

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 5/22/2025**

MINUTES

*THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.*

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Patrick Austin, Chair. Also attending: Selectpersons Tim Jenness (TJ) and Terry Rollins (TR); Road Foreman Wendell Hastings (WH); Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; Ed Barber, Newport Daily Express; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

Under additions to the agenda, PA edited the second item of Old Business to “Discuss IF In-stream Work” is needed at Bridge 4 on Hudson Rd.

A motion to approve the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes was made by TJ and seconded by TR. The minutes were approved as written with no discussion. There was no public comment.

#### ROAD REPORT

- WH said he needs to dredge under a bridge on Hudson Rd. PA said he and the board should discuss how far the work should go, and they would take it up under Old Business.
- WH said the grader went into “limp mode,” and United is coming up to look at it. It appears to be a broken wire from the shifter to the transmission sensor.
- There was discussion of the effects of snow mobile trail work on Crawford Hill Rd. WH said water from a culvert had no place to go and was not draining from the road. He had to go out of the right-of-way and send water into a field trail.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Continued from the previous meeting, the Chair said funds are available to do the paving project at the town office and garage, however, the scope of work is changing. WH agrees that paving only two swipes in front of the garage doors—20 or 40 ft—will work and let water run off onto gravel. The office parking area will still be repaved, which will make the building more accessible for meetings and elections. WH will talk with the low bidder, Pike, about a reduced cost. Regarding funds, TG listed the grant held over for the purpose, plus unbudgeted FEMA reimbursement from 2023, and reimbursement coming soon from FEMA for the 2024 disaster. All board members are in favor of performing the job providing a reasonable number comes in. PA asked WH to bring a firm number from Pike to the next meeting so the board can make a final decision. It was noted that the office door replacement is complete and looks good.
- During spring thaw, ice accumulated at Bridge 4 on Hudson Rd near Crowe Hill Rd due to the filled streambed underneath and low clearance, and water covered the bridge and the farmer’s field. WH had to use equipment to break through. WH has not seen a problem until last summer and this spring, but the brook sees high flow and lacks a good bank on the lower side. PA said the clearance is half-full of silt and stone. It plugs with ice, and water jumps the bank and runs over. WH said the original construction had a 4’10” clearance in 1996, and now it is 18-20 inches. WH visited the site with VTrans and the state stream engineer, and PA also walked the site. The state will give the town a permit to dredge if they want to. On the right side, the land is lower and covered with sand and stone. They discussed pulling stone out of the brook and putting it on the

embankment, and the homeowner is willing to let the town take equipment upstream and do this work, but PA said he was not in favor—it could put the town on the hook for this work every year. He supports clearing underneath in the right-of-way and inspecting the site regularly for maintenance. All board members were in favor of performing this work in the right-of-way. CK will follow up with the state about the permit. WH said there is also a culvert in the area that needs cleaning. PA asked if the culvert should be upsized so if water does jump the bank, it will not take out the property owner's fence.

- The Foreman and town office have been in contact with Consolidated Communications since last year about moving their buried cable out of the Dane Hill Rd right-of-way above Crawford Hill Rd so the highway depart can ditch Dane Hill Rd. Consolidated has landowner permission to bury on the opposite side of Dane Hill Rd, but the Selectboard required Consolidated to avoid road crossing, and they have not yet been able to get landowner permission to bury on the Crawford Hill Rd side. Board members reviewed Consolidated's sketches of proposed routes and the possibility of running on poles. All agree that the cable must be moved from the right of way, and the new installation should not cross the road. PA agreed to contact Bill Richardson of Consolidated directly to discuss options and asked that the matter be added to the next agenda.
- In a discussion of Class 4 roads, WH said he replaced two culverts on the flat on Crawford Hill Rd. They were used steel culverts in good shape. He needs to change three on Crowe Hill Rd but is waiting for a logging project to finish. The crew hydroseeded the big bank at the top of the hill on Town Farm Rd to stabilize it. Town Farm also needs culverts and material. PA asked all board members to visit Class 4 roads for a needs discussion in August.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- CK provided a list of the Town's five FEMA projects for Disaster 4810, two of which have been obligated, and the town should see payment in the next few weeks. Other projects are now undergoing hazard mitigation review, and the town's next follow-up meeting will happen on May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- WH would like to have a planning meeting with the Selectboard at the Barton Pit. PA proposed the afternoon of Wednesday May 28<sup>th</sup>, and all agreed. PA will contact WH with a time, and he will schedule with the group.

Two Selectboard Orders totaling \$2,756.84 and three Road Orders totaling \$18,783.04 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Charleston Planning Commission will hold its quarterly regular meeting on Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Seeing no other business, PA made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by TR, and the meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston