

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 05/26/2022

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Patrick Austin, Peter Moskovites and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Residents Alan & Judith Davis; 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. Colleen Kellogg added a state highway grant letter of intent to the agenda.

Larry Young moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting as written, seconded by Peter Moskovites and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Davises were present to respond to a letter from the Selectboard. Mr. Davis asked what the town has to do with trespassing? Mr. Moskovites said the letter was sent because abutting landowner Margaret Maxwell brought it to the Selectboard's attention that Mr. Davis was cutting trees in the town right-of-way (ROW). He said the Selectboard has the authority to tell property owners that if they plan to work in the ROW, they must notify the Selectboard. He said Mrs. Maxwell made a claim to the board, and the board is asking Mr. Davis for his take on it. Mr. Davis said he was told by a previous Selectboard that he can do whatever he wants in the ROW. There was discussion of Mr. Davis driving a tractor in the right of way, as well as where the property line is and who is using the ROW and parking access. Mr. Moskovites asked Mr. Davis for his comments or reaction to the letter from the Selectboard, and if he would do anything about it. Mr. Davis said he will not move his truck—it is not in the way of road maintenance. He asked the town to abide by a court decision and get the neighbors' vehicles out of the town ROW. Mr. Davis said the Letourneau's were parking in his driveway. He also asked about the town practice of dumping ditch fill—Mr. Austin explained that the goal is to curb costs by hauling the material to the closest landowner willing to take it. Judith Davis complained that the town smashed the corner of their barn during the project on Center School Rd last year.

ROAD REPORT

Bernie Pepin said the highway crew is wrapping up chloride and doing great. Fred Baraw is getting grading done quickly, and the new crew member is good. Currie Construction is working on the Garage. Ms. Kellogg said that during a FEMA site visit to Hudson Rd, manure spillage over the bank and into the road ditch was seen at 2707 Hudson Rd. Mr. Austin said he will speak to the property owner to see if the matter can be resolved. Mr. Austin said he met with Willard and Ted Taft to look at ditching work on Buck Brook Rd. Mr. Pepin said that water runs the whole length of this steep road, and they need to disconnect the flow of water. Raising the level of the road could improve drainage into the field. The road crown needs also improvement—it leans to one side but should shed water to both sides. There was discussion of ditch specs and the road maintenance standards the town is obligated to. Mr. Austin will meet with them again to provide more information and probably consult VTrans technicians about the best fix.

OLD BUSINESS

- A draft of the town's Personnel Policies document with changes suggested by VLCT was reviewed by board members. Mr. Moskovites moved to accept suggested edits on pages 1-4, seconded by Mr. Austin and approved. The board will review a few pages at each meeting until complete.

- The Town was contacted by a new vendor who reached out about providing a generator estimate. He had questions about whether the town should have one or two generators to power the office and garage, and what would need to run off the generator. Mr. Austin left him a message. When they speak, he'll ask the vendor to bid both options and tell him that the town is looking for the best recommendation. Mr. Pepin confirmed that the crew would not run all equipment during a power outage—just basic things and what's needed to keep people warm.
- Mr. Austin said that Jesse Currie inspected the garage roof. He will price two options: 1) just new tin; and 2) plywood, which would require extra strapping, then new tin. The overall price might be high, and the town might need to put it out to bid. Mr. Pepin confirmed that the new passage doors are installed—they did a nice job. Water damage above one of the overhead doors was caused by a large ant nest, which was removed.
- Mr. Austin has a call in to Mike Green. They will meet to figure out how to fix the area outside the lower door to the Clerk's Office.

NEW BUSINESS

- To be eligible for a SFY2023 Grants-in-Aid highway grant, the town must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by June 24th. Mr. Moskovites moved to submit the letter of intent and apply for a grant, seconded by Mr. Austin and approved.
- Mr. Austin raised the subject of flag handling when half-staff orders are issued. The Town does not have a process in place, and there is not always someone on site who can respond. Mr. Pepin will check to see if any crew members would be interested in helping with this.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$5,103.34 and four Road orders totaling \$19,540.65 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- Ms. Kellogg provided information about the required warning and ballot deadlines for a special Australian ballot election, in the event that the town receives a voter petition.

Mr. Moskovites called for Executive Session at 7:08 pm to discuss a legal matter, seconded by Mr. Austin. Executive Session began at 7:08 pm and ended at 7:14 pm with no action taken.

Seeing no other business, Mr. Austin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Moskovites, and the meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 9th day of June 2022:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston