

JOHNSON MUNICIPAL OFFICES

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Press Release ATV Ordinance Adoption

Date: 10/16/06

JOHNSON PASSES ATV ORDINANCE

On September 6th, 2006, Johnson voters let stand an Ordinance regulating ATV use on town highways at a special town meeting warned for that purpose. In a close vote (116 to 105) the voters upheld the Ordinance first adopted by the Johnson Selectboard on June 19th, 2006. The Ordinance went into effect upon conclusion of the vote. Copies of the ordinance may be obtained at the Municipal Offices during regular hours or by going to the Johnson webpage at: www.townofjohnson.com.

Some key points for people to be aware of regarding the new ordinance are as follows. All ATV's must be registered and riders carry on their person evidence of registration and proof of insurance. ATV's must be maintained with manufacturers or equal to equipment including mufflers, lighting, brakes, safety equipment, etc. All users must join the Vt. ATV Sportsman's Association, carry proof of membership and ATV's display a VASA plate. For information about joining VASA contact Mr. John Lavanway, 88 Brook Rd, Stowe, Vt. 05672.

Riders should familiarize themselves with Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 23, Ch. 31, as the ordinance adopts these requirements by reference. These requirements are state law and include such things as exhaust noise levels, age, training and supervision of riders, equipment and operation requirements, enforcement and insurance requirements, etc. Vermont statutes can be accessed through the State of Vermont webpage at: <http://vermont.gov/>.

ATV's in Johnson may be operated only on unpaved Class III and Class IV town highways at a maximum speed limit of 25 mph and in single file on the right side of the road. ATV's may not be operated between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, and 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. The ordinance carries penalties of \$100.00 for a first offence up to \$500.00 for a third offense for violations of any of the requirements, so ATV users are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the ordinance.

The Johnson Selectboard and Lamoille County Sheriff's Department will hold an informational meeting on the ordinance on Monday October 30th at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Offices. If you have questions on the ordinance, plan to attend.