

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 5/11/2023**

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair Pat Austin.

Attending: Selectpersons Patrick Austin, and Tim Jenness; Road Foreman Wendell Hastings; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; Resident Alden Pellett; Matthew Wilson of the Chronicle; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

Under Changes or Additions to the minutes, Teri Gray said she needed a board signature on some documents for a VMERS audit the town is required to participate in. The Chair added the item under New Business.

Tim Jenness moved to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2023, meeting as written, seconded by Pat Austin. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alden Pellet asked the status of an ATV Resolution passed at the previous meeting. He hopes it is not final, and he may gather petition signatures if the decision goes forward. He feels the matter should have been warned on the agenda to allow for more discussion of factors like speed and possible expenses incurred by the town. He is concerned about late travel when residents are trying to sleep. Because the decision was made at a meeting without warning, the board can't expect people to raise complaints about a matter not proposed to them. Mr. Pellett said he was not 100% against the measure. If town voters gave support, he'd be okay with it.

Pat Austin said that when the Selectboard decided a few years ago to open specific roads to ATV as part of the trail system, he was approached by residents who were offended that their roads weren't open. When Morgan opened town roads, the Charleston Selectboard opened Durgin Rd to meet up with Morgan. Each year, he hears from people who want roads open but does not hear from people who don't want roads open. He feels he is doing what the town wants. He doesn't feel the resolution is a big change for the town since ATVs have been used on the roads for years—now residents can drive legally to their camp or sugar house, and the rules of the road apply. He said the general public can't access many roads in town, like Ten Mile Square Rd, because the trail doesn't access those. He doesn't expect people to trailer into Charleston. He feels behavior has been good in other towns where roads have been opened—you see vehicles riding into town to a restaurant, but you don't see them on many of the roads. The resolution is intended to open roads fairly for all residents. For roads that branch off the trail system, like Gratton Hill Rd, if problems arise with ATVs running up and back, the board could make the decision to close a road. It is his opinion that an ordinance process isn't needed. With a resolution, the Selectboard maintains control and will address problems if they come up. If a petition to close roads goes forward, he said it is likely there would be a competing petition.

Tim Jenness said he sees the resolution as a way to open up roads to locals for trail access. He lives on a VASA trail road and never sees late travel. He feels that a town vote to open roads puts the town at a disadvantage because any adjustment to deal with problems would require another town vote.

Mr. Pellett said he will bring any problems to the Selectboard. He acknowledged appreciation for the contributions board members make to the town. Mr. Austin assured Mr. Pellett that if any big problems come up, the board will stay on top of it.

ROAD REPORT

Wendell Hastings said roads are generally good; some are dusty due to current grading. The crew has put out 200 loads of gravel so far and has about half the pile left. (Mr. Austin said he has not yet heard back from JA McDonald about the status of the crushing agreement.) Mr. Hastings and Selectboard members said they have heard from quite a few people who are happy with how the roads look. The crew has made about 2000 CY of sand, and Westmore is willing to buy it for \$4/CY.

OLD BUSINESS

- Pat Austin said he met with Wendell Hastings about the catwalk needed in the garage to access the tire bay. Mr. Austin is seeking a price for a door and small platform and will bring that to full board. The door seal issue is part of a job done last year so, so he will have the contactor take care of that when he comes to estimate the new work. Blowing insulation would be a large job, so the board can take that up later, perhaps as an ARPA-funded project.
- The Constable was not in attendance, so the matter was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

- Under discussion of Class 4 road maintenance, Wendell Hastings said he'd been asked by Mr. Moulton for gravel on Tripp Hill Rd. Ms. Kellogg said it was discussed last year that Tripp Hill would need gravel at some point.
- Pat asked about Town Farm Rd, a Class 4 road, and whether or not the town had done something at the top of the hill (where the first hill crests) to get water off the road, and Mr. Hastings said, yes, work was done last year to put water into a field, but the landowner is complaining because the field is now too wet to hay.
- Ms. Kellogg reviewed minutes of 2022 meetings and said that Class 4 roads Crawford Hill Rd and Maple Ridge Rd had been discussed as possible roads to mow this year to keep brush cut back and roads open to trucks.
- It was agreed that Mr. Hastings will evaluate the Class 4 roads and report back to the board. Ms. Kellogg will email a list of Class 4 roads to board members.
- Pat Austin made a motion to sell sand from the Barton pit to the Town of Westmore for \$4/CY, seconded by Tim Jenness and the motion was approved.
- A required VMERS audit letter was signed by the Chair.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$13,108.72 and four Road orders totaling \$29,188.95 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION

- VTrans announced a new Highway Safety Improvement Program grant to support projects involving signage, striping, clearing, and breakaway devices. Ms. Kellogg will work with Mr. Hastings to see if any town projects would be eligible.
- Ms. Kellogg provided information about sand shed grants, a project the town has been considering. The matter will be placed on the next agenda.
- The public is notified that the Town of Derby Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on various applications Monday, May 22nd at 6:00 pm.

Pat Austin called for an Executive Session to discuss generator proposals. The motion was seconded by Tim Jenness and Executive Session began at 6:49 pm. Session ended 7:00 pm. Tim Jenness made a motion to award the generator job to The Farmyard Store at a job price of \$10,326.44 plus \$535.00 for a 5-year extended warranty, seconded by Pat Austin, and the motion was approved. The Clerk will notify all bidders.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:03 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, May 25th, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 25th day of May 2023:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston