

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 09/08/2022

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. Ms. Kellogg added two informational items to the agenda—a notice from NEKWMD and another regarding the upcoming MRGP reissue.

Peter Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2022 meeting as written, seconded by Pat Austin and unanimously approved. There was no PUBLIC COMMENT.

ROAD REPORT

Bernie Pepin said the crew has been shouldering—including on Dane Hill, Sanderson, Westmore, Echo and Ten Mile Square Roads—and tying up summer maintenance in general. 3,000 yards of winter sand have been put up. Talking with the John Deere dealer, he found out that the cost of a 7-year grader lease is \$36,000 per year including all maintenance and no limit on hours. He doesn't know the details on wear items like tires, or what the buy-options are at the end of the lease. Purchase outright would be \$390,000. After discussion of how to proceed, board members asked Mr. Pepin to get a price for the same size grader from Cat so the board can discuss it more and decide on when to take action. The crew has installed a new 24" culvert on Hudson Rd that was part of earlier FEMA work. Ms. Kellogg will take photos next week to send to FEMA.

OLD BUSINESS

- J.A. McDonald agrees that only \$36,651.25 is now due for crushing work, and the invoice will be paid. They have now excavated and crushed 11,128.75 CY at the agreed price of \$7.00/CY. Mr. Pepin said they will come back in the fall to bail the remainder of the 20,000 CY, which will set up the town for 2-3 years. He thinks the town could do a similar excavation and crushing project twice more—so 40,000 CY more. After that, they would have to paw around in the ridge. Mr. Pepin may be able to do this if there is time.
- Regarding Class 4 maintenance, Crawford Hill Rd got gravel and is done. Mr. Pepin plans to change a culvert on Town Farm Rd. Next year he would like to mow Crawford Hill Rd. Mr. Austin said he would like to see more trees cut on Dane Hill Rd, in the area of the Bowman property and above.
- Mr. Austin has been in touch with one or two generator vendors. It seems the best option will be to combine office and garage electrical services onto one meter/transfer switch combination. The FEMA grant deadline is September 30, and he aims to have a budgetary estimate soon.
- Currie Construction will be back to replace the garage bathroom ceiling, reroof the schoolbell on lawn, replace rotten office siding, and replace the downstairs door and ADA threshold. Mr. Austin also met with Mike Green who will submit prices on a small concrete slab off the downstairs door and a second for a 12-foot stamped pad that goes all the way across. He suggested a lean-to roof off that end of the building would be ideal.
- Mr. Pepin said there are no leaks in the garage roof.
- The town wood splitter has been posted for sale at \$2,500 or best offer. No offers received yet, and no further action was taken.

- VLCT has come out with their new model Personnel Policies, including a simpler option for small towns that excludes the traditional discipline and termination section. After having just conducted a thorough review of policies, board members agreed to wait to change policies any further until it is necessary.
- JBL Hauling has completed a large culvert replacement project on Ten Mile Square Rd, and the town has received final invoices from the contractor and consulting engineer. These will be paid and reimbursement requests submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

- Property owner Dan Lussier has asked his leasing tenant to maintain a field on his property that is accessible from Line Farm Rd, a legal trail. The lessor asked about vehicle access for farm equipment. Motorized vehicle traffic is permitted on legal trails for abutting landowners. No action taken.
- Mr. Austin learned that the Charleston School has already awarded a propane contract for the year at \$1.79/gallon. The town should move forward on its own now and next year try to piggy back on the school's call for bids. Ms. Kellogg will report to the Chair about the town's current price/arrangement/usage so that he can look at options.
- Mr. Young, Mr. Moskovites, Mr. Pepin, and Ms. Kellogg visited East Echo Lake Rd with Jim Ryan, VT DEC, and Patrick Hurley, Memphremagog Watershed Assoc. Mr. Pepin said a portion of the road was worked on in the last several years by the town. There is serious erosion at Dickey Brook at the guardrail. Jim Ryan sketched a very involved fix that includes six road segments and would involve a lot of erosion stone, significant new ditching, and new driveway culverts. The board suggested a scaled back project could be done in the short term, including stone at the erosion point and cleaning material away from the guardrails so water "sheet flows" off the road.
- VTrans Municipal Assistance Section provides grants toward salt/sand shed construction, with a deadline this year of October 7th. There isn't time to spec and site a building for this year, but the town will look into it for next year and begin the process in spring. Mr. Pepin has in mind a bunker with fabric hoop.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$14,236.88 and four Road orders totaling \$61,833.06 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- There is no update on moving the safe(s), but Mr. Austin will be in touch with the historical society.
- Reports and reimbursement requests for the Better Roads and Grants-in-Aid projects on Ten Mile Square Rd were submitted.
- The Municipal Roads General Permit will be reissued next year, and the draft is available for comment. Copy/email will be shared with Selectboard members for review.

Seeing no other business, Mr. Young moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Austin, and the meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm, with a Planning Commission meeting immediately preceding at 5:30 pm.

Approved this 22nd day of September 2022:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston