

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 5/14/2026**

MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Pat Austin (PA). Present were Selectpersons Tim Jenness and Terry Rollins (TR); Road Foreman Wendell Hastings (WH); Property Owners Ed Kraimer and Mary Wakefield; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK). Verne Devereux joined later.

TJ moved to approve the April 23, 2026 meeting minutes as written. TR seconded. The motion was approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ed Kraimer requested action on a drainage culvert on West Echo Lake Rd near his property. He reported the culvert was installed years ago with insufficient cover, has since failed, and now has an exposed hole he considers hazardous.

WH noted an electrical wire runs through the culvert and recommended removing the culvert and redirecting drainage to a nearby culvert ~20 feet away. Mr. Kraimer agreed to remove the wire.

PA stated the Board would inspect the site (suggested for Monday while viewing East Echo Lake Rd) and take appropriate action within the right-of-way per town standards. Property owner presence is not required.

**ROAD REPORT**

- The town received a Better Roads grant for the Mill St. improvement project. The affected property owner has not yet removed stored items from the maintenance right-of-way. The Clerk was instructed to send a letter requiring removal by mid-to-late June so work can begin July 1.
- Boundary survey of the town gravel pit in Barton is complete; awaiting mylar map. WH reported Simpson Dirtworx test holes show 10–15 years of gravel remaining (over a ~7.5 acre-area where trees are now). The Board discussed options for developing the pit floor and how to access gravel under the trees. Consensus favored hiring a logger to remove trees (logger would take the wood) rather than using town crew.

There was no Old Business to consider.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- VTrans requires the town to submit a Certificate of Compliance following the town's adoption of the state-revised town road standards this spring. The form was signed by all Selectboard members and will be sent to VTrans.
- An inverter and optimizer at the town solar array are scheduled for replacement. The parts are covered under warranty; the town is responsible for estimated labor and transportation costs of \$1,465. Chair Austin requested cost-benefit data for the array to help the Board evaluate appropriate future investment levels.

## BILLS & ORDERS

Four Selectboard Orders totaling \$33,938.33 and three Road Orders totaling \$29,925.47 were approved and signed by all members.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Newport Ambulance is rebuilding its Morgan substation and is temporarily operating from a nearby house with no expected response delays. The new building is expected this fall.
- Board members and WH will meet with East Echo Lake Rd property owners on Monday, May 18, to discuss the upcoming ditching and drainage improvement project. TR will be unable to attend the site visit or the next regular meeting.

Verne Devereux, whose family property abuts the town gravel pit in Barton, stated they hold a right to use the access road. He requested a key to the gate or relocation of the gate so it blocks only the pit, not the road. His family plans to place a camper on the property in June. He provided a draft copy of his daughter's deed. PA said the Board would review the deed and town obligations and will contact Mr. Devereux with a response.

Seeing no other business, TR moved to adjourn; TJ seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm. The next regular meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on May 28, 2026.

Approved this 28th day of May 2026:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston