

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 09/22/2022

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. The following items were added to the agenda under Road Report: Grader purchasing information, Screen Repair, Foreman Cell Phone, Project Sketch for East Echo Lake Rd improvements, and a proposed Grants-in-Aid project at Ten Mile Square and Calhoun Roads. Sale of the wood splitter was added under Old Business.

Larry Young moved to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2022 meeting as written, seconded by Peter Moskovites and unanimously approved. There was no PUBLIC COMMENT.

ROAD REPORT

- Bernie Pepin said that both Cat and John Deere are now offering the town unlimited equipment hours on a lease agreement. Charleston puts about 1,000 hours per year on a grader. Machine prices are the same with both companies, but Cat says their machine is 25,000 pounds heavier. The only difference will be the trade-in value offered by each company. Cat doesn't have a demo available for 2-3 years, but they referred Mr. Pepin to Glover, which has the same machine. While the board doesn't see replacement happening until next year, Cat machine availability is about a year out, and John Deere estimates March delivery. Larry Young recalled that when the current grader was purchased, voters were given the choice to repair or replace the existing machine, and they chose replacement. Board members agreed to keep the matter on the agenda and keep looking into options to replace the grader with the aim of having a proposal ready by January 1st to put before voters at 2023 Town Meeting.
- Bernie Pepin said the sand screen is becoming difficult to repair and get parts for. A bearing that is no longer being made has blown. A suitable bearing is made in China but takes 8-10 weeks. A weaker bearing is available for half the money, but it's not worth taking a risk with a part that won't take the pressure. A rental screen is \$400/day, and would be needed for 10 days. Newport rents for \$300/day, but it's booked. There was discussion of the most cost-effective plan going forward—replacing the screen or hiring someone to screen sand. The town screens about 5,000 yards per year. For this year, Larry Young suggests hiring someone to finish screening and take the time to order the heavier bearing so the screen can be used in future. Board members agreed on ordering the heavier bearing and hiring screening services. Bernie will put up his stockpile to see how many more yards are needed, get prices from area vendors, and report back to the Chair. If the price is out of line, the Chair will bring the decision back to the full board. \$.26/yard is the expected ballpark.
- Bernie Pepin's personal cell phone was lost during culvert maintenance, and he doesn't plan to replace it. Board members agreed that the Foreman must be reachable by cell phone and asked the Clerk's Office to research and set up a plan and phone for the Foreman at town expense as soon as possible. The board would like the Foreman to be able to receive emails and send photos. A no-contract or T-Mobile plan that can use Verizon or AT&T towers might work well.
- Bernie Pepin and Colleen Kellogg have looked at possible sites for 2023 Grants-in-Aid and Better Roads projects. Priority segments at the intersection of Ten Mile Square and Calhoun Roads looks like a good fit for Grants-in-Aid, and they will schedule a site visit with GIA staff. The area of East Echo Lake Rd at Dickey Brook still filters to the top in terms of ongoing maintenance cost to the town and its priority according to the Municipal Roads General Permit.

The Town has received a detailed project map from Patrick Hurley and is working with VTrans on a cost estimate. The board agreed to let the process move forward and will make a decision when the estimate for work is known.

OLD BUSINESS

- The board reviewed a list of Class 4 roads that have received maintenance in 2022. In addition, Bernie Pepin said the crew had just changed a couple of culverts on Town Farm Rd and said water was running off the road well. A Class 4 budget update will be made at the next meeting.
- Pat Austin received a budgetary estimate for a generator. The project will involve combining Garage and Clerk's Office electrical services so they can be served by one generator. He would like to get more prices but will continue to seek grant options.
- Following resident concerns about the placement of a new guardrail too close to the traveled portion of Ten Mile Square Rd, the engineer visited the site and found that the guardrail had shifted from its planned location. The engineer and vendor, JBL, are working to correct the installation soon.
- Colleen Kellogg reported that the town's current propane contract with Bourne's ends on 10/31. Board members asked her to get prices from Bourne's, Fred's, and Amerigas for the coming year.
- Resident Keith Gray has offered the town \$1,200 for the wood splitter as is—the only offer received. Peter Moskovites moved to sell the wood splitter to Gray for \$1200, seconded by Pat Austin, and approved. Ms. Kellogg will let him know.

NEW BUSINESS

- Colleen Kellogg showed the board a copy of the town highway map that appears to misidentify part of Calhoun Rd. Peter Moskovites agreed to help research the matter and will report back to the board.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$12,249.00 and four Road orders totaling \$78,361.18 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- Comcast sent information regarding low-income connectivity options which will be posted.
- The next Selectboard meeting will be held on TUESDAY, October 11th at 6:00 pm, instead of the usual Thursday night.
- Vermont House candidate Peggy Stevens will attend the Oct 27th meeting to introduce herself and hear any concerns from townspeople and Selectboard.

Pat Austin commended the paving work happening at Scampy's store. He said it's a great upgrade to the village center and hopes the town enjoys it.

Pat Austin called for executive session to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Peter Moskovites. Executive session began at 7:03 pm and ended at 7:15 pm with no action taken.

Seeing no other business, Mr. Young moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Austin, and the meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 11th day of October 2022:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston