

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 10/27/2022**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites and Larry Young; Highway Foreman Bernie Pepin; Property Owner Annie Brueck; Resident and House Candidate Peggy Stevens; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg. Selectboard Chair Pat Austin joined via Zoom.

*THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.*

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Peter Moskovites, Vice Chair. With agreement, Mr. Moskovites moved the VEC ROW request to the top of Old Business.

Peter Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting as written, seconded by Larry Young and approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peggy Stevens is running for office and introduced herself to Selectboard for the reason of finding out what people in town need and are concerned about. She asked two questions: (1) Where are we in terms of internet/broadband; and (2) Is there anything she needs to know about how roads are being funded—is Charleston getting what we need from state? Mr. Moskovites referred her to John Kellogg, Charleston’s representative to the NEK Broadband board. Board members agreed that town highway funding and grants serve the town well.

**ROAD REPORT**

Foreman Bernie Pepin said the crew has been getting winter equip ready. Projects are done for the year, winter sand is put-up, and they will install stakes next week.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Annie Brueck has an off-grid house on Ten Mile Square Rd and would like Selectboard permission to have power run under the road from the pole to her house this fall. The pole is flagged on other side of the road. Larry Young asked if she would commit to having the cable run in conduit under the road, and she agreed, adding that VEC commits to a four-foot deep trench. Mr. Moskovites moved to approve and sign the VEC Right-of-Way request, with a second by Mr. Young. Asked about a preferable day or time, Mr. Pepin said the installation should be done in sections in order to keep the road open. The request was approved.
- Mr. Moskovites moved to accept a proposal from AudioCarve to provide a cell phone for the Foreman, with a second by Pat Austin, and the motion was approved. Teri Gray will contact AudioCarve to set up the account, and will send Mr. Pepin to pick-up the phone.
- Mr. Pepin is still gathering information about grader purchase/lease options and wants to look at the Cat machine and the difference in weight. Prices for John Deere and Cat are the same. Mr. Moskovites said the board wants purchase and lease information from both dealers including max hours, price per year, and the trade-in price for the current grader.
- Pat Austin has received one generator estimate but hopes to get at least one more. Ms. Kellogg has heard that FEMA grants for generators are not an option right now, but the state is trying to make generator grants available for Emergency Operations Centers and hopes to make an announcement soon.
- Mr. Pepin has been in touch with VTrans engineers about modifying the proposed project on East Echo Lake Rd to provide a smaller ditch that does not create further erosion in the brook. He and Ms. Kellogg will work with VTrans on estimating costs.

- After reviewing the Town Highway Map, board members agreed that there was no need to seek correction.
- Regarding damage done to highway maintenance work on Bly Farm Rd, resident Margaret Maxwell has asked Mr. Moskovites that Town to do something. The board will revisit at the next meeting.
- A current budget status report was reviewed. Mr. Moskovites said that with this information, the board is ready start on the 2023 budget at the next meeting.
- A report on ARPA funds was reviewed. All funds have been received, and there have been two allocations in 2022: a new garage roof and heat pumps in the Town Clerk's Office. The board will continue to review possible allocations at the following meetings as part of the public process.
- Mr. Moskovites asked if Town Clerk staff have been able to cover the added work of mail-in ballots, and the Clerk confirmed that they were keeping up.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Northeast Kingdom Human Services requests to place an appropriation request on the 2023 Town Meeting warning for support in the amount of \$1,074, the same amount requested and approved in 2022. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to place the article on the warning, with second by Mr. Young and approved.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$1,534,005.07 and four Road orders totaling \$72,017.81 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- Charleston received a community survey from Newport City to gather information for their Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The link to participate is available to town officials for comment.

Executive session for Employee Evaluations was tabled until the next meeting when the full board can participate.

Seeing no other business, Mr. Moskovites moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Young, and the meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston