

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 3/22/2023**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Patrick Austin, Tim Jenness, and Peter Moskovites; Road Foreman Wendell Hastings; Animal Control/Health Officer Sarah Jenness; First Constable Mike Tynio; Second Constable Anya Tynio; 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 Pat Austin, Chair.

Peter Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2023 meeting as written, seconded by Tim Jenness. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved unanimously. There was no public comment.

#### ROAD REPORT

Wendell Hastings said that snowplow wings have been removed and painted, along with the backs of plows. A repair was made to a broken plow wing apparatus; Pat Austin suggested ordering a replacement, and the cost was discussed. Grading can't begin yet, but a situation is developing on Fontaine Rd near the Keith Gray property where he hopes shim will help. The town has 20 loads in the Charleston pit that they'll bring to the shop on a cold day when the roads are firm. Throughout town, roadsides and ditches are open. He is looking into getting protective equipment, traffic control equipment, and a lift chain through an insurance company grant. Asked about the effects of a new garage roof, door replacement and sealing, Mr. Hastings said there have been no issues with the roof, and the crew is careful not to have overhead doors open. [Ms. Kellogg will provide an update on propane use.] Hastings said he'd like to install a door between the main garage and grader bay to access a tire rack. Board members will look at the set-up so they can decide about proceeding. Roads are now posted. Board members agreed that logging cannot happen right now. Roads are not frozen and won't be anytime soon.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Hastings wants to screen sand in the Barton pit to produce stone for Charleston and sand to sell to other towns. There is plenty of sand in the Charleston pit, so there is no need to incur trucking costs to haul it from Barton. He said screened sand goes for \$4.75/CY. The board authorized Mr. Hastings to excavate and screen the sand as he has time. Board members agreed to look at the Barton Pit this spring to have a visual reference for discussion.
- Board members discussed a draft letter to vendors who submit generator proposals notifying them that proposal details will not be discussed publicly, and the board will not award the job at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting but will get questions answered and make their decision as quickly as possible afterward. Peter Moskovites moved to approve and send the letter, seconded by Tim Jenness and approved.
- There was no update on the town's gravel excavation and crushing agreement. Mr. Austin will let the Clerk know when there is any new information from JA McDonald and the matter should be placed on the agenda.
- There was no new information regarding ARPA funds, and no discussion was needed.
- Peter Moskovites referred board members to an email from the VLCT HR Specialist, which indicates that the town is not required to guarantee 40 work hours. The Foreman's practice of adjusting the workday as needed to best manage maintenance during winter is just fine. Accruing comp time to use in these circumstances is always an option for employees.

## NEW BUSINESS

- It has been several years since Charleston elected Constables, and Mike Tynio and Anya Tynio were present to discuss officer duties and town needs. Pat Austin recalled that in past years townspeople asked for speed enforcement in the 35 MPH area around Echo Lake, but this can no longer be done by a Constable without law enforcement training. Mike Tynio said that beyond law enforcement, which he and Anya are not yet trained/certified for, it is up to the town decide what the Constable(s) will do. Sarah Jenness suggested enforcement of the town's Noise Ordinance might fall to the Constable and said that Constable support for Animal Control/Health Officer calls can help her when it is unwise or potentially unsafe to respond alone. Anya Tynio read a list of statutory Constable duties including service of civil or criminal process, destruction of animals, and killing of injured deer. Additional duties are determined by the town. She believes training is needed to serve papers. Mr. Tynio said that most Vermont law enforcement officers have Level 1 or Level 2 training. Phase 1 is an 80-hr course in Pittsford, and Phase 2 is 50-60hrs. Academy training could begin in June or September, and tuition is required. The Constables will gather more information regarding training and the details of their office(s) from the State of Vermont and VLCT and present this to the Selectboard at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Pat Austin moved to reappoint Peggy Stevens and John Kellogg as Charleston's Primary and Alternate Representatives to the NEK Broadband governing board, with a second by Tim Jenness. The motion was approved with no further discussion.
- Follow-up from the Annual Meeting with VTrans.
  - A new MRGP permit cycle requires the town to re-inventory hydrologically connected road segments over the next few years. The Foreman will work with VTrans and Ms. Kellogg on this process.
  - Any structures needs (i.e. culverts or bridges 36" and over) should be brought to VTrans attention for Structures Grant consideration on an ongoing basis.
  - Charleston is due for a state Roadway Grant (paving money) in 2025. Durgin Rd and Church Hill Rd are due next. The town will reach out to vendors late in 2024, and tonnage price will be the basis of the bids. Mr. Moskovites said that if cracks develop on Center School Rd, the pavement should be sealed.

Four Road orders totaling \$20,759.08 were approved unanimously and signed by all members. No executive session was needed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION

- VEC will be installing poles for a line extension on Morgan-Charleston Rd and a land use permit has been issued.
- Through the Municipal Energy Resilience Program, towns can apply for Community Capacity or Implementation grants or free energy assessments.

Seeing no other business, Tim Jenness made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Pat Austin, and the meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 13th day of April 2023:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston