Pepin; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; and Asst. Clerk & Treasurer Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Patrick Austin, Chair. Ms. Kellogg added Richard Spiese to the agenda.

Peter Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021 meeting as written, seconded by Larry Young and unanimously approved.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Following up on complaints that the Plankey's stallion that is repeatedly at large, Sarah Jenness has gathered information from VLCT staff attorneys and Law Enforcement Consultant. Because the town's animal ordinance pertains to dogs only, the town must pursue fines for an at large horse through superior court. A neighbor who incurs damages can also pursue through the courts. The town could consider broadening the ordinance to include livestock, which allows the ACO to issue a municipal citation that is enforced by the VT Judicial Bureau, and some area towns are doing so. She'll have more information after next week's Humane Officer training. The police can pursue cruelty investigations when there is sufficient evidence. Mr. Moskovites suggested the town move forward to change the ordinance. The matter will be taken up at a later meeting once Ms. Jenness can provide more guidance and information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Spiese, of VT DEC Waste Management Division asked the Selectboard to choose the manner in which his department will close a hazardous waste remediation project. About 2010, the Selectboard agreed to accept fuel-contaminated soil from former underground tanks at Grenier's garage into the town sand pit. The material has been monitored and tested over time by the state and is now clean. The options for final disposal are: (1) leave it (this is not recommended due to plastic encapsulating the soil); (2) remove as much plastic as possible (remaining plastic would have to be removed when the soil is disturbed); (3) thin-spread the soil 6" over an area and remove all the plastic (vegetation and trees would have to be removed); or (4) haul it away and dispose offsite. There is no cost to the town. Mr. Pepin said the soil is clay and cannot be used for road material. Mr. Young moved to have the previously contaminated material hauled offsite, seconded by Mr. Austin, with a vote of two in favor and one opposed. Mr. Spiese will be in touch with Mr. Pepin to make it happen and close the project.

Bill Manning emailed to let the board know he will be using a temporary wooden crossing culvert at his property on Ten Mile Square Rd to gather brush. The Selectboard cannot approve such an installation as it does not meet highway codes and standards.

ROAD REPORT

- Mr. Pepin presented a VEC form requesting town approval for underground power to the Tetreault property on Willis Rd, which was signed by all board members.
- Long overdue repair and maintenance on Cole Rd is complete. The road was washing out badly and looked like a river bottom. One property owner did object to ditching and berm removal, but things have worked out.
- The crew has been spreading stay-mat on steep problem areas, including Westmore Rd, Ten Mile Square Rd, Gratton Hill Rd. They still need to do Fiddler's Elbow and Dane Hill Rd. Mr. Pepin

asked to purchase more stay-mat this year—about \$15,000 total. Mr. Austin proposed that the board authorize Mr. Pepin to move ahead with stay-mat purchases up to \$15,000, with the agreement of all board members.

- Mr. Pepin has been working with J.A. McDonald on a price to bail out and crush material in the Barton Pit; with the aim of bailing this year and crushing could happen next year in time for summer use; he assumes 10,000 CY. Crushing alone is \$4.25/CY. The Chair asked Mr. Pepin to update him when he hears about pricing.
- The cost of roadside mowing was higher this year—more than \$19,000 total. A third cut was added, but the hours increased much more than expected. Mr. Pepin is looking at other possible vendors like David White, and Mr. Austin raised the possibility of bidding out the work.
- Mr. Pepin and Ms. Kellogg met with officials from the Better Roads and Grants-in-Aid programs about projects next year on Ten Mile Square Rd. The road is a priority because there are many segments that don't meet standards, and the town regularly loses material there. A large culvert near the pit was identified as undersized and undermined, and VTrans will be assessing it for a possible structures grant.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion of a Disability Insurance proposal has been rescheduled to the October 28th meeting when company representatives can attend. The Town does not currently offer this, and it was recommended by VLCT HR consultant.
- Mr. Austin provided an estimate from Currie Construction for work at the town garage: blow in insulation, remove the stove pipe and replace the steel roofing at that location, and remove the ridge cap and reinstall with vented foam. He is still waiting for a price on steel and foam. He recommends inspecting around the garage doors and repairing weatherstripping as needed. He will check with the school to see if there is any advantage to piggybacking on the school's propane delivery, and he'll call Fred's for an estimate on usage and price. Mr. Pepin suggests placing the propane tank at the road end of the garage, as the other end is tight. Mr. Moskovites moved to have Currie construction do the work as detailed in the estimate, seconded by Mr. Young, and approved unanimously. The board will discuss what to do with the old furnace and firewood once the work is complete.

NEW BUSINESS

- There were no questions on the year-to-date budget report.
- The November 11th meeting will be held as scheduled. The board will revisit the question of the December 23rd meeting.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$506,522.95 and Six Highway orders totaling \$41,201.22 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- A list of approved expenditure categories for ARPA funds from the U.S. Treasury was distributed to board members.
- The Board will conduct Personnel Evaluations in executive session at the next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 745 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 28th day of October 2021:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston