

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 6/25/2026**

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 Selectperson Tim Jenness (TJ); Road Foreman Wendell Hastings (WH); Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray (TG); Attorney Clarke Atwell; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

TJ moved to approve the June 11, 2026 meeting minutes as written. PA seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Board reviewed an email from a property owner regarding runoff and sediment concerns in Echo Lake. Chair Austin noted that recent highway maintenance on the lake roads—including replacement of undersized culverts, shoulder berm cuts, and road crowning—follows state-mandated best practices to improve water shedding and reduce erosion. The work also revealed several instances of landowner modifications to drainage infrastructure that undermine road resilience and water quality, such as culverts extended to outlet directly into the lake, an overly long culvert encased in a stone wall (beyond the Town’s ability to maintain), and landscaping features that direct water onto the road. The Chair reminded residents that such alterations are not permitted in the right-of-way (ROW) and asked property owners not to reinstall these obstacles, as proper drainage benefits both roads and waterways. TJ expressed agreement.

The Chair deferred the Road Report to address Old Business.

**OLD BUSINESS**

TJ moved to enter Executive Session to consult with the Attorney. PA seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Executive Session began at 6:04 pm and ended at 6:41 pm. Upon returning to open session, PA moved to retain Attorney Clarke Atwell for municipal legal services. TJ seconded the motion, and it carried.

**ROAD REPORT**

WH reported that the crew has completed ditching and culvert replacement work on Echo Lake. Chair Austin stated that significant resources have been devoted to this project, which has already improved drainage and received positive feedback from residents. He noted that a planned new culvert could not be installed due to ledge, but Mr. Kraimer’s concerns regarding another culvert have been addressed.

WH requested board approval to purchase a good-condition used 6 ft × 28 ft steel culvert from Neil Mead for use in the Barton pit. The Board supported the purchase as within budget.

There was no New Business.

**BILLS & ORDERS**

Two Selectboard Orders totaling \$7,630.10 and two Road Orders totaling \$18,582.40 were approved and signed by all members present.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Echo Lake Color Challenge 5K walk/run is scheduled for Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The VT ANR Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation notified towns that, effective July 1st, towns will no longer appoint Forest Fire Wardens. Fire Chiefs automatically serve as wardens and may appoint deputies. CK reached out to the Charleston Volunteer Fire Department to plan a discussion with the Selectboard about how to implement the change and who residents should contact for burn permits and will keep the board informed.
- NVDA announced public hearings on the draft Regional Plan for July 29<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair resumed the Road Business. WH reported that ‘SLOW’ signs for Mill St. have arrived. VEC plans to install a pole in the Mill Street ROW to raise cable height and has marked trees for removal by the utility. Property owners expressed concern about the pole’s proximity to a garage. The Board agreed that lines must be raised to the required height for truck clearance and that necessary improvements should proceed, provided road maintenance access is maintained.

Seeing no further business, TJ moved to adjourn. PA seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm. The next regular meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on July 9, 2026.

Approved this 9th day of July 2026:

---

Selectboard, Town of Charleston