

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 2/27/2025**

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); Road Foreman Wendell Hastings (WH); Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray (TG); Property owners Joe & Cheryl Hryckiewicz; and board Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

PM made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2025 meeting as written, seconded by TR, and approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joe Hryckiewicz lives on Morgan-Charleston Rd. Theirs is the last property before Morgan, and both towns have used their lower, gated driveway as truck turnaround for decades with no issues. Recently, the town plowed further back and destroyed the gate. WH said he noticed it that morning and left a voicemail for Mr. Hryckiewicz. The town pushes banks further back now because they run a larger truck there now. A new employee used the loader to do this and pushed through the gate. The town will buy the gate and fix the post. Selectboard members affirmed that this will be taken care of, and Mr. Hryckiewicz thanked WH and the board.

**ROAD REPORT**

- At the request of WH, the Chair called for Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Session began at 6:05 pm and ended at 6:35 pm with the following action: PM offered a motion to hire Danny Letourneau as part-time highway crew employee, on an as-needed basis, at an hourly rate of \$28. TR seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- PM shared an email from Margaret Maxwell about earth and snow pushed into the ditch on Bly Farm Rd to haul feed from the Davis farm. WH and TJ said they looked at the site, and the material should be removed immediately before it freezes/thaws. Because the material contains manure, Davis should do the work—rather than use town equipment. A letter was considered, but board members agreed a personal visit was needed for quick action. TJ and WH will meet Mr. Davis to ask him to clean out the ditch before it freezes, and if not, he will be liable for any town costs to correct this.
- A letter from East Echo Lake Rd property owner Jon Mills had been tabled from a previous meeting to discuss with the Foreman. His concern continues that road run-off from a culvert/ditch improvement project is causing damage at his property. PM said he could not tell from the letter what Mr. Mills is seeking. TR asked if state officials looked at the site. WH said Eric Pope of VTrans and Alan May of the Better Roads Program both viewed the work and agreed it was done to required standards.
- CK shared a list of 5 road segments that must be improved in 2025 per Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) requirements: one on Mill St; one on Center School Rd; two on Ten Mile Square Rd; and one on West Echo Lake Rd. CK and WH will meet to pinpoint locations and scope of work so the work can be planned.
- Continuing a discussion with Consolidated Communications about the company's plan to relocate cable from the ditch on Dane Hill Rd above Crawford Hill Rd, Bill Richardson of Consolidated said he has not heard from landowner Monte Kennedy about his permission to bury cable beyond the town ROW on his property. Instead, Richardson reiterated a request to bury a segment of cable on the other side of the road, which would involve burying under the

road twice. The Selectboard wants to avoid road crossings. The Clerk's office has provided landowner contact information, and at the board's request, will check in with Consolidated in a couple of weeks to make sure progress is made. They will keep the board informed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Continuing discussion of a possible town livestock ordinance, board members reviewed Derby's animal ordinance that includes livestock. Board members like the Derby ordinance and were in favor of moving forward with a comprehensive ordinance that would also include dog provisions. Because Charleston's dog ordinance addresses dogs more fully, more review is needed to decide what sections of the existing dog ordinance should be included. The board clerk will help prepare a draft for review, but this is not an urgent priority.
- The Town Clerk and Asst. provided a list of Delinquent Tax considerations, changes to tax sale law, and the benefits of bringing delinquent tax collection into the Town Office duties. Board members agreed that the move makes sense, especially since the Delinquent Tax Collector does not wish to keep the office, and asked TG and CK to be ready to answer any questions that come up at Town Meeting.
- Echo Lake Protective Association sent a letter notifying the Selectboard of their "Color Challenge" walk/run Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup>. The race starts at 10 am, takes about an hour, and parking is provided on the Wilson lawn. Board members agreed the event raises no concerns.
- Moderator Jean Wilson submitted a resignation letter because she will be out-of-town on Town Meeting Day. PM made a motion to accept Jean Wilson's resignation which was seconded by TJ and approved. CK said that Jean Wilson has been preparing John Kellogg to fill in, and he has taken VLCT Moderator training. PM made a motion to appoint John Kellogg as Town Moderator, which was seconded by TR and approved unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- In preparation for town meeting, board members discussed 2024 finances and 2025 budget highlights including: (1) the town was able to purchase a new truck with cash in 2024 to avoid borrowing, and (2) the proposed 2025 budget is estimated to increase the municipal tax rate by less than 1%.
- Newport Ambulance is seeking a director for their board with a preference for experience in health care, business, law enforcement or municipal management.

Three Selectboard Orders totaling \$11,268.72 and three Road Orders totaling \$25,018.08 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Town Meeting is Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup>. Mustang Community in Action is providing coffee and baked goods for the meeting and lunch afterward.
- The Town's Annual Financial Meeting with VTrans District 9 is confirmed for April 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am at the town office.

Seeing no other business, PM made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by TJ, and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 13th day of March 2025:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston