

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 10/12/2023

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

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

Attending: Selectpersons Patrick Austin, Peter Moskovites and Tim Jenness; Road Foreman Wendell Hastings; Residents Alice Letourneau and Margaret Maxwell; Matthew Wilson of the Chronicle; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

Tim Jenness moved to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2023, meeting as written, seconded by Peter Moskovites, and the minutes were approved without discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Margaret Maxwell discussed what she sees going on in front of her shop and the Letourneau residence as well as previous actions of theft and damage by a neighbor. She read a written request to the Selectboard to enforce a law prohibiting injury to public highways. She recommends the board introduce a motion to hold Mr. Davis liable for damage to the town highway resulting from his actions. Peter Moskovites moved to add the request to old business. The motion did not receive a second. Mrs. Maxwell asked if Class 4 road damage would be eligible for FEMA assistance. They are likely not eligible, but Ms. Kellogg does not yet have a final ruling.

ROAD REPORT

- Foreman Wendell Hastings said that winter sand is put up, trucks are undercoated, winter tires are on, and roads are all pretty decent. There is about 2,500 CY of gravel to bail, and it's really good gravel. They also found nice gravel in the bank, so he knows where to harvest the next 10,000 CY.
- Regarding the open driver job, the Chair said the board must discuss applications later in Executive Session.
- Regarding FEMA flood repairs, Wendell Hastings said he will meet at the end of October with invited bidders to discuss details on the Fontaine Rd large culvert replacement. He will meet with the state River Management Engineer on Thursday to discuss repairs needed on Durgin Rd, and he needs a Selectboard member present. Tim Jenness will try to attend. Mr. Hastings discussed the areas in need of repair as well as the possibility of installing a drainage inlet near the retaining wall. He has concerns about cost and about digging near the block wall. Board members agreed with his concerns.
- Ms. Kellogg said the town must declare all damaged areas to FEMA by October 22nd, and the town has one more meeting with the FEMA representative before the deadline. Mr. Moskovites will attend the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Hastings said the trucks were pressure-washed today, and all frames are in great condition. He would like to replace the six-wheeler next. Larger trucks are needed because they haul more material to job sites more quickly. Proposals for a new Mack chassis and dump body are on file. He said he is still looking for a board decision on whether or not to split the grader – he estimates between \$20,000-\$40,000 – or go ahead with replacement. Peter Moskovites said the board will need to determine which is the greatest need – a new truck or new grader – and this will happen as the budget is shaped. The Chair asked that the

matter be placed on the agenda for the next several meetings. It can be passed over if there is nothing to discuss.

- Pat Austin said Jessie Currie will come to the garage next week to make a plan for catwalk/tire storage project construction. He'll get the work done in the next couple of weeks.
- Pavement at the Town Clerk's Office needs repair, and the downstairs door and threshold do not meet ADA accessibility requirements. Board members favor replacing the door and threshold now and taking more time to plan pavement and drainage improvements. Wendell Hastings suggests installing a stone-lined ditch alongside the upper parking space to direct water and doing away with the catch basin. He also recommends cutting the outer end of pavement that is undermined and concreting the end of the driveway. Board members support going ahead with the ditch.

There was no new business.

Selectboard and Road Orders were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- At the next meeting, the board will do a 90-day review for Joe Mead.
- The next meeting with the town's FEMA Program Delivery Manager is Tuesday the 17th. The site meeting at Durgin Rd is Thursday the 19th.
- 2023 Property Taxes are due by 5:00 pm on Friday October 20th, and the Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday October 16-20th.

Tim Jenness moved to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel applications and another legal matter. The motion was seconded by Peter Moskovites, and Executive Session began at 6:37 pm. The session ended at 7:12 pm with the following action:

- Board members agreed to call two previous applicants on file to see if they are still interested in a driver position and ask about their availability for an interview. Ms. Kellogg will make these calls and report back to the board.
- Board members agreed to ask the Constable to investigate alleged damage to the Class 4 section of Hwy 26 and report back to the board to suggest action.

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm by the Chair. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 26th day of October 2023:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston