

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 1/23/2025**

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair. Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites (PM), Tim Jenness (TJ), and Terry Rollins (TR); Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray (TG); Animal Control Officer Sarah Jenness (SJ); and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

PM made a motion to approve minutes of the January 9, 2025 meeting as written, second by TJ. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A letter was received from property owner Jon Mills, who has ongoing concerns about the impact of stormwater drainage onto his property from East Echo Lake Rd. The matter was tabled until the next meeting when it can be discussed with the Road Foreman.

ROAD REPORT

- One of the Mack trucks is being repaired and is unavailable for a few days. The crew will adjust to cover the town, but maintenance delays are possible.
- Chad McGann, Vermont MRGP Coordinator, emailed to congratulate Road Foreman Wendell Hastings for keeping Charleston's roads in excellent condition relating to MRGP standards. Roads appear to be holding up to recent storm events.

OLD BUSINESS

- Animal Control Officer SJ said she lacks resources to deal with livestock at large. Without a town ordinance, she must rely on other law enforcement. State officials recommend that the town incorporate statute language around at-large livestock into a town ordinance to enable her to write civil violations for animals loose or on another's property, like the goats she's dealing with on Crawford Rd. This would not affect farmers or animals that fall under husbandry laws—the town would not harass farmers if cows got out but would have tools to manage repeated nuisances. Selectboard members are open to this, so SJ will gather further information and sample ordinances adopted by area towns.
- The Chair called for Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Session began at 6:29 pm and ended at 6:40 pm with the following action: PM made a motion to increase the Animal Control Officer's hourly wage to \$18. The motion was seconded by TR and passed with TJ abstaining.
- The town's annual certificate of highway mileage was reviewed and signed by all board members. 0.01 miles of Class IV Road was subtracted due to state remeasurement of Dolloff Mountain Rd.
- Under Other Old Business, TR attended a recent Brighton Selectboard meeting to pursue their request for support on the Ten Mile Square Rd bridge. The town manager is in touch with VTrans, and things are moving along with FEMA. Charleston's help is not needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Towns are required to appoint an Ethics Liaison to serve as a point of contact for communications with the State Ethics Commission. TJ moved to appoint the Town Clerk, seconded by TR and approved unanimously.
- A proposed 2025 budget based on discussion at the January 9th meeting will result in an estimated municipal tax rate of 7.301—subject to change as the Grand List, Veterans

Exemptions, etc. are finalized over the next few months. TJ made a motion to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by TR and approved unanimously.

- CK reported that the town will receive a final assistance payment of \$55,000 from the 2023 disaster—this is unbudgeted revenue. TR suggests this be used to harvest/crush gravel.
- A final draft of the 2025 Town Meeting Warning was presented for approval. TJ made a motion to approve the warning, seconded by TR and unanimously approved. The warning will be posted next week as required.
- A working draft of the 2024 Town Report was circulated among board members. A final version will be sent to the printer on Monday and will be mailed soon to all voter households.

Two Selectboard Orders totaling \$10,652.58 and two Road Orders totaling \$16,833.22 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- Legislative and quasi-judicial bodies are now required to take state Ethics training. A link has been emailed to all board members. PM said the training involves questions that must be completed at the end to receive a completion certificate.
- The Annual Report of the NEK Waste Management District was received for review.

Seeing no other business, TR made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by TJ, and the meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 13th day of February 2025:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston