

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 8/13/2026**

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: Selectpersons Tim Jenness (TJ) and Terry Rollins (TR); Road Foreman Wendell Hastings (WH); Fire Chief Duane Moulton; Fire Dept. Treasurer Blair Moulton; residents Jason & Sue Lapointe, Troy Porter, Carolyn & Bryan Miller, Lory Wright, Craig & Linda Hurlbut; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

Chair added to Road Report: hydraulic study of large culvert on Westmore Rd between Bingham Rd and Clark Ln.

TJ moved to approve the July 23, 2026 minutes as written; TR seconded; carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Lapointe reported erosion and driveway washouts on East Echo Lake Rd after recent town work. He requested board inspection and preferred the full road width pitch to the ditch. Sue Lapointe cited Better Roads practices and recommended stone-lined ditches. Other landowners raised concerns about repair costs.

PA explained the project goal: remove berms so each property accepts its share of runoff rather than concentrating water. Design was approved by VTrans, Better Roads, and MWA. Town drains roads; landowners manage water on their property. Landowners may install driveway berms beyond the ROW to direct water onto lawns.

Bryan and Carolyn Miller requested “Blind Driveway” signs for their new dwelling on VT Route 105. They were referred to VTrans (Derby office), which handles state highways.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Radios: Blair and Duane Moulton reported ongoing radio problems on the shared FCC license/repeater (highway, fire, school; system from early 1980s). Suspected issue with 50-year-old 50W repeater (should be 100W). Upgrade estimate ~\$10,900; cost to be split three ways. Full system replacement ~\$36,000. Board supported obtaining quotes (Radio North and Burlington Communications) and will contribute the town’s share if the fix is clear.

ROAD REPORT

Willis Rd: Official end of road is beyond the Vermont highway map depiction. WH met with property owner Veloutsos regarding turnaround access blocked by a camper; Veloutsos will speak with the neighbor.

Westmore Rd Culvert: Hydraulic study received for deteriorated 3.5 ft concrete pipe over Allyn Brook (between Bingham Rd and Clark Ln). Replacement will require concrete box or corrugated pipe arch. Better Roads Category D grant possible; VTrans notes scale/cost/engineering may exceed grant funds. WH to obtain price estimates and report back.

Culvert Outlet Letters: CK confirmed letters sent to adjacent owners regarding restoration of outlets in the ROW in 2027; owners asked to contact WH to review sites.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

- Orleans/Essex VNA & Hospice request for \$3,000 appropriation article on 2027 Town Meeting Warning (same as 2026). PA moved; TJ seconded; carried.
- Memorandum of Understanding for Sheltering and Mass Care Facilities with Charleston Elementary School. PA moved; TJ seconded; carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Town Road ROW Occupancy Request from VEC to install a utility pole on Church Hill Rd. TJ moved; TR seconded; approved and signed by all.
- Newly acquired land adjacent to Barton gravel pit: Board agreed to re-enroll entire parcel in Current Use. Town Clerk to initiate process and consult town attorney re: UVM agreement on future mineral rights (survey of extraction area required). Gravel extraction and Current Use withdrawal should be deferred until town needs gravel. Wetland areas unsuitable for extraction could later be transferred to the state for conservation. Board members will plan how best to inform voters and future Selectboards.

BILLS & ORDERS

Six Selectboard Orders totaling \$83,137.40 and six Road Orders totaling \$79,792.22 approved and signed by all members.

TJ moved to adjourn; TR seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm. Next regular meeting: 6:00 pm, August 27, 2026.

Approved this 27th day of August 2026:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston