

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 8/24/2023

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Pat Austin.

Attending: Selectpersons Pat Austin, Tim Jenness, and Peter Moskovites; Road Foreman Wendell Hastings; Constable Mike Tynio; residents Sonya Henricksen, Jason Tankersley, and guest Cody Hagg; Ed Barber of Newport Daily Express; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

Tim Jenness moved to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2023, meeting as written, seconded by Peter Moskovites, and the minutes were approved without discussion. There was no public comment.

With agreement, the Chair said the board would hear the Constable update first. Mike Tynio reports that he has worked through all requirements to register for police academy training, including medical and mental health screening, background check, polygraph test, and fingerprinting. The only item left is to meet with an approved shooting instructor. Of the equipment required for the academy, he purchased small items and has asked to borrow a bulletproof vest. He will attend the academy from September 11-22, which is Phase 1. There are two more phases, including 58 training hours. He has an application with the Orleans County Sheriff's Department and hopes he can pursue the rest of his training under that organization.

ROAD REPORT

- To assess current trucks, Wendell Hastings had Nick's Equipment Repair go over both Mack trucks and found the following: On the 2015, dump body rear hinges are worn, the left front drive cam needs springs, all U-joints on the steering column that goes down to front axle are bad. The 2017 has the same issue with dump body rear hingers, the fuel tank is leaking under the driver's side, the water pump is starting to leak, and there is tear in the dump body. The hingers are breaking the main pistons, and Nick's quote is around \$6,000 per truck to change them. Pat Austin said the trucks will need to be fixed in any case, because it takes so long to get a new one. Mr. Hastings agreed to get a comparison price for board consideration.
- Mr. Hastings is getting a price to split the grader in half. If the town decides to make this investment, he suggests keeping it another 5 years. He's been changing the transmission fluid and trying not to run it under high pressure. Board members discussed the possibility of sending an oil sample for testing but agreed that the grader must be fixed. They will look at a late fall repair.
- The Better Roads grant project on Echo Lake is nearly complete. They finished ditching, erosion stone, seeding and hay this week. They just need to resurface the road, which should take about 50 loads of gravel.
- Wendell Hastings met with FEMA Wednesday. He has a better idea of what they are looking for and will take measurements of damaged areas. Site inspectors looked at some work left to be done and agreed that changing a large culvert on Dane Hill Rd (to 36") and paving Durgin Rd would be considered eligible repairs.

NEW BUSINESS

- Sonya Henricksen and Jason Tankersley of 1100 Westmore Rd are seeking Selectboard permission to bury their powerline under/across the road. Board members and the Road Foreman granted permission on the condition that the line be sleeved to allow maintenance

without re-excavation, buried at least 4-5 feet to stay well away from roadside ditching and maintenance, and the road be re-compacted after excavation. The work must be complete by mid-October to allow the road to settle before winter and should minimize the impact on traffic by burying one side at a time to keep a lane open. Greg Ivers is the electrician, and they plan to have Richard Fortin do the excavation. They also asked about the possibility of moving an existing access culvert to their field from its current location. Wendell Hastings will stop by the site to see what is possible.

- A final generator invoice was received from the Farmyard Store. It includes a cold weather kit not selected when the proposal was accepted, but board members confirmed they were in favor of the option, and the invoice was approved for payment.
- Given the number of recent washouts, Peter Moskovites suggested the board discuss the town's driveway culvert policy over the winter. The policy is vague, and there are numerous problem driveway culverts in town—including many installed higher than the road. Pat Austin said the board will have to decide how many driveways the town will allow to a property. The board will revisit the topic in November or December.
- There was further discussion of a meeting with FEMA the previous day, including work left to do like bank stabilization on Durgin Rd, cost documentation, and contracts that will be needed.
- Ed Barber asked the Chair for an update regarding the Blume Farm composting facility on Crawford Hill Rd. The Chair asked Ms. Kellogg to share recent correspondence from the state regarding a site visit verifying that operations have stopped.

OLD BUSINESS

- With ELPA not in attendance, Peter Moskovites moved to table the discussion of a wake boat prohibition and the matter was tabled.
- Pat Austin has called JA McDonald several times with no call-back. He suggests the board prepare for the need to bid out the job. Tim Jenness has spoken with JP Sicard, and they are willing to meet with him and Wendell to discuss the job. Board members wondered if there is still time to get the bailing done this year. The board will wait to learn any information from JA McDonald and JP Sicard before deciding how to proceed.

Three Selectboard orders totaling \$9,466.93 and two Road orders totaling \$18,056.74 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- An update on Constable training was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- The Clerk's Office was notified of possible FEMA assistance for private driveways damaged by flooding and has more information for anyone who needs it.

Seeing no other business, Tim Jenness made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat Austin, and the meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 14th day of September 2023:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston