

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 4/25/2024

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair.

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites, Tim Jenness and Terry Rollins; Road Foreman Wendell Hastings; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

Peter Moskovites made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2024 meeting as written, second by Tim Jenness. The minutes were approved as written. There was no public comment.

ROAD REPORT

- Wendell Hastings said the crew is almost out of gravel at the Barton pit. When they're done hauling, they will start putting sta-mat on Dane Hill Rd—approximately 100 loads for a FEMA repair. He will hire trucking help.
- Roads are drying, but they haven't been able to touch Bingham or Buck Brook Rds yet. He asked the Selectboard to watch a town truck on Bingham Rd to evaluate access there; there are safety concerns. From the town highway map, it was noted that the road is 0.15 miles.
- Truck body prices are \$90,000 from Viking-Cives and \$100,700 from Tenco. Hastings recommends Tenco because the hard-ox steel and baked-on paint is more durable, and the town can use existing chain. Selectboard members agreed unanimously to go with Tenco and authorized Mr. Hastings to purchase from Tenco. He said this brings the total truck price to \$273,700. It will come in August.
- He met with Memphremagog Watershed Association to look at road issues related to the Echo Lake Watershed Action Plan. They identified three problem areas—none big. He told the group that if they can get three undersized 12" culverts paid for through a grant, the town will do the work and provide the stone. MWA will look into a grant to change 3 culverts.
- The Crew put a new suspension in Truck 2, and Nick Prive came in for a day to help with the back bushings and changed the valve cover gasket. The truck is now running great.
- Hastings asked if the board would review short, dead-end, Class 3 roads and consider downgrading to Class 4. The Chair said there is process for this; the decision depends on how many people are on the road. State court precedent has shown that if there is any objection, a town decision will be reversed in court. He will gather information for the board.
- Colleen Kellogg asked Wendell Hastings if he could park a truck at the Clerk's Office for Green Up Day bag collection during the weekend of May 4-5th. He agreed and asked for a reminder.
- Ms. Kellogg said the town has received a check from insurance to repair the International truck damaged during the winter.

OLD BUSINESS

- A new truck is in the works—Mack with a Tenco body scheduled to come in in August. The next steps are deciding on financing and whether to trade in the 6-wheeler. Mr. Hastings is still waiting to hear what Mack will offer for trade-in value.
- Peter Moskovites met with Brownington Selectboard and Road Foreman last Friday to discuss Chilafoux Rd. They confirmed that 2680 feet of the 6168ft road was fixed last year. He expressed Charleston's willingness to work with Brownington but still had many

questions about how they arrived at their estimate and what they are asking for. They asked Charleston to contribute half the cost of the material but had yet to vote on a formal proposal. The matter was tabled while Mr. Moskovites waits for more specifics on the work and cost.

- FEMA has asked if the town wants to apply for mitigation assistance on any of the areas included in the “Completed Roads” project from last summer. Board members and Wendell Hastings discussed the fact that none of these areas have seen repeated damage, and no mitigation strategies were identified as part of damage review and repair. Board members authorized Ms. Kellogg to pass this along to FEMA.

NEW BUSINESS

- An application for a PACIF safety grant to help purchase work zone signage and office chairs was signed by the Chair for submission.
- Peter Moskovites and Constable Mike Tynio visited Bly Farm Rd in response to claims that landowner Alan Davis had ditched within the town right-of-way. Mr. Moskovites informed Mr. Davis that the town controls the right-of-way, and nothing can be done within it—no work, parking of vehicles or placement of obstacles—without Selectboard permission.
- Mr. Moskovites suggests the board establish a standard process for taking action on right-of-way violations and similar road policy violations. He suggests starting with a standard letter. Beyond that, maybe a notice served by the Constable, and if needed, a cease-and-desist or similar order handled by an attorney. Questions must be answered such as: can the town hire the sheriff to serve notice or is a lawyer required? He asked if there is a board member willing to investigate legal options. Terry Rollins is willing to investigate options and resources. The board will continue to discuss developing such a process for the town.
- Colleen Kellogg spoke with property owner Laura Lacroix regarding items in the ROW on Westmore Rd, where a road project is planned for this year. Mrs. Lacroix has given the owner of these items legal notice to remove them by June 4th. The board will send a letter informing Mrs. Lacroix that the items must be moved by June 10th, after which time the town will move items out of the right of way or remove them at her expense. Ms. Kellogg will prepare the letter for board signature.
- As an abutting landowner of cemetery land on Crawford Hill Rd, the town received Notification of Presumptive Isolation Zone relating to a water/wastewater permit that Frederic Raphael will apply for. Since the town has no water/wastewater components in this area, there is no action needed.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$11,696.04 and two Road orders totaling \$12,025.47 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 7:22 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 9th day of May 2024:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston