

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 6/09/2022**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Patrick Austin, Peter Moskovites and Larry Young; Residents Margaret Maxwell, Alice & Daniel Letourneau; 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. Mr. Austin said he would call for Executive Session later to keep a budgetary estimate confidential.

Peter Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2022 meeting as written, seconded by Larry Young and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Animal Control Officer Sarah Jenness will attend June 26th to discuss the Dog Ordinance.

Margaret Maxwell asked if the Selectboard has made a decision regarding a 15-acre area based on the survey statement referred to in her letter and if anything had happened regarding the neighbor's truck that is parked on her side of the road. Mr. Moskovites and Mr. Austin stated that the board has no standing to rule on who owns the area of land she refers to; landowners would need to pursue legal advice/action. Board members agreed that landowners on both sides had vehicles in the right of way, and if the town were to move any object, they would have to move all. Mr. Moskovites said that Mr. Davis was informed that he could not alter the ROW without consulting the board. Selectboard does have some control over what is done in the non-travelled portion of the ROW and is looking into town authority over the travelled portion. Mr. Austin said the town is doing what it can to stop erosion. If there is intentional damage being done to the road, landowner evidence of this might help. Regarding Mrs. Maxwell's charge that Mr. Davis cut a tree on her property, the board has taken no action because they don't know who owns the property. Mrs. Maxwell said she has contacted an attorney.

Mrs. Maxwell requested permission to install a culvert at the top of her property just below Davis' access so she could enter her field. Mr. Moskovites said the board would make a site visit with the Foreman to inspect the area and determine an acceptable culvert location and specifications. The site visit was scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th at 9:30 am and will be warned. Alice Letourneau noted that recent grading has pushed material on top of ditch stone and shifted the road closer to her house. The board will look at this during the site visit. Ms. Maxwell said Mr. Davis has diverted water so it runs from his feedbags across the road, and this will also be looked at during the visit.

Mr. Letourneau presented a sketch of his driveway area and suggested jersey barriers be placed to protect the ditch. Mr. Austin said the town is liable for damage/injury caused by obstacles placed in the ROW and so cannot install barriers. Asked if the town could dig out mud and silage from the ditch, board members agreed the town cannot at this point.

ROAD REPORT

- Regarding manure run off into a Hudson Rd ditch seen during a recent grant site visit, Mr. Austin said he spoke with the landowner. The manure pit was full when heavy rains hit and will be pumped soon.
- Mr. Austin said he and the Tafts are still discussing best solution for the drainage work needed on Buck Brook Rd. If need be, he will bring in the local VTrans for guidance.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion of revisions to the Personnel Policies was tabled until the next meeting.
- Jesse Currie has completed work to replace exterior doors, trim and seal all doors, and repair stair railing. He submitted estimates for two options for replacing the roof, and these will be discussed in Executive Session in case the board decides to put this out to bid.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Moskovites moved to approve a Catering permit for Eastside Restaurant for a June 11th event at NorthWoods, seconded by Mr. Austin and approved.
- The Town Clerk submitted a request to raise hourly wages of Auditors and Election Workers, whose rate is below minimum wage. Mr. Young made a motion to increase these two rates to the new \$12.55 per hour minimum wage, seconded by Mr. Austin and approved.
- The Town Clerk submitted a request that the Selectboard review the town employee/officer mileage reimbursement rate. The rate has been \$.55 per mile for a number of years, and the federal rate is currently \$58.5. Mr. Austin moved to increase the rate to \$.59, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and approved.
- Mr. Moskovites will take minutes during the June 23rd meeting.
- Mr. Moskovites proposed that the board inventory maintenance needs on Class 4 Roads and use the Class 4 budget allotment to repair some each year. He noted that boulders in the Crawford Hill Rd surface are bad. The matter will be placed on the next meeting agenda and the Road Foreman notified.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$5,142.31 and four Road orders totaling \$23,131.35 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- VT DEC will hold a public hearing concerning the ELPA/Town application to reclassify Echo Lake on July 27th at 5:30 pm at the Town Clerk's Office. ELPA members hopes that the Selectboard and Planning Commission will be able to attend.
- Charleston's CLA has improved from 90.82% to 93.53%.
- Efficiency VT will do a free audit of Town buildings. Board said to go ahead.
- Mr. Young complimented Cemetery workers on their good work.

The Chair called for Executive Session at 7:07 pm to discuss a confidential estimate. Session ended at 7:19 pm with the following action taken: Referring to a 5/24/22 estimate from Jesse Currie for two options for rebuilding the highway garage roof, Mr. Young made a motion to accept Option 1, in the amount of \$45,000—as long as the reason for not installing ice and water barrier on the whole roof is clear and it is verified that the ridge vent will be reinstalled—seconded by Mr. Austin and approved. Mr. Young suggested a black or gray color that doesn't fade as fast. Mr. Austin will nail down a date.

Seeing no other business, Mr. Moskovites moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Austin, and the meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 23rd day of June 2022:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston