

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 3/14/2024**

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Town Clerk Teri Gray.

Attending: Selectpersons Terry Rollins, Peter Moskovites and Tim Jenness; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; Road Foreman Wendell Hastings; Brownington Selectboard members Bev White and Mike Glodgett; Brownington resident Larry Chase; Ed Barber of Newport Daily Express; Mathew Wilson of the Chronicle; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

Teri Gray welcomed new Selectboard member Terry Rollins and administered his Oath of Office. Ms. Gray called for Chair nominations, and Tim Jenness nominated Peter Moskovites, with second by Terry Rollins. Seeing no other nominations, Peter Moskovites elected Chair for the year.

The Chair called for nominations for Vice Chair. Terry Rollins nominated Tim Jenness, with a second by Peter Moskovites. Seeing no other nominations, Tim Jenness elected Vice Chair for the year.

The Chair accepted the following additions to the agenda under New Business: A request for tax sale from the Delinquent Tax Collector; and approval of a contract to update the town tax maps.

Tim Jenness made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2024, meeting as written, seconded by Peter Moskovites, and the minutes were approved as written. There was no public comment.

With agreement from the other board members, the Chair invited Brownington to discuss their business. Chair Bev White said that a section of Chilafoux Rd needs major work; a little over a mile, noted Mike Glodgett. The Foreman estimates a cost of \$26,000, and Ms. White asked Charleston to split the cost of materials. Mike Glodgett said the work will be done right with a good base and quality gravel. They have discussed the work with VTrans. This is a Brownington town highway, but the project would benefit the 14 families that live on the Charleston side of the road. Peter Moskovites noted that the road runs along the town border, wondered about the exact location of the town line, and asked if the two towns had done any joint projects before. Ms. White said there had not been any joint efforts while she's been on the board, but she said Charleston and Brownington at one time graded the road in alternate years. Mike Glodgett said their Road Commissioner worked with Charleston's Dale Carpenter in years past. Wendell Hastings noted that Brownington gets \$1800 per mile of state aid for this road, as well as property taxes. Chair Peter Moskovites said he can see the towns working together and would like the board to become more familiar with the road. He confirmed the project would be a few months out—after mud season. Mike Glodgett said that if the Charleston board agrees, he will ask Brownington Foreman Jeff Falconer to set up a site visit with Wendell Hastings and the various board members to discuss the work. Peter Moskovites, Tim Jenness and Terry Rollins agreed to site meeting.

ROAD REPORT

- Wendell Hastings said the roads have potholes, and the town has had equipment problems. Mack 1 is back up and running, and the grader moldboard is being re-shimmed by United tomorrow for a cost of \$4,500-\$5,000. He is no longer seeing oil in graderthe transmission.

There isn't a lot of mud yet, so if mother nature cooperates, they can probably get out with the grader. The top of Dane Hill Rd is terrible, but he can't do much right now.

- Mr. Hastings spoke to the Mack dealer; purchase doesn't require money down until a truck comes in. Peter Moskovites said that given the lead time—as much as 14 months—it might be smart to put in an order. He asked Mr. Hastings to gather all info about the process so the Selectboard could vote at the next meeting to start the process. Mr. Hastings said he favors Mack, and the town is set up for Mack, but he's concerned about availability. Charleston's sales contact has left the company, and the new rep will honor the quoted price but doesn't know about truck availability. Mr. Hastings learned from Derby that Western Star is giving a \$5,000 discount if a truck is paid for when it comes to their shop. Tim Jenness asked the price difference—Western Star is \$12,000 cheaper than Mack. Terry Rollins asked the total cost of a truck; Mr. Hastings replied the cost is \$240,000-250,000.

NEW BUSINESS

- VEC billed the town \$5800 for a broken telephone pole, located in the town right-of-way, which was struck by a plow wing by Charleston's relief driver. Because the driver forgot to pick up the wing, PACIF Insurance recommends settling. Wendell Hastings argues that lack of proper pole maintenance contributed. The pole was hit, but there was so much heavy snow on the lines that when he hit pole it didn't take much. There is no damage to the wing and very little damage to the pole. He pointed out that ROW law prevents town liability for objects in the right-of-way, and wants all poles moved out if VEC plans to charge for poles damaged by maintenance. He recommends a meeting with VEC. Tim Jenness asked how far from the road poles are required to be. Board members agreed that Mr. Hastings should talk with VEC before the town agrees to payment/settlement. Mr. Hastings has photos of the pole, which looks poorly maintained with trees grown up around a slack guy wire. Mr. Moskovites agreed the pole looked old.
- Mr. Hastings held a site visit for contractors wanting to bid on the Durgin Rd storm repair work—armorning a streambank and stabilizing a slope with stone. Of three invited, one attended and submitted a bid for \$6,975. Peter Moskovites made a motion to award the job to JBL Hauling & Excavating, with second by Tim Jenness and approved. Mr. Hastings will confirm completion date and inform Ms. Kellogg for contract purposes. A small section of pavement on Durgin Rd still needs to be cut and patched. Mr. Hastings plans for the town crew to do the work, but board members encouraged him to get estimates from local vendors for consideration. Mr. Hastings must also address a culvert that has a rock over it; likely installing a grate there. He also plans to use the loader to place some rip-rap in a spot toward Morgan.
- With all board members planning to attend the annual financial meeting with VTrans on the 19th, the signing of certification forms was tabled until the VTrans meeting.
- A draft of the 2024 Local Emergency Management Plan was distributed and will be reviewed for adoption at the next meeting.
- Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, already reviewed by the Moderator and BCA, were approved as written and signed by the Chair, Tim Jenness, and Teri Gray.
- The Chair confirmed that regular meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd and fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm, with no meeting on Thanksgiving.
- Board members discussed best contact methods for the Clerk staff and public. A town email will be set up for the new board member. The Chair hopes to divide up communications among board members, for example, designating a first point of contact for the Road Foreman. Tim Jenness said he speaks regularly with Mr. Hastings and is willing to be the main contact.
- With agreement of all board members, public posting locations will be the Town Clerk's Office, East Charleston and West Charleston Post Offices, West Charleston Corner Store, and Charleston Elementary (when in session).

- VLCT Model Rules of Procedure were offered by the Clerk for consideration. Board members will review the model for possible consideration at a later meeting.
- Tim Jenness moved to reappoint Justin Taft as Town Tree Warden, seconded by Peter Moskovites and appointed.
- Under optional appointments, Peter Moskovites moved to reappoint Blair Moulton and Darald Moulton as Fence Viewers, and Mike Currie as Surveyor or Wood and Coal. The motion was seconded by Terry Rollins and approved.
- The MRGP Annual Report was signed by the Chair and will be submitted next week.
- Peter Moskovites moved to approve the Delinquent Tax Collector's request to hold a tax sale in 2024, seconded by Terry Rollins and approved.
- Peter Moskovites moved to approve a contract with CAI Technologies to update the Charleston Tax Maps for 2025. The motion was seconded by Tim Jenness and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Board members agreed to continue posting the CDL Driver/Laborer crew position on Indeed.com. Ad placements and other options will be considered in the future.
- A contract with Nick Daley of Bauer, Gravel Farnham to provide tax sale legal services was signed by the Chair.
- Ms. Kellogg reported that a grant agreement for FEMA work has been executed, and the town should see \$169,000 in the next couple of weeks.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$8,872.14 and two Road orders totaling \$13,089.95 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

Seeing no other business, Tim Jenness made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Terry Rollins, and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 6:00 pm. The Chair invited other members to bring up any suggestions about how to make board business more efficient.

Approved this 28th day of March 2024:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston