

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 11/14/2024

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 (PM), Tim Jenness (TJ), and Terry Rollins (TR); Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

PM said that Peggy Stevens requested reaffirmation of Selectboard support for a petition to exclude Echo Lake from wake boat use. This is needed because there has been a change in Selectboard composition since the vote was taken, and the matter was added to the agenda under new business.

PM made a motion to approve minutes of the October 24, 2024 meeting as written, second by TJ. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved as written. There was no Public Comment.

ROAD REPORT

- CK reported that emergency repairs to a bridge on Westmore Rd are complete, and the cost was \$25,084.24. CK confirmed that the town will seek FEMA assistance for the repair.
- Wendell Hastings plans to speak with paving contractors next week about 2025 work.
- Proposals were received from David White for 2025 roadside mowing (\$16,500) and pavement sweeping (\$2800). Board members agree that he's been doing a good job, and prices are roughly the same as before. Motion by TJ to accept the estimates and hire David White, seconded by TR and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Draft response letters to property owners Studer, Mills, and Devaney regarding road concerns were reviewed. A motion to sign and send the letters was made by TJ, seconded by TR, and approved.
- Regarding property owner LeCours' request to plant or otherwise restore the roadside area of her property where lake visitors park and trespass on her property. PM said he visited the site with the Road Foreman and determined the town could not control parking there and had no basis for singling out the area for no parking signage. It was noted that an old ordinance prohibits parking in the traveled portion of any town road as well as overnight parking within the town right of way along the shore of Echo Lake. PM observed that grading/plowing has deposited road material beyond the ends of a cross culvert, essentially shifting the road, and this will need to be corrected with shoulder excavation. The property owner can seed or otherwise let vegetation grow on the roadside, but it is subject to damage by the plow wing. Board members agreed with this assessment and authorized PM to work with CK to draft and send a response letter.
- Two access (driveway) culverts on Bly Farm Rd were discussed. The first, on the right-hand side, was replaced temporarily with a salvaged culvert until the town hears back about a hydraulics analysis to determine the size needed. The second, which provides field access further up on the left, will require a site visit, which the Selectboard will schedule this year.
- A proposed project to reshape and pave around the town office and garage to prevent future stormwater damage was not selected for a Hazard Mitigation Grant, however, the town is encouraged to continue developing the project and budget for a future grant round.
- CK said the town has been assigned a FEMA Program Delivery Manager for Disaster #4810, and a Recovery Scoping Meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 10am. Foreman Wendell Hastings and Selectperson Terry Rollins will participate. The town also learned that the

FEMA cost share for last year's Disaster #4720 has been increased, and Charleston will receive an additional \$84,000 total in additional FEMA and state share funds.

- Brian Smith of Derby repeated his request to the Selectboard for a letter of support for North Country Hospital. Board members agree that the hospital is necessary for the area, and the whole area would suffer if they had to travel for emergencies. CK will circulate a draft for board review.
- PM raised the idea of canceling the December 26th meeting. With all members in agreement, CK will provide notice of the cancelation.

NEW BUSINESS

- Brighton Town Manager Noah Bond forwarded his Selectboard's request that Charleston considers contributing to the cost of a failed bridge on Ten Mile Square Rd. PM questioned Charleston's role since the bridge is in Brighton and fully reimbursable, but to be neighborly, perhaps the town should find out more about Brighton's needs. TR said he will contact Mr. Bond to find out more information.
- Rural Community Transportation, Inc. requests to place a \$1650 appropriation request on the 2025 Town Meeting Warning—the same amount approved by voters in 2024. With agreement of all members, the request will be placed on the warning.
- Newport Ambulance Service will ask Charleston for a total of \$63,707 for 2025—\$59,167 for the town contract and \$4,540 for dispatch. Board members agree that the contract is necessary; it was reviewed and signed for submission.
- Treasurer TG provided a report of budget revenue and expenditures to date and will have a projection at the next meeting for the how highway fund will look at year-end.
- TG said her office is collecting cost information and will prepare draft 2025 budget numbers for the December meeting. With agreement, PM tabled 2025 budget considerations until the next meeting when a budget work schedule will also be discussed.
- PM said ELPA is asking the Selectboard to reconfirm their desire to prohibit wake boats on Echo Lake in support of ELPA's petition. TR made a motion to support ELPA's request to prohibit wake boats on Echo, seconded by TJ and approved.

Five Selectboard Orders totaling \$1,861,655.95 and five Road Orders totaling \$151,084.10 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- A Planning Commission meeting will be held prior to the Selectboard meeting on December 12th.

PM called for executive session for personnel reviews. Executive Session began at 7:04 pm and ended at 7:45 pm with no action taken.

Seeing no other business, PM called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by TJ and seconded by TR. The motion was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 12th day of December 2024:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston