

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 08/11/2022**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Patrick Austin, Peter Moskovites and Larry Young; Highway Foreman Bernie Pepin; 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.

Peter Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2022 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Austin and unanimously approved. Mr. Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2022 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Austin and unanimously approved. There was no public comment.

#### ROAD REPORT

Bernie Pepin reported that the crew has started a Better Roads grant project on Ten Mile Square Rd. Every culvert is shot and is being replaced. (Mr. Austin said the work looks good.) They have hauled a lot of gravel to: Dane Hill, Ten Mile Square Rd, Sanderson Hill, Echo, and Corkins Rd. The issue at Dale Simino's driveway has been taken care of. The crew has responded to three complaints about water/erosion, including at the Vinton property on Echo caused by required drainage work to remove berms. Linder Studer reported water running down the road into her driveway and carrying gravel. Ford Hill also has an erosion problem. Mr. Austin got a complaint about Corkins Rd. He visited and saw the roadsides are higher than the road, so water stays in the road. Fred will be back on Monday for grading. The arrangement is that he comes in when he can, and Wendell shifts to driving truck on those days. Board members agreed that Mr. Pepin should report Selectboard meeting time on this timesheet.

#### CLASS 4 ROADS

Mr. Pepin and the board discussed maintenance needs on Class 4 roads. Crowe Hill needs a little ditching and gravel. Bernie also needs to pick up ditch fill piles that he ran out of time to do earlier. There was discussion of Westover Rd and a landowner gate within the Class 4 portion of the road. There is also a gate on Tripp Hill Rd.

On Town Farm Rd, there are a couple of places where culverts cross the road, and water needs to go into the field, but a big berm forces it into the road. Half a dozen trees are coming down over the road. Mr. Pepin agreed that water is undermining trees, and more will come down. Mr. Pepin said he has seen the road repaired to perfect condition, but it doesn't last. He can't slow stormwater because there is nowhere to send it due to high roadside cliffs/banks.

Ms. Kellogg confirmed that the Town does not receive state aid for Class 4 roads, but there is some grant money available for erosion projects. Mr. Austin suggested spending what's left of the Class 4 budget on Town Farm Rd. Mr. Moskovites suggested spreading it around and hauling a couple loads of gravel to the first hill of Crawford Hill Rd. Mr. Pepin said this is the time of year to tackle Class Fours. He'd like to see a little ditching on Crowe Hill Rd so water gets off the road, and gravel down by the first house. Town Farm Road needs gravel and has a couple of bad culverts, but it can be a money pit. The Chair asked the board to review Class 4 work over the last few years to see where resources have been directed. Ms. Kellogg will gather this information, as well as the hourly rate to add mowing of Class 4 roads.

## MOWING

Roadside mowing is complete. The board and Foreman agree it looks like a pretty narrow three cuts on most roads. This will need to be worked out if the vendor is hired for next year. Maple Ridge Rd, a Class 4 road, needs mowing and will be put on the list for next year.

## CRUSHING

Mr. Pepin reports that J.A. McDonald has finished their crushing work and is moving out their equipment. Over the winter, they estimated the material bailed at 15,000 CY, and charged the town as such. Now they have crushed it all, and there is only 11,000 CY. They have come short of the 20,000 CY agreed upon, and it is Mr. Pepin's understanding that if they come back, it will be at \$8.50 per CY rather than the \$7.00 agreed upon. He said the problem is they needed a loader to bail out enough material during the winter, but didn't bring one in. Without it, not enough material was bailed and allowed to dry before crushing. Anything bailed now would have to dry first. Mr. Moskovites said McDonald should honor the contract. Mr. Young made a motion to request a meeting with JA McDonald to discuss the agreement to crush gravel at the town pit, seconded by Mr. Austin and approved. Mr. Pepin said there is a lot more material to be bailed from the pit floor.

## GRADER

Mr. Pepin said he is seeing major issues with the 2009 John Deere Grader—tandem, motor, and transmission. The vendor came up and performed diagnostics. A copy of the repair invoice was reviewed. While not needed tomorrow, he said it was time to think about replacing the machine, so Mr. Pepin would like to the Town to start making a plan. He planned the grader to last for 14,000 hours, and it's at 11,000. He would like the town to consider a 7-year lease option as well—in which case the town does nothing but run the equipment—and recommends going with the heaviest possible machine; John Deere is best and Cat would be his second choice. He estimates the price around \$300,000. The John Deere dealer took photos of the grader, saw it was well-maintained, and will provide a trade-in value. Mr. Young asked to see prices on paper for purchase and leasing. The board asked Mr. Pepin to take the lead in getting prices from two or three dealers. He will put the John Deere salesperson in touch with the Chair.

The Town was contacted by a resident in collaboration with Memphremagog Watershed Association about erosion on East Echo Lake Rd near Dickey Brook. There is interested from DEC in a site visit to discuss remedies. This area has been identified by the Foreman as well. Ms. Kellogg will schedule the site visit and notify the Foreman and board.

## PICKUP

Collision repair to the town pickup will happen as soon as parts are in. Hayes Ford is working directly with insurance on any supplemental coverage needed. Discussing the town's \$1,000 deductible, Mr. Austin wonders if a higher deductible could save premium costs.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Austin has spoken with a couple of vendors invited to bid on generator installation. Some have proposals ready to send. He asked Ms. Kellogg to resend the information to Bob's Electric—it wasn't received the first time.
- Ms. Kellogg will follow up with Mr. Austin about a generator needs statement to submit to VT Emergency Management for possible grant consideration.
- Following up on Ambulance Dispatch costs from the previous meeting, Newport Ambulance replied that the dispatch bill for 2023 will be based on the actual number of Charleston calls in 2022. It can be billed all at once or monthly. They will work with the town to decide this at contract time.
- The revised adopted Dog Ordinance has been posted and notified in the newspaper as required, and the town is now waiting out the 60-day petition period.

- Mr. Moskovites confirmed that Michael Rice has received the Selectboard’s letter about removing abandoned vehicle. He handed it to him in person.
- Discussion of the Personnel Policies Drug & Alcohol provision—the final section needing revision—was tabled until the next meeting.
- Highway Garage roof replacement started this week. The existing steel will be saved and stacked out back. The vendor noticed a tree on the back side that is dropping branches, and the crew is taking care of it. Mr. Young was concerned about leaving wet insulation in place. Mr. Austin will ask the contractor to report what he finds.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Kellogg asked to reschedule the October 13<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting to Tuesday October 11th due to a travel conflict. Board members agreed to warn the new date.
- Mr. Pepin asked if the carpenter could clean out and replace the garage bathroom ceiling while they are on site to get rid of a rodent infestation and rotted ceiling. Mr. Austin will talk with the contractor. If the cost isn’t much, he will ask him to proceed, but if the cost is significant for any reason, he will bring the proposal back to the board.

Four Selectboard orders totaling \$14,038.33 and eight Road orders totaling \$84,469.09 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- Heat Pump installation at the Town Office is scheduled to begin August 15th.
- Work by JBL to install a large culvert on Ten Mile Square Rd will also happen the week of August 15<sup>th</sup> and will involve closure and detour.
- Information gathered by ACO Sarah Jenness concerning livestock ordinances was provided for review. She continues to research the issue and will follow up when she has recommendations for the board.

The board called for Executive Session at 7:20 pm to discuss a legal matter. Session ended at 7:27 with no action taken.

Seeing no other business, Mr. Moskovites moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Austin, and the meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston