

Town of Charleston
Selectboard SPECIAL Meeting 1/20/2026

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Chair Patrick Austin (PA). Also present were Selectpersons Tim Jenness (TJ) and Terry Rollins (TR); Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray (TG); resident Peter Moskovites; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

TJ moved to approve the January 8, 2026 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by TR and approved.

Under Old Business, Board members conducted a line-by-line review and discussion of proposed 2026 budget amounts, with a few changes made.

Board members discussed best uses of 2025 highway surplus funds and reviewed information from a VLCT staff attorney regarding recent changes to state law that allow funds to be carried over and grant the Selectboard authority to allocate unrestricted funds. Board members favored keeping funds available for a list of planned capital projects, including bridge repairs and additional crushing for road resurfacing projects.

Board members also discussed refinancing a 2025 grader loan to reduce the annual payment and corresponding burden on taxpayers. PA moved to apply up to \$80,000 of 2025 highway surplus funds to the grader loan in order to refinance and reduce the annual payment while maintaining the existing 2030 term. The motion was seconded by TR and approved unanimously. The Treasurer will initiate the process so the reduced payment can be reflected in the budget.

A draft 2026 Town Meeting warning was reviewed. The clerk's office will update the document based on changes made during the budget discussion.

The Town Report document is in progress. The clerk will work with Board members to prepare a Budget Preview document for inclusion.

Seeing no other business, TJ moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by TR, and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on January 22, 2026.

Approved this 22nd day of January 2026:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston