

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Present:

Selectboard Members: Mike Dunham, Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse

Others: Brian Story, Rosemary Audibert, Deb Clark (by phone), Mark Nielsen, Jessica Bickford, Holly Brown, Sheila White, Jeannie Osgood, Lois Frey, Scott Meyer, Kim Dunkley, Charlie Gallanter, two other community members

Meeting videotaped by Green Mountain Access Television. GMATV info: <https://greenmountainaccess.tv/>; PO Box 581, Hyde Park, 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 802-851-1592

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:00.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda

Brian added a request from the public regarding posting and hunting on the skate park property and discussion on applying for a Community Development Block Grant for redevelopment of the property where the coffee shop was formerly located. Nat added discussion of the cleaning contract.

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Kyle moved to approve the minutes of November 1 and November 4, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.

4. Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills, Warrants, Licenses / Any Action Items

Rosemary said we have received our state pilot payment, which was \$357,222. We budgeted \$330K. We also received a current use payment of \$95,658. We budgeted \$85K.

Expenditures are at almost 38% of budget. Uncollected taxes from 2018-19 total \$74K, including interest and penalties. At the end of December anyone who doesn't have a payment plan will have their account sent to the attorney for collection. Current taxes are about 55% collected for the year, slightly better than the previous 2 years.

5. Road Commissioner/Road Foreman Report and Action Items

Brian Story said things have been going pretty well for the road crew. The trucks are all in good shape and they were able run a full fleet for the plowing they had to do last week. They are ready for a storm.

The highway crew opened up a single lane on Rocky Road for access to Hunter Road. We got feedback from local residents that our initial thought about running access behind Brian Jones' barn and house wasn't going to work for them so it runs in front of the house. Scribner Bridge is still closed to traffic. We were able to provide access for the snowmobile club to use the bridge. The single lane access in front of the house is within our right of way. We are trying to work with FEMA and other organizations to get funding to make improvements on Rocky Road rather than just repairs. LCPC is helping us navigate that. We have tracked hours and material costs for work related to the flood and we hope to get reimbursement.

Pete Dodge's truck was hit in front of Downtown Pizzeria, presumably by a plow truck, but we don't believe it was one of our trucks. No one saw the incident.

6. Request to Post Skate Park Property

Jeannie Osgood said she stopped by the municipal offices to pick up a safety zone sign and noticed it had a place to put the owner's name so she thought she should get permission from the town before putting it on skate park property. She lives at the end of Wescom Road and Sheila White borders the back part of the skate park. Sheila said there have been some deer in the area and during youth hunting weekend hunters showed up there. It made her and Jeannie aware the area should be posted. There are too many residents for hunting to be safe. Jeannie said the area is surrounded by trailers and houses. She also noted that where there is a row of large pines near the road there has been a lot of suspicious activity – people sleeping in cars or two cars meeting for a few minutes. Sheila said latex gloves have been found there.

Brian said Jeannie's and Sheila's properties and the adjoining part of the skate park are outside the village limits. (*Charlie Gallanter arrived at 7:15.*)

Jeannie asked how far from a dwelling you have to be to shoot. Brian said state statute allows putting up safety zone signs telling people they are within 500 feet of an occupied building. He doesn't believe shooting within 500 feet of a building is restricted in the absence of the signs. Kyle asked if a safety zone sign is the same as sign that says "posted." Brian said no.

Nat said it seems like the town should put up safety zone signs and if residents see suspicious activity they should call the sheriff's department. If they know suspicious things are happening in the area they will patrol there more frequently. Mike and Kyle agreed that safety zone signs should be put up.

Nat moved and Mike seconded to designate the skate park parcel as a safety zone and post it accordingly. (*Kim Dunkley and Scott Meyer arrived at 7:20.*) Doug said he thinks the signs have to be within 500 feet of a dwelling. Brian said he thinks we would not post around the border of our property but in areas that are within 500 feet of a dwelling. Sheila said that would leave a big square in the center of the park that would not be considered a safety zone. Brian agreed. Nat asked, why not post the whole property as a no hunting zone? Brian said we could do that. Mike said he would be in favor of that. **Nat and Mike agreed to the friendly amendment that the skate park be designated as a no hunting zone and posted accordingly. The motion was passed.**

Kyle thanked Jeannie for picking up trash in the village. Jeannie said she hasn't been picking up trash recently because she has been recovering from being hit by a car while in a crosswalk. (*Jeannie and Sheila left at 7:22.*)

7. Cleaning Contract

Brian said we sent what we had for a cleaning contract to our attorney for review. Their opinion was that it was a pretty rough agreement and if we wanted something more formal they could get back to us with an actual contract. We have entered into a rough agreement with the Lettieris but we don't have anything binding.

Nat said he thinks we owe Anne Mullings an answer. We didn't have a very formal bid process. The traditional bidding rules weren't put into place when we awarded this contract but we did give it to the Lettieris. He thinks they would have a reasonable expectation to have the contract for a reasonable amount of time. It doesn't feel fair to yank it from them but the current situation doesn't feel fair for Anne, who might have been interested in getting the contract. He suggests leaving the contract with the Lettieris for at least a year and seeing if Anne is interested in more work in areas where she has specialized knowledge.

Mike said our decision was based on flawed information. It is probably best to put it out to bid again. Nat said that doesn't feel fair to the Lettieris. Mike said the contract isn't really a contract so we are under no obligation. It's an inferred contract. Doug said you can't determine whether you have a contract or not until a court has spoken. There is expense in enforcing and there is goodwill on both sides that we want to save. Mike said we thought Anne did not want the job. We were working with flawed information. Doug said that doesn't fall on the Lettieris. Mike said the contract does not appear to be a real contract. Brian said the attorney's opinion is that it is not a signed, binding contract.

Kyle asked if Brian has talked to the Lettieris. Brian said he hasn't discussed this with them. He imagines, based on other conversations with them, that they are satisfied working here and would expect to continue.

Nat said if we tell someone they have the job and then yank it from them a few months later, that doesn't feel good. Mike said it will be difficult for one side or the other but we have to do something.

Doug asked if our attorneys have expressed any opinion about our exposure or a recommended course of conduct. Brian said no.

Mike moved that all parties be required to bid again on the cleaning job. There was no second.

Jessica Bickford said the Lettieris also clean the library. If the board decides to go back out to bid will that be for all the town buildings or just the town offices? Doug said he understands it would be for the library and the town offices. Brian said if we started over from scratch he would assume that is what it would be.

Nat asked Jessica if the library is pleased with the work the Lettieris have done. Jessica said the librarians have been very pleased. Peg Rowe went above and beyond and the Lettieris do too. Their work includes routine maintenance like changing light bulbs or dusting the shades. They pay attention to detail.

Brian said we have a problem throughout all our buildings with lack of storage. We have old documents in storage in this building. If we had a document retention policy we might be able to get rid of some old documents and free up space. Anne helped with the Ancient Roads program. She could be helpful working with old documents.

Doug asked if paying her for that is within our budget. Brian said he would have to look at what we had budgeted for custodian and other services. Mike said it looks to him like this is a make-work project because the board doesn't want to act. We don't want to resolve the situation, we want to make work for someone to appease them. Nat said we did not handle the process properly so we are in a difficult situation. We are trying to find a compromise to get out of it. We are not throwing money at Anne. She is qualified to do a certain task others are not qualified to do. Mike said that's true but it would be cleaner if we resolve the custodial contract. Nat said he thinks the solution Mike offered would be insulting to the Lettieris. Kyle said she likes Nat's idea. But don't we need to make sure the budget can support that? Nat said yes, and we need to make sure Anne is interested the proposed work.

Kim Dunkley said her understanding is that a lot of contracts in Vermont are word of mouth and once the work is happening and you are getting paid for it, that is the contract. Scott said if you offered someone work and they are doing the work, you are paying for it and the work is satisfactory, isn't that legally binding at that point? Doug said that is our dilemma. We put the contract out to bid and the question is if the bid process was flawed.

A community member asked if the town had to put it out to bid. Brian said if we were going to award it to an employee already employed in another capacity we had to go out to bid. But we wouldn't have had to go out to bid to award it to people who were not already employees.

8. *Local and District School Busing Concerns*

LNSU business manager Deb Clark joined the meeting by phone at 7:40. Brian said Lamoille North School District is experiencing a change in the busing schedule that has been brought to our attention. There has been a driver shortage and rebalancing of routes. There was an article in the newspaper and some board members have heard from residents but there hasn't been an opportunity for us to hear about the issue in open meeting and have a formal discussion about what the role of the selectboard should be.

Doug said this personally concerns him because he has a first and second grader in his home that he has been personally transporting to the elementary school.

Jessica Bickford said for the last 2 years her kids were homeschooled. They made the decision to put them back in school not knowing that the bus schedules had changed. They found out on the second day of school that there is no afternoon bus route to their neighborhood as there used to be when they started homeschooling. Her husband called the superintendent's office and was told about the driver shortage. They have a 6th grader and an 8th grader who would be on separate buses. One option for their 6th grader would be a stop about 2 miles from their house. Or it was suggested that she could ride the entire elementary bus route and stay on the bus when it went to Lamoille Union, then get on her brother's bus and ride to a stop about a mile from their house. But Janet Davis at the elementary school said it is against the elementary school's policy to allow elementary school children to ride the bus out of town. That took district-provided transportation off the table for them. She and her husband adjust their work schedules on Mondays to pick up their kids and on other days the kids ride the bus to the library and they pick them up there.

Doug asked Holly Brown how district transportation is working for her. Holly said it is not working for her. If the district can't transport your kids you have to depend on someone else and if they can't do it, your kid can't go to school. What are you supposed to do? Mike asked where she lives. She said she lives at the top of Codding Hollow Road.

Mark Nielsen, one of the 5 Johnson representatives to the LNMUUSD board, introduced himself. He said he will talk to Deb to see if they can figure something out.

Doug said he suggested putting this on the agenda because he considers this almost like red-lining a neighborhood. If a neighborhood doesn't have a bus, the children are in jeopardy. He understands the problems. He spoke with Deb about this. He would love to see further conversation. This is a matter of community need.

Mark Nielsen said for the past couple of years the district's busing contractor has had a driver shortage. It is a statewide problem. The superintendent and business manager have been working to try to find a way around it so we can get more drivers. We lost drivers due to a state licensing issue.

Deb said toward the end of last year the driver situation had gotten so bad that we were often cancelling routes at the last minute. To avoid last minute interruption of services the district worked with Lamoille Valley Transportation to redesign routes for the resources available. The district sent a notice to all families that explained the bus driver shortage and routes were published. Deb would like to talk to the Bickfords more about their issue. Because of the bus driver shortage, Hyde Park also lost routes and had routes extended. Getting a bus driver endorsement is difficult.

Jessica asked if using the district's vans would be a viable after school option. Deb said those aren't available for general transportation. She doesn't have a solution of different routes for the kids to ride. She is reluctant to offer something that the district might not be able to continue.

Doug said the bus used to go about 20% further than it is going now and a large bus used to go across the bridge on Codding Hollow. Now the bridge and the roads are better than they used to be.

Deb said LVT will need to be part of the conversation. They are open to having a conversation about routes.

Mike asked if this has been discussed with the school board yet. Doug said no. Deb said specifics of transportation are the responsibility of administration and LVT. Doug said when Eric returns he will ask him to invite school district administration, Mark and Deb for discussion. Mike asked, is this the role of the selectboard? Doug said this board can only hold the light of day to what the school district is deciding and make a point of how the issue is impacting Johnson residents. Deb said the driver shortage has been discussed at the school board level. Everyone is aware of the impacts it is having. No one is unaware of how difficult it can be for families.

Kyle said it seems like there has been a lack of communication to the people affected. That is concerning. This is a huge safety issue of kids potentially not being able to get off buses or go to school. It has to be figured out. How are we going to keep families here, keep kids in the public school system and also attract more families? She is glad Doug brought this up. It does impact us all. Scott said he agrees with Kyle's comments.

Mike said he thinks we are usurping the school board's authority by meddling in their business. Nat said our ability to react to much of this is limited. But he has felt it has been difficult for citizens in Johnson to get their voices heard in the school district. People are frustrated. It is an issue of safety. There is not a lot the selectboard can do but he thinks it is appropriate for us to get involved. It is important for our community.

Mark Nielsen said his name and email are on the school district website. He encouraged Holly and Jessica to email him. He will get involved. (*Deb left at 8:05.*)

9. *Transfer Station Agreement*

Brian showed the board a draft host agreement for the Johnson transfer station. It is modeled after the prior agreement with an addition. (*Jessica, Holly and Mark left at 8:06.*) The added condition states that we would allow the stump dump to serve as a temporary storage site for temporary management of debris generated during a storm event. The question had been raised about how the facility could be used to deal with emerald ash borer debris. That is not really addressed here but the stump dump would be the place for dealing with emerald ash borer debris.

Nat asked, does that mean the stump dump would serve as the location for the entire county? Brian said he believes we are still the only stump dump location for the county. They would not receive contaminated wood that was not treated by grinding before it was brought. Nat asked, we would be receiving chipped wood? Brian said yes.

Doug said he is not happy with the language saying debris can be brought in in an emergency. It says temporary status terminates a year from a federal disaster declaration but there is no indication of how long we could be stuck with the stuff. He thinks with the emerald ash borer coming other towns should step up with stump dumps. Mike agreed.

Kim asked if anyone has reached out to towns that have the ash borer and asked what they are doing with their stuff. Brian said he hasn't. Lois said she thinks it is a little premature to get much information but that is a good idea. Nat said he is sure Sue Lovering is familiar with what other towns are doing.

Doug asked when the contract is due. Brian said we are operating under a continuation of our prior contract. We can renew it at any time.

Mike said he agrees that other towns should step up and have a way of dealing with emerald ash borer debris other than bringing it to Johnson. Doug said he suspects it will be overwhelming.

Mike asked who will monitor the stuff that is brought to the stump dump. Brian said he thinks we have to trust the solid waste district to do it. We are trusting them to manage the facility.

Nat said he doesn't imagine it will be efficient to truck loads of wood to Johnson. He thinks most ash wood will be used as firewood near where it falls. He is really looking for a location for Johnson's ash to go in situations where we need to put it someplace. He thinks a bigger concern is emergency debris.

Brian said adding us as a temporary debris storage site is the only change the solid waste district has asked for.

Charlie Gallanter asked, if the debris is being loaded on a truck, why not take it all the way to Coventry? Brian said he doesn't know the rationale.

The board agreed Brian should tell the solid waste district that we are interested in renewing the prior contract without the proposed addition.

Kyle said in addition to the concern about what could be coming, she has concerns about wear and tear on our roads.

Mike moved and Nat seconded to send back the host agreement for the Johnson transfer station as it exists now rather than as proposed by LRSWMD. Mike said he is willing to have LRSWMD come in and talk to us. **The motion was passed.**

10. Procedure for Sale of Trailer

Brian said we have a draft notice for the sale of the trailer at Katy Win that was acquired by the town at the tax sale. The procedure recommended by our attorney is for us to post a notice that we intend to sell it and then hold an auction. We don't need to hire an auctioneer. We can do it informally with Brian, Eric, David Williams or someone else running it. He suggests having the auction on January 6 at 6:00 pm.

Mike asked what the attorney said about needing 2 years of ownership for a clear title. Rosemary said the issue is with getting title insurance for the trailer. Mike said whoever buys the trailer won't get clear title for 2 years. The owner has to have title insurance and they can't get title insurance for 2 years. Doug said the 2 years is a shortened period. It used to be longer. The sale has to be done exactly right and it can be challenged for up to 2 years. After 2 years, it can't be challenged. The people who are buying know that.

Mike moved to post notice of intent to sell the trailer in Katy Win Park owned by the town at auction on January 6, 2020 at 6:00 pm, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.

Brian asked if we want to set a minimum amount we will accept. **Mike moved to set a minimum bid amount for the Katy Win trailer equal to the amount owed in taxes and fees, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.**

11. Holiday Jubilee Advertising

Brian said in the past the town has donated to Johnson Works to support the Buy Local promotion which was rolled into the Holiday Jubilee. With no Buy Local promotion this year there will still be a Holiday Jubilee. Johnson Works is asking the town to donate to help pay for newspaper advertisements for the Jubilee. Kyle said in the past she thinks the town and village each contributed \$250. This year Johnson Works is looking for \$200 from each to pay for newspaper advertising. Brian said the exact amount needed is \$193.20. **Mike moved to donate \$193.20 to Johnson Works to help pay for newspaper advertisements for the Holiday Jubilee, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.**

12. Working Communities Challenge

Brian said LCPC is taking the lead on applying for the Working Communities Challenge. There is a minimum population size for a coalition needed to apply. LCPC is taking the lead on building the coalition and moving forward with the application. Brian would like to continue to be an active participant. He is asking for the board's formal approval. He wants to go to more meetings and might have additional work. He thinks the town stands to benefit. It's a grant program that would go to activities supported by the coalition. The coalition includes Jenna's Promise and CHSLV. Participating in it will allow us to help steer how funds are used.

Doug asked, so this is an economic development tool? Brian said yes. It does extend outside the borders of Johnson. We are steering it towards the northern part of the county.

Brian said LCPC is taking the lead so his contribution will not take much time. The board agreed Brian should put time into participating in the Working Communities Challenge.

13. Light Industrial Park Update

Brian said he is working with Seth Jensen and Tasha Wallis on the formal agreement the board voted to approve at the last meeting. Seth is continuing to work on the nexus statement for the grant application with Ben Rose and Brian. We will get preliminary approval for the nexus statement that will determine the pot of money we apply for. The grant will be for a little over \$1 million for work on the light industrial park. At the stage it still appears that the most successful avenue will be applying as part of the recovery effort for disasters in 2017 or 2018.

14. Application for Community Development Block Grant

Brian said another thing we are working on with Greg Tatro and Jenna's Promise is applying for a Community Development Block Grant. Members of Senator Leahy's office, Ted Brady from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and other representatives from state and federal programs looked at projects we had in Johnson and identified redevelopment of the Barrows Building as a good candidate for a block grant. It is similar to the Sterling Market project. A large difference would be that we would not apply to recover funds to use as part of a revolving loan fund. That would simplify the application and the long term reporting requirements.

Kyle asked if the Barrows Building will be part of the non-profit or part of our property tax rolls. Brian said to the best of his knowledge it will be a for-profit activity. It will be related to the non-profit but he believes it will pay property taxes. The town would be applying for

the block grant but we can use it for economic development that is for-profit, like Sterling Market.

Kim asked about using the Community Development Block Grant toward a privately owned property when the town owns the Jewett property that also needs an economic boost. Brian said the funds for the two projects are coming from different pots of money. The EDA grant is available to us. As part of our application for EDA funds for the Jewett property we do have to demonstrate that we are enabling private investment. Our role is that we will build a road and sell parcels that will be private investment in the town. The CDBG is for more immediate private investment. There are strings attached. There are certain contributions Jenna's Promise and the Tatros have to make to secure the funds. There are no expenses paid by the town for the funds. The town is a conduit but is not spending town money.

Kim asked if we can stipulate that the building will be on the tax rolls. Can that be part of the agreement? Mike said he doesn't see why not. Doug asked, didn't the board previously vote to be an applicant for the CDBG? Brian said he didn't recall a vote on that. Doug said he thought the question tonight was authorizing someone to work on the application with Brian. Brian said he wants to open an application for the CDBG funds and he is asking that Amy Tatro be authorized to write the grant application. He won't grant her authority to make the submission; he will review it first. Doug said first we would have to have voted to apply. Donna said the minutes of October 21 show the board voted at that meeting to apply for the Community Development Block Grant. Doug said we can find out what we can do regarding tax status. Brian said he is pretty confident it is not tax exempt and will be on the grand list. He will check on that.

Brian said CDBG uses an online grant system. Normally only he or Rosemary has authority to read or submit documents but for this specific application he will add Amy Tatro. She won't be able to submit without our review. Doug asked if Brian will show the document to the board before it is submitted. Brian said he doesn't believe the board has authorized submission at this point.

Rosemary said Amy Tatro is Greg Tatro's daughter-in-law. Brian said he has worked with her on the Robert Wood Johnson and health initiatives. She and Greg did a great job writing the essay for the Robert Wood Johnson application. They will get help from LCPC and the state. Senator Leahy's office was very supportive of this application.

Kim asked, the cost of the grant writing is not the town's cost, right? Brian said that is right. The town's only cost will be a little of his time. He will review all materials before they are submitted. But he is not expecting that to be a large amount of time.

Scott asked for clarification on the amount of time that would be involved. Brian said for the CDBG grant he is pretty confident he would need to put in about 25 hours worth of work – several half days. He is less familiar with the process for the Working Communities Challenge grant. He doesn't have as good an understanding of the time commitment but we aren't the lead on it so he would think there is a pretty good chance that would take less of

his time than the CDBG grant. He will attend a couple of meetings that are a couple of hours each and maybe write a letter of support and do a little demographic statistics work.

15. Review Old Business

Scott said he and others are trying to figure out overall costs to date on the Jewett property. We have had consultants and legal review and wasn't there some kind of annual retainer for having it available? Doug said we paid a fee for an option on the property. Scott asked if there is any estimate of expenditures to date and a plan for what more will be spent. Doug said he imagines Rosemary could figure out what has been spent. Rosemary agreed. Doug said the other question is more for Brian. Scott asked, can we get that in the near future, hopefully before town meeting? Brian said yes.

Scott said trees have blown down on the access road to the Jewett property. It barely looks like a road anymore. His understanding is that the town will be asking taxpayers to pay more in the future. Have we had business owners interested? He is wondering where this is all leading. Every time we talk about this he thinks we should have a conversation about finances. Every time he comes to one of these meetings it is vague. He doesn't think the community at large understands what is going on.

Doug asked, we own it? Brian said yes, we are still making payments but we own it.

Mike said as far as the question of whether we have anyone interested, it is difficult to try to sell something that has no infrastructure. Once we get infrastructure to it we are hoping we have people interested. There were unanswered questions from the start but people did vote for it. We were going to try to get grants and have minimal cost to taxpayers.

Scott said there was frustration on the part of some taxpayers that there was no tangible business plan. He is interested in what we have spent so far and what we need to finish it up.

Brian said he doesn't know if he can answer all of Scott's questions but the money we are spending on it now is really just that we are finishing paying the purchase price. That is the only outgoing money. And we are not collecting property taxes on it because we own it. We don't have paid consultants or advertising. We have had a few people express interest but no one who is willing to buy until it's developed. We think there is interest. We have better utilities and more capacity than neighboring towns' industrial parks. We think we can attract businesses because of that but there is no guarantee.

Scott asked if it would be possible to have the town highway crew open the access road, at least clean up the blowdowns so people could access it. Then it would be more visually intriguing. Doug suggested maybe there could even be a sign: "Future home of Johnson Industrial Park." Charlie Gallanter said it's not a town road. The town doesn't maintain existing town Class 4 roads. Why would the town maintain that one?

Doug asked if Charlie has any update on broadband. Charlie said the broadband committee hasn't met since the last report so he doesn't want to speak for the committee.

Nat said it sounds like the village had some interest in the broadband committee's work and some questions. It would be great if the committee could connect with them. Charlie said at this point in time the committee feels the village is wired and so the committee is not really looking at doing anything inside the village limits. He knows village people are unhappy with Comcast but it's about the best option there is now. Nat asked if the committee could have a village trustee at their meetings. Charlie said yes.

Doug said he learned recently that a district for broadband doesn't have to be a townwide district. It can be gerrymandered around well-served areas. It can include multiple towns. Charlie said a communications union district has to have more than one town involved. The district can issue non-recourse bonds so town taxpayers are not on the hook for the money if the bond is defaulted. It takes at least 2 towns. They don't have to be contiguous and the parts of the town included don't have to be contiguous. The district could include different non-contiguous parts of Johnson.

Brian said it looks like Roger Marcoux is giving us better budget numbers. He and Nat are meeting with Roger tomorrow for more detail.

Kim said she is not sure if the garbage cans at Old Mill Park are being emptied. She would like someone to make sure they are being taken care of and trash is not spilling. Her other question has to do with stormwater grants. The application period is coming to an end in at the beginning of December. Does anyone on the selectboard have an interest in looking into stormwater runoff from the Dibden parking lot? It seems like the college doesn't have money to deal with the issue. When it rains hard all that water goes into a stream that goes into the Gihon. She can call LCPC and see if anyone there is interested. Would anyone on this board support that?

Doug said he is sure NVU must be on the state's list of properties that have more than 3 acres. They have new stormwater rules applying to those properties.

Nat said he is not understanding what Kim is proposing or offering. Kim said there are a couple of grants she saw that were available. She doesn't know if the board wants to look into it. Nat said it seems like a great opportunity but Brian is busy. Brian said he can work with Kim to find out more about the grants.

Kim said she is wondering if someone from LCPC might be able to put in a grant application. Doug asked who would be the applicant – NVU? Kim said she would think Johnson would have an interest. That is the piece she is asking about. Would the town be willing to support something like that? Nat said conceptually, yes. Kim said the college had a design many years ago but they didn't have the money. Maybe this could provide the money.

Brian said we can talk to LCPC and check into it ourselves.

Mike asked if there is any follow-up on the blighted building ordinance. Brian said it has been submitted and he doesn't have an answer yet.

Mike said the cold storage building has been problematic the last few years. The recent incident was not the first time we have had frozen pipes. Maybe that building should be on the agenda for the next meeting. Kyle asked, didn't Brian say he and Lisa were coming up with a plan? Brian said that is his thought. The leak was patched so it is no longer an emergency. He is thinking maybe we should talk a little more about what we need to do so it is not a recurring problem. Doug said he always thought cold storage was a bad use for a building that could help with economic development for the community. He thinks the discussion on that building could be broad, not just about cold-proofing it.

Scott said a ditch at the top of Clay Hill is blown out and water is undermining the pavement. Brian said after Kim called him about it he communicated the information to the highway department. It should be on their list; he will follow up.

Charlie asked when the board will start talking about the budget. Brian said he thinks at the first meeting in December. Charlie said he wanted to point out that social security is going up 1.6% but with the increase in health insurance costs the average social security recipient will see about a 0.8% increase. The board might want to bear that in mind when considering taxes.

16. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths