

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 12/09/2021**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Patrick Austin, Peter Moskovites 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 6:00 pm by Patrick Austin, Chair. Ms. Kellogg added Charleston Historical Society's appropriation request to the agenda.

Peter Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2021 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Austin and unanimously approved. There was no Public Comment

ROAD REPORT

Per the Road Foreman's request, Ms. Kellogg presented a letter to landowner Eric Bingham asking him to move tires in front of his property out of the right-of-way. Mr. Young was familiar with the area and confirmed tires are in the right of way, and the obstacles prevent maintenance—leading to frequent potholes, which the Foreman would like to address. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to approve and send the letter, seconded by Larry Young and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Austin said Jessie Currie will be at the Garage Tuesday or Wednesday to blow-in insulation and fix garage door seals. He will also remove the stove pipe and replace the tin in that area. Board members verified that the thicker R49 material was chosen. Heaters are installed. One is in use; the other is waiting for a longer cord.
- Mr. Young brought up the town's wood splitter, which is no longer needed. He suggests advertising it for sale to give the opportunity to as many people as possible. Mr. Austin suggests posting on Charleston Coffee. The matter was tabled until a later meeting. Meanwhile, the board will ask Mr. Pepin about the current value.
- Mr. Austin said the town's firewood had been sold for \$100/cord, as agreed at an earlier meeting. Mr. Pepin sold the wood furnace for scrap price.
- The grant agreement for a VTrans Engineering Grant to spec and oversee replacement of a large culvert on Ten Mile Square Rd was reviewed and signed.
- Discussion continued regarding a proposal to provide short term and long-term disability insurance as a benefit to the five benefits-eligible employees at a cost to the town of \$1,338 annually. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to accept the proposal for a January 1, 2022 effective date, seconded by Mr. Austin and approved.
- Both Russell Colvin and Tyler Scelza have approached the Town seeking permission to use town land in the Barton Pit for a Log Landing for a job on neighboring land. Mr. Austin has advised both that the town needs a release of liability document from them as well as naming the town as "Additional Insured" on their policy, as advised by VLCT. He has not heard back from either and does not know who is still planning to log. With the agreement of all board members, requests from both of these individuals are denied until further information can be provided and reviewed at the next meeting.
- In other old business, Alice Letourneau reported to Mr. Moskovites that Alan Davis is driving his tractor within a couple feet of their house and over the stone material the town installed to prevent erosion. The Board is interested in knowing if there is video or other documentation of travel over the property line.

NEW BUSINESS

- Board members reviewed and discussed reports on the 2021 budget status and draft numbers for a proposed 2022 Budget. With \$140,000 committed for the current baling and crushing job, Mr. Austin will touch base with JA MacDonald about partial payment in 2021 to spread the expense. Year-end

2021 numbers and 2022 assessments like County Tax will be better known at the December 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- Board members reviewed an estimate from True Blue for interior painting at the Town Office upstairs and downstairs, with ARPA funds a possible funding source for some of the work. Mr. Austin moved to accept the proposal, seconded by Peter and approved.
- Board members reviewed the Newport Ambulance Service approved 2022 budget. Charleston's contract amount will go from \$42,056.00 to 45,445.00. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to approve the NAS contract amount, seconded by Mr. Austin and approved.
- An application to the Better Roads program for assistance with ditching, shoulder work, and culvert replacement on Ten Mile Square Rd was reviewed and signed by the Chair.
- Requests to place appropriation articles on the Town Meeting Warning were received from VSO Symphony Kids, Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, VT Rural Fire Protection, NEK Council on Aging, ELPA, NorthWoods Stewardship Center, and Charleston Historical Society. All organizations are asking for support at the same level received in 2021. Mr. Moskovites moved to place all requests on the 2022 Town Meeting Warning, seconded by Mr. Austin and approved.
- Mr. Young suggests a dedication to the late Robert Frizzell in the 2021 Town Report. There is already a draft cover design with some important info for voters. Board members agreed that a photo and dedication on the inside back cover is a good plan for this year and going forward, as there are more and more election and new resident information items to take care of with the town report. Mr. Young will reach out to Mr. Frizzell's family about a photo and dedication message.

Four Selectboard orders totaling \$15,171.00 and Eight Highway orders totaling \$37,800.74 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- Board members received notice of the NEKWMD 2022 Budget and their Dec. 14 meeting.
- Sheriff Jennifer Harlow will attend the Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting to discuss policing
- Tom Wagner will attend on the 30<sup>th</sup> to give an update on the Echo Lake reclassification effort.
- There will be a Planning Commission meeting Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Moskovites called for Executive Session to discuss personnel. Session began at 7:59 pm and ended at 8:05 pm with no action taken.

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm by the Chair. The next meeting will be held Thursday, December 30, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston