

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 5/25/2023

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 pm by Chair Pat Austin.

Attending: Selectpersons Pat Austin, Tim Jenness, and Peter Moskovites; Road Foreman Wendell Hastings; Constable Mike Tynio; 2nd Constable Anya Tynio; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

Under Changes or Additions to the minutes, Colleen Kellogg said the town had received a Right-of-Way Request from VEC regarding installation of new poles to serve 2361 East Echo Lake Rd, and the Foreman has further information. The Chair added the item under Road Report.

Tim Jenness moved to approve minutes of the May 11, 2023, meeting as written, seconded by Peter Moskovites. The minutes were approved without discussion. There was no public comment.

ROAD REPORT

- Wendell Hastings said the VEC request involves removing two poles and setting a new pole in the town right of way. Because the town has a ditching project scheduled in that area this summer, Mr. Hastings and the Engineer agreed that VEC will wait until the town's work is complete and set the new pole out of the way of the ditch. He had no concerns, so the request was approved by all members and signed by the Chair.
- A main piston on Truck 1 broke and was welded this week. Mr. Hastings wondered if the board hopes to keep the two Macks for a while, in which case should he keep a new piston on hand, so the crew won't be down a truck? It's a 2017, and pistons on both this one and the 2015 Mack have broken and been welded before. The Chair expressed confidence that the pistons can be welded and was not in favor of stocking an expensive part for a 2017 truck. Mr. Moskovites suggested the board revisit the equipment replacement schedule at the next meeting and delay a decision on piston purchase until afterward.
- Westmore has taken 1800 yards of sand, and the crew has another 1200 to screen, which will mean \$12,000 revenue for the town. The crew has put out 260 loads of gravel on the roads and applied over 5,000 gallons of chloride, including on Hudson and Dane Hill. Dane Hill Rd has pretty much been resurfaced from Crawford Rd to the "T".
- Mr. Hastings asked the board to hire grader operator Fred Baraw as a spare driver. Fred is interested. He then asked the board if he could discuss a personnel matter in executive session.
- Tim Jenness moved to enter Executive Session, with a second by Peter Moskovites. Executive Session began at 6:10 pm and ended at 6:14 pm with no action taken.
- Pat Austin moved to hire Fred Baraw as a part-time truck driver. The motion was seconded by Peter Moskovites and approved.
- Pat Austin said he contacted Eric at JA Mc Donald. They are not disputing the unfinished crushing job, and their plan is to come back and excavate and crush the remainder. They will contact Wendell Hastings to make plans.
- Regarding maintenance on Town Farm Rd, Mr. Austin spoke with an owner who complained about water flowing onto his field from a culvert at the top. A berm created by a previous owner kept water on the road and was removed by the town. Mr. Austin said that the town can't let water run down the road but must shape the roadside to drain. Mr. Austin will meet with the owner tomorrow and the board will discuss what can be done at the next meeting.

- Board members discussed a Highway Safety Improvement Program grant for curve and intersection signage but decided it did not fit the town's needs.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mike Tynio said he and Second Constable Anya Tynio wanted to update the board and find out what services the town is willing to pay them for. Pat Austin said he does not support using town funds for regular speed patrol, and the Tynios do not either. Mr. Tynio found out that training academy applicants must provide their own equipment. He and the Second Constable are in talks with the Sheriff's Department about part-time employment, in which case the Sheriff would provide equipment, and they would attend training in September. They are permitted to serve as Town Constables and work for the Sheriff. Even with law enforcement training, the Selectboard/voters still determine what they do for the town. The Chair said his priority would be helping the Animal Control Officer and Health Officer, with only one Constable needed at a time. The Constable would get the first call, and the Second Constable would cover if he were unavailable. Anya Tynio said they are willing to respond with the Animal Control Officer when she needs help. Mike Tynio said they can talk with people, serve papers, and put down a wounded animal without law enforcement training. Anya Tynio asked what else the town would like from the Constables. Peter Moskovites said Constable duties could be defined over time; the board can face situations as they come up. Mr. Austin said that the Animal Control and Health Officer reaches out to the Selectboard about any situations that might become drawn out or expensive, and he suggested this was a good strategy for the Constables. Mike Tynio agreed and said he would advise townspeople to bring issues to the Selectboard first; if anything is urgent, they should call 911. Ms. Kellogg said the town office will advise callers likewise.
- Class 4 Maintenance will be discussed further at the next meeting, including which road(s) should be mowed this year.
- Following up on a generator job awarded at the previous meeting, a contract with The Farmyard Store was signed by all members, with a reminder of a September 1st completion date. The Chair said the vendor should contact the Foreman about groundwork that needs to be done prior to the work.

NEW BUSINESS

- HSIP grant opportunity was discussed earlier and declined.
- Grants to support construction of a sand shed for the road department will come up later in the year. The need for a shed will be discussed further with Foreman. Ms. Kellogg will gather information about resources and experiences in other towns.
- Peter Moskovites moved to approve a Vermont Electric Coop Right-of-Way request concerning East Echo Lake Rd. The motion was seconded by Tim Jenness and approved.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$7,140.35 and four Road orders totaling \$10,441.62 were approved unanimously and signed by all members. There were no announcements.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, June 8th, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 8th day of June 2023:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston