

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 6/13/2024**

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair.

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites (PM), Tim Jenness (TJ), and Terry Rollins (TR); Road Foreman Wendell Hastings; Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK), Matthew Wilson of the Chronicle; and Ed Barber of Newport Daily Express.

PM made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting as written, second by TR. The minutes were approved as written. There was no public comment.

ROAD REPORT

- The Town Grader is emitting smoke and needs repair. Nick Prive can see it on Monday earliest. Board agreed to have him diagnose it.
- WH got prices for 1960 Tons/1400 CY sta-mat: \$16.04/ton delivered to the pit or \$12.50/ton if the town trucks it (1400 CY for \$31,438.40 or \$24,5000, respectively). He would like to purchase 20 loads, mix it with gravel, and try it on a stretch of Gratton Hill Rd that washes out every time it rains. TJ and TR were in favor of the trial. PM was mindful that the purchase was not budgeted but agreed to the trial.
- WH met with RG Gosselin and VEC about a project to run power under Morgan-Charleston Road. Two road crossings are planned, and VEC will submit a proposal for Selectboard approval. RG Gosselin wants to fill ditches for temporary equipment access. WH okayed this with the understanding that material will be removed and ditches restored when work is completed.
- WH said the crew has been ditching, opening culverts, and has put out 3-4,000 CY gravel, leaving about 7,000 CY at the pit. They will continue to ditch and clean culverts until the grader is repaired. There is still quite a bit to do on Westmore Rd.
- The Town's 2027 Road Erosion Inventory is nearly complete, and the town has met annual compliance targets with 249 segments fully meeting standards. The next major deadline will be improving 7 very high priority segments by December 2025. CK will prepare a list of these segments.
- Pavement sweeping is complete and looks good. WH still needs to address potholes on Twin Bridges Rd and potholes and flood repairs on Durgin Rd. He's thinking of getting two tons of cold patch from Waterford.

OLD BUSINESS

- PM is still waiting for additional information from Brownington regarding their repair of Chilafoux Rd, and the matter was tabled until the following meeting.
- PM and TR are gathering information about a standard recourse for town road policy and right-of-way violations from VLCT and other sources. PM has concluded that enforcement is carried out by an attorney, so the town will likely need an ongoing relationship with someone experienced at this. He will reach out to an attorney he talked with years back and report to the full board.
- CK said the Charleston Historical Society decided they cannot take possession of their old safes. CK will contact a Charleston resident who may be interested in one, and after that, the Road Foreman can arrange disposal at his convenience.

NEW BUSINESS

- A Selectboard member is needed for Tax Sale at 10:00 am on August 6th. Either PM or TJ will attend; they will confirm coverage closer to the sale. Keep the date on the agenda.
- A report of annual progress on the Townwide Hazard Mitigation Plan was shared at the Planning Commission meeting earlier that evening. The topic will be discussed at the first September meeting for further public notification and comment.
- CK discussed plans to comply with changes to VT Open Meeting law taking effect July 1st, including audio recordings of Selectboard meetings and accommodating resident and press requests for telephone access to a meeting.
- A Statewide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program typically requiring a 25% local match requires no match this year, and the deadline has been extended to August 16th. Highway infrastructure projects and floodproofing municipal buildings are eligible projects. Town officials will give this further consideration.
- PM said that the VLCT Legal Lunch Hour (Monthly Series) would be an opportunity for board members to seek legal information on any open matters. Next one is June 27, 2024, 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM.
- CK shared a list of annual Selectboard business items designed to shape meeting agendas and asked for comments and suggestions from board members.
- The proposed merger of NEK Broadband with CV Fiber was discussed at that evening's Planning Commission meeting. It sounds like a bigger organization is better in terms of eligibility for funding.

INFORMATION

- A new state rule defines a wakesport zone as an area of 50 acres that is over 20 feet deep, at least 200 feet wide, and over 500 feet from shore. Boats must be certified as decontaminated, but the state process for issuing certificates is not yet in place.
- Echo-Seymour Lakes Watershed Action Plan Meeting August 7th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Morgan Community House.
- Vermont is seeking comments on the 2024 State Solid Waste Plan – Materials Management Plan by July 19th. The draft plan is posted on the Secretary of State List of Proposed Rules.

Four Selectboard orders totaling \$27,496.37 and five Road orders totaling \$113,222.25 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

Seeing no other business, TJ made a motion to adjourn, seconded by TR and the meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 27th day of June 2024:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston