

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017

Present:

Selectboard Members: Mike Dunham, Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood
Others: Brian Story, Rosemary Audibert, Brian Krause, David Butler, Charles Gallanter, Phil Wilson, Mike Paradis, Jen Burton, Dan Noyes, Rich Westman

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:03.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda

Eric added discussion of the governor's visit. Doug added discussion of a sign for the charging station and discussion of the state's interest in helping develop two river accesses. Brian S. added a Delta Dental benefit update, a request from Efficiency Vermont, and a noise ordinance waiver request for Tuesday Night Live. Nat added Rec Committee updates.

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Doug moved to approve the minutes of the April 10 selectboard meeting, the April 17 selectboard meeting and the April 17 joint selectboard-trustee meeting, Kyle seconded, and the motion was passed.

Mike would like more detail to be added to the discussion of the vehicle accident in the April 10 joint selectboard-trustee minutes. Brian S. had not printed out the transcript of that section for the board to refer to, so it was agreed to postpone approval of the April 10 joint meeting minutes until the next meeting.

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

Rosemary said expenditures are at 81% of budget and revenues are at 106% of budget. (Mike Paradis arrived at 7:10.)

The final installment of taxes was due on May 10. One taxpayer's partner came in at 8:00 am on May 11 and said the taxpayer had an accident at work and may be paralyzed. They were told that only the board could decide to waive late payment penalties. The additional late fee is \$55.75. Eric said typically we have not waived late fees, but it is the board's decision.

Doug asked if we have ever waived penalty fees. Eric said not that he is aware of. Mike said there are other days to pay taxes besides the last day. The board decided to take no action.

Rosemary said taxes are 95.31% collected so far.

Eric said in the future we will have to consider whether the town will bid on any mobile homes at tax sales. The number of mobile homes up for tax sale is increasing. Word is getting out that the town never bids on them and that others who come to bid don't tend to bid on them because it is hard to get money back on a trailer. Rosemary said the town did purchase one trailer with land.

Vermont Studio Center is requesting an Art Gallery, Book Store, Museum or Library Serving Permit for an event on June 9 from 4:30 to 7:30. Bustin' Belly is requesting an outside consumption liquor permit for the hours of 11:00 am to midnight. They have not had an outside consumption permit before.

Eric asked how late other outside consumption permits are for. Rosemary said until closing, later than midnight. Nat said Downtown Pizzeria has just a couple of tables in its outdoor consumption area. Bustin' Belly is talking about a larger area. (*Jen Burton arrived at 7:17.*)

Doug moved to approve Vermont Studio Center's request for an Art Gallery, Book Store, Museum or Library Serving Permit for an event on June 9 from 4:30 to 7:30, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.

Nat said he is not comfortable with approving the Bustin' Belly request. They are asking for a large outdoor consumption area and talking about having events there. It sounds like there is more potential for disruption to the neighborhood than with many other outdoor consumption permits. The other village spaces where outdoor consumption is allowed are smaller. Doug said they requested using the patio area for outdoor consumption and also requested an area for events. It is not clear if the liquor license would include both areas. Nat said he would be willing to approve a permit for the patio area. Mike said he hates to stick a wrench in the works for someone's business.

Doug moved and Nat seconded to approve a liquor permit for outdoor consumption for Bustin' Belly with the outdoor consumption area to be the patio area listed as "requested area" and not to include the event space. Kyle asked what that means. Eric said it means their customers can consume alcohol on the patio but not beyond. Mike said they could put a foot halfway across the boundary and be out of compliance. Doug said the patio would have to be separated off. Eric said any area authorized for outdoor drinking must be fenced off. Doug said this business is in a more residential area than others the town has granted liquor licenses to. **The motion was passed with Mike opposed.**

Eric asked Rosemary to pass on that the board had concerns about authorizing outdoor consumption in the extra area and that the board is willing to hear from the business owners if they want to come before the board.

5. *Planning Commission Report*

David Butler said Phil Wilson, Brian, and Meredith looked at the property parcels in the areas covered by the maps and adjusted the maps so no parcel is partially zoned. Every parcel is either fully in or fully out of the area covered by zoning. Phil said it became apparent that the map boundaries had not originally been drawn with regard to property ownership. David said there are a number of "second tier" parcels that may have a driveway right of way or no road frontage. The Planning Commission is working on wording to address those parcels. If you have a 15 or 20 foot right of way we don't expect you to put a building on that frontage. Consideration of these parcels opens up a lot more exemptions and variances. David hasn't yet seen all wording ideas from committee members.

David said the Planning Commission voted to adjust its meeting date to third Wednesdays so now he will mostly be reporting to the selectboard before the monthly Planning Commission meeting.

David said he doesn't think the form based code information the board has received will change that much. He hopes the Planning Commission will approve the final document at its next meeting.

One person who had expressed interested in joining the Planning Commission attended the last meeting. David will try to let another one know tomorrow when the next meeting is and that she is welcome to come. It is acceptable to all Planning Commission members if the one who came to the meeting is appointed.

David said the building envelope standards have not changed much. Previously there was no allowance for porches in the village storefront district but most businesses have them so that was changed. Other changes include the requirements for amount of glazing, the elevation of the first floor wall, and parking. They made parking requirements more consistent throughout the village. The amount of parking required is based on the square footage of finished space. Undeveloped space has to be landscaped. They added a definition of landscaping. One big change from what the original committee did is that there is no place anywhere in the code now that specifies any use on the inside of a building.

The next step will be for the Planning Commission to officially adopt the code, then there will be a public hearing and then the selectboard will deal with it from there. Eric said the board has a certain timeline for action after the code is presented. There will probably be a special town meeting in September for a vote on the Jewett property. It would be good if the same meeting could address form based code.

David said the board should probably think about the need to have some infrastructure in the office to administer the code if it is passed.

Doug said he and Eric heard that ANR and LCPC were coming here for an upcoming project. David said they are trying to get off the ground with a project to physically study our streams, river corridors and floodplains.

Kyle said to her one big selling point for form based code is how easy it is to go down a checklist and see if a building meets the code, but it sounds like there will be more exceptions now. That could make the job more challenging. David said he doesn't think there will be that many more exceptions. One thing the Planning Commission struggled with was what to do with maintenance of existing buildings. Will a permit be required to change a window in a non-conforming structure? At first all buildings will be non-conforming. Kyle said she understood that the code wouldn't apply unless there was a major renovation. The Planning Commission members said the problem is defining "major renovation." David said the decision ended up being that if you are repairing the status quo, that is fine. If you are making a substantive change to the status quo, the administrative officer needs to be able to

see you are moving towards compliance with the code for a permit to be issued. You can get closer to the code, but not move away from it.

David said he feels the biggest struggle is parking. We also have to look at what we will do with properties that go back a long way from the road and have room to build behind an existing building. Doug said when he was on the Planning Commission, the zoning ordinance they considered had no parking requirements on Main Street. David said parking can be shared parking. A business owner can show an agreement with someone who has a parking lot that his business's customers can use the lot during certain hours.

Kyle asked about mixed use buildings. There are problems with tenants not having parking spots during business hours on Railroad St. David said the parking requirement is related to square footage of finished space. It is not related to use. It doesn't matter if there is a store with apartments above it. Finished space is finished space.

Brian Story said Efficiency Vermont wants our help with distributing information on efficiency project standards and programs to reach those goals. They are asking us to find a method to distribute the materials. We are required to distribute them as part of a recent act on efficiency standards, but there is no enforcement of the requirement. He thinks a reasonable option would be to distribute the materials along with zoning permit applications. We could also give them out when people came for highway permit applications, but those people might not be building anything or might already have the materials. Eric said we could have a general practice in the office that we could offer an Efficiency Vermont packet to anyone who came in for a highway permit or a form based zoning permit. Brian S. said the village might distribute the materials to people who come in for stormwater permits. He wants to establish a routine for how we make the materials available. Charles Gallanter said he would offer the information for sale. People who buy something are more likely to take it seriously and read it. Eric said the board just needs to decide if we want to share Efficiency Vermont information with the public and later we can work out the details. The board agreed we should share the information.

6. Road Commissioner/Road Foreman Report and Action Items

Brian Krause said there was an issue on Coddling Hollow Road during mud season. Homeowners could not get to their houses except with 4-wheelers. There was a lot of finger pointing. He got everyone together and came up with a plan. A letter he sent to Brian S. summarizing what happened was distributed to the board. The road was in bad condition due to sap hauling that hadn't taken place there before. Road closures don't apply to sap.

Brian K. said he will be taking a couple of weeks off. Nat asked how the highway department runs without him. Brian K. said a lot of things will filter through Brian S. but Chris Perkins will address items Brian S. brings to his attention. The sheriff's department will call Chris if a tree comes down in the middle of the night.

Mike asked how grading is coming. Brian K. said the crew started grading on River Road East, the worst road. Tomorrow they are all going to a training and after that they will be working on grading for several weeks. Mike said people complain to him about roads and lack of grading. Brian K. said we have been light on grader operators since he came here.

Jason was sent to grader school last year. He hasn't finished the second part of the training yet so Brian doesn't want him grading yet. (*Dan Noyes and Rich Westman arrived at 7:54.*) Brian will go to grader training when he comes back from vacation. He is trying to make it so more people can grade.

Kyle asked if there is a maintenance plan for the path around Old Mill Park. Brian K. said the path was brought to his attention a couple of times last year. There was talk about putting down calcium chloride to bind it. But the rain has washed away a lot of the fine material, leaving loose stones. Calcium chloride won't solve that problem. One solution would be to add more fine material and roll it. The village has equipment for spreading sand. Maybe at that point some calcium chloride could be put on. There is nothing we can do with our equipment right now to make it better but we can talk to the village.

Kyle said she noticed grass, trees and bushes are starting to narrow some areas of the path. And there are some branches down. She is wondering who takes care of the path. Brian K. said he doesn't know if that is something the highway department maintains. Nat said it is an undefined area. The Rec Committee sometimes asks Brian for help with things like moving rocks or fall protection. They have never asked for help with the path. It needs to be addressed. The cheapest thing is to get a volunteer to maintain it. He wonders if the people who mow for the town could take care of it. Brian S. said he is sure they would but we would have to pay for it. We would have to investigate the cost. Brian K. said he can take a look at the path.

Brian S. said the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Association has asked that we mow along the rail trail twice a year rather than once as we have done. Our issue is that our highway department is spending a lot of time doing things that are not road-related. He likes the idea in principle. He wants to support the rail trail. But he thinks we might better support it by having our employees mow it once a year and maybe paying to have it mowed a second time. We have to think about the cost we are incurring in lost time by mowing.

Eric said we know the highway department is stretched. That was discussed during budget building. If Brian doesn't feel he can support mowing twice a season he thinks if we want to support the rail trail we would have to hire someone else. Doug said we have a public works department, not just a highway department. Eric said it all goes back to the discussion we have had about how we think we need a fifth employee, maybe next year. But what do we do this year?

Mike said he doesn't support any more expenditure of town funds to hire someone or the extra time. He supports mowing one time and no more. Kyle asked if other towns are being asked to do it twice. Brian said yes; that seems to be pretty standard. Doug asked if we can check to see what other towns are doing. David suggested asking the local snowmobile group, Lamoille Snow Travelers. (*Brian Krause left at 8:03.*)

7. Jen Burton – Update on Bread Oven for Legion Field

Jen Burton said she has all the donations of money and materials she needs for the structure for the oven. She and Brian met with the Historical Society last Friday and got the okay to locate it where Brian had suggested. Next we need to contact Dig Safe to determine the depth

of the conduit going to the bandstand to find out exactly where the concrete can be poured. Her thought is to have a roof overhead and have the existing electric equipment under the overhang but not on the pad. She thought selectboard members might want to be there to help out stake out the location.

Kyle asked if she still waiting to hear about the grant. Jen said yes; she should hear in June.

Doug asked why Jen prefers Legion Field as a location rather than the Village Green. Jen said because there is more space and more activity on Legion Field. If she were told she couldn't use Legion Field and the oven had to be on the Village Green she would agree to that but she doesn't think the Village Green is the best place for it. She thinks it could play a role at Tuesday Night Live or at a baseball game.

Jen said Doug had previously brought up a question about Act 250. Doug said he hasn't looked into that. Brian said he can follow up on it. He thinks we should check whether an Act 250 permit is required.

Nat said it had been discussed that Jen would talk to the baseball families about the oven location. Jen said she had assumed Nat would run it by them. Nat said he thinks the time to involve them is when it is time to stake out the location. Brian said he will contact Dig Safe and invite the selectboard, the Historical Society and the Rec Committee when Jen is ready to stake it out. *(Jen left.)*

8. *Mike Paradis – Update on Ambulance Service Outlook*

Mike Paradis said the NEMS contract he is asking the board to sign is the same as last year's. This is the contract that was voted on at town meeting. NEMS lost money again last year but they were able to increase their Medicaid revenue. However, that came with a 3.3% provider tax they must pay to the state. The increase in Medicaid was 43% so it should still be a good deal for them. But with the change in administration and healthcare in an uproar they are not sure the 43% increase will stay. They did a variety of things to keep their budget level funded this year. Some towns, especially Hyde Park have questioned having ambulances out of town doing transports. The ability to do transports is in the contract to keep costs down. If they stopped doing transports they would lose 59% of their income. Presently the cost of their contract is what their competitor originally wanted in the first round of bids 14 years ago. They are going to try to put a presentation together for all the town boards in September. They are hoping to know by then what the government will do and what the cuts will be, but he is not sure they will. Right now they are very busy. They are showing a profit for the first part of the year. They haven't seen that for a few years. He is here tonight for the board to sign the contract for the same price as the previous year.

Nat said he understood that NEMS had 2 ambulances, one of them for transports. Mike said they have 3 ambulances at their Johnson station. They have 2 crews on during the day and a second crew at night if they have people to be on call. There are times they have had to do two transports at the same time and both crews have been out. They are busier than they probably want to be but they need to do that to keep costs down.

Nat said he understood that an ambulance would be designated to operate within the contract towns. Mike said no. The contract says NEMS is contracted to do emergency and non-emergency transports. If they pick up a heart attack victim who needs to go to Burlington and their transport crew is already out, they can't wait for the other crew to get back. Eric said then if another call comes in while both crews are out, that is where the issue comes up. That is where we use mutual aid.

Mike said another problem he has is getting qualified people. Barre and Chittenden are swiping up all the paramedics. NEMS pays them \$17.50 to \$25 per hour and can't keep them. If he increases the pay then that is more cost for the towns.

Nat said there was an issue with Morrisville brought up before. Mike said that has resolved itself.

Doug moved to authorize Eric to sign the contract with Newport Ambulance Service on behalf of the board, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.

Mike asked if there are any concerns or problems people have heard of. Eric said he hasn't heard of any since our last conversation with Mike Paradis. Mike Paradis said he will retire May 1, 2019. (*Mike Paradis left at 8:23.*)

9. Legislative Representatives

Eric said he had invited Rich Westman and Dan Noyes to come tonight. The state Senate voted on transferring teacher retirement to be paid for by property tax. Rich Westman called Eric after hearing VLCT was sending out an alert urging people to lobby their senators. Eric said typically he would support VLCT's position but Rich had some good reasons for what the Senate is doing.

Dan Noyes said he was originally in favor of the teacher healthcare proposal but he ended up signing on to an amendment on the education tax bill that returns teacher healthcare savings to the taxpayer. He could be for a statewide teacher healthcare contract but he is not sure it has been vetted in committee. There are some concerns. The budget passed by the House did not have \$4 million for JSC. It has \$2.8 million.

Rich said the question about teacher healthcare is whether it is negotiated at the local or state level and then a connected question is, if there are savings, where do those go? In the first year, estimated savings are \$13 million. Going forward there are estimated savings of \$26 million per year. Where that money ends up becomes important. Does it create savings at the local level or go back into local budgets? If it goes into local budgets it has to show up in the statewide property tax in Montpelier. We started the year with the administration saying there would be no new revenue coming into the state. We are trying to conduct business in an atmosphere with no increases. The House made cuts across the board to the budget given to them by the governor. They got money by raiding a higher education trust fund whose interest is used to fund scholarships. The House cut a lot of human services. In his way of thinking they did nothing for higher education, just maintained everything. They basically eliminated cold weather vouchers for homeless people.

The priorities in the Senate were mental health, higher education and child care. The Senate moved \$8 million of teacher retirement into the ed fund. Local districts have negotiated teacher salaries but the bill for retirement has gone to the state and become a general fund expense. The Senate decided to move \$8 million of that expense to the ed fund but VLCT said that was putting pressure on the property tax. If there are no corresponding cuts in service that is true. For Johnson it is important to remember where the \$8 million went. It created room for \$4 million in base spending for state colleges and \$880K for the merger. Another \$3 million went to childcare. Right now in Vermont there are childcare placements for only 47% of those that need them. The childcare business is in crisis. The money transferred into the ed fund is now at risk because the House is not for any property tax increase or for transferring any teacher healthcare savings to supplant the money spent in the ed fund. The Senate transferred the general fund expense of teacher retirement to the ed fund because they feel it's an education expense. If we can save \$13 million on teacher healthcare that is how the Senate would like to reduce property taxes but the House does not want to do that.

Doug asked where it will end up. Rich said he is on the conference committee on the budget. It has 3 members from the House and 3 from the Senate. The House proposed cutting the appropriations for higher ed and for child care because they don't want any property tax increase but they also don't want to deal with any issues around healthcare for teachers. From his point of view, he thinks we have to. There is more than one way to deal with teachers' healthcare. The plan that VEHI has put forward he thinks gives teachers as good a quality product as they had before. He would just as soon see teacher healthcare negotiated at the local level but he is not as interested in whether or not that happens. He thinks the proposal VEHI is offering gives teachers the same as what they have and provides an opportunity to save.

Doug asked if the savings are easier to obtain if the negotiations are done at the state level rather than piecemeal. Rich said some would say that. But Lamoille South just negotiated their contract. They said teachers would have to get the Gold plan instead of the Platinum plan, which led to huge savings. With the savings, they increased the HRA (similar to an HSA) teachers can use to pay their deductibles. They will also provide everyone with information about the cost of services. An MRI costs \$4700 at UVM Medical Center and \$2000 at Copley. If there is money in an HRA or HSA at the end of the year half of it will go to the district and half to the individual. They are trying to get individuals to look at cost and make decisions about where to go. An MRI at urgent care costs \$700. That is how different the cost of procedures can be. The belief is that if they can get teachers to begin to look at the cost they can produce savings. There will be a page on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield website where teachers can see under their plan the cost at different providers across the state. If that takes a few people away from the UVM Medical Center, he would be fine with that. They just reported a \$28 million surplus. That is huge. If people can be smarter about the way they purchase healthcare and at least a piece of it is based on cost he is willing to try.

Doug asked, will you be able to save the college system? Rich said the chancellor said if they don't get a \$4 million increase in base spending from the current \$25 million appropriation they will have to make really bad choices. The two on the chopping block are Lyndon and

Johnson. Part of it comes from us underfunding higher education for a long time. He would like to get the savings from teacher healthcare. He would like to see the retirement plans for teachers next to their salary. It is unfair if local districts only negotiate salary without being aware of the corresponding retirement cost. He would like some of the savings from healthcare to go into the ed fund and put us in a position where we are able to use it and not raise taxes in this year. The governor said he would veto anything with new overall taxes. He thinks mental health is screaming for help. Our county mental health agency has seen a 2% increase in 5 years. They have a high turnover rate and are getting violent people using opiates. Their problems are becoming more severe and they can't hold onto staff. And state colleges and childcare need help. He thinks there is a way to do that that won't raise taxes. His number one priority is to give state colleges a fighting chance.

Dan said he thinks that is how it is supposed to work. The House throws a plan to the Senate and they can put it in perspective. The conference committee will come back with something and the House can vote it up or down. The two issues will be what happens with teacher healthcare and the \$8 million that got transferred over. If they can find savings in the ed fund to produce \$8 million he doesn't think the House will veto it. The teachers' union wants negotiations to remain at the local level. The governor would like it at the state level. Rich said he thinks the locals could produce the savings if the bulk of the state did what Lamoille South did. He thinks it would be easier to do it at the state level. He is not wedded to the idea but he is wedded to using at least \$8 million of it to put toward important things. Dan said \$8 million is less than a penny and they are looking at 3 pennies' worth of savings on health.

Rich said the House voted on the governor's plan to negotiate teacher healthcare at the state level and ended up with the speaker voting to create a tie, which meant the amendment they were voting on went down. That shows how divided the House is. The Senate is not as divided on this issue. The Senate wants the savings at the state level. They want the savings to show up in the ed fund. Dan said Ashe wants the locals to negotiate, not the state. Rich said he said we will reduce ed fund payments by this amount and you need to produce those savings regardless.

Rich said if no savings get created the senate will be forced to acquiesce on their position. The House asked them, instead of producing \$4 million for state colleges and \$880K for the merger, to reduce that by \$1 million and to reduce the \$3 million increase for childcare by \$500K. The Senate hasn't responded to that and won't respond until it is clearer what will happen with teacher healthcare.

Eric said there would be a huge impact to Johnson if we lost JSC. Dan said he is interested in that. He was the one who put in a bill for \$4 million for state colleges. Rich said that bill didn't include a funding source. We have to pay for it.

Mike asked how much the state is on the hook for teacher retirement. Rich said we spend \$1.6 billion in the ed fund on salaries and running schools. Retirement comes out of the general fund and the line item for teacher retirement is nearly \$90 million. The argument people make is that teacher retirement is part of compensation. Mike asked if teachers contribute. Rich said no, not since 1948. The Senate feels salary and retirement belong

together. Teacher compensation needs to be looked at as a package. The squeeze in the general fund is between retirement, retired teachers' healthcare and general Medicaid dollars. The bill that raised NEMS's tax was a bill he introduced. His concern is what will happen with the federal government. He has no idea what will happen. When they try to cut Medicaid it will be a lot harder than they think. There is probably another \$150 million in the general fund besides the \$126 million in the ed funds. Medicaid and teacher related expenses are squeezing the ability to spend for other things in the general fund. Mike said he thinks teachers need to contribute to their own retirement.

Doug and Eric thanked Rich and Dan for coming in and for their priorities and invited them to come June 5 when the governor visits Johnson.

Charles asked about check engine lights. Rich said that is tied to federal transportation dollars. If we get rid of requirements related to check engine lights we get a penalty resulting in lost federal money.

10. Administrator's Report and Action Items

Brian S. said Seth Manchester cannot serve on the LRSWMD board. *(Rich and Dan left at 9:01.)* Phil Wilson has agreed to serve as Johnson's representative. **Mike moved to appoint Phillip Wilson as representative to the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District board, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.**

Doug said there is a deed from Blackridge Construction to the town for a right of way and a couple of accesses on the Lamoille River in Homes Meadow. There was a grant application that didn't get funded to put a path in. Mike Wichrowski, a lands and facilities administrator who puts in accesses for the state, is willing to work with the town on siting the river accesses. He is hoping the selectboard can ask Brian to get in touch with him.

David asked if Doug recalls whether there was agreement on the location. Doug said he thinks we would need to bring Lea back into the discussion to answer that. *(Phil and Charles left at 9:06.)* David said there was a town road going across the middle of the parcel that didn't exist. In order to simplify things we exchanged the town road for this access. Doug said he thinks if we authorize Brian to look into this he can look into the file Lea had on that grant and see what we have for maps and what definition of the easement area there was. David said there may be changes due to new FEMA regs. Doug said he thinks work is needed to see if it is possible to do this. He proposes that Brian reach out to the person from the state who is willing to work with the town.

Eric asked if other board members know where this is. They said no. David said it is across the river from the municipal building. Doug said it is between Old Mill Park and River Road West.

David said originally the idea was to put a trail just into the edge of the woods so there would be no impact on the fields or houses and it would be more secluded for people. Doug said it was thought this trail might be almost part of a loop and could provide alternative access to downtown. People could ride bikes down it.

The board agreed to have Brian contact Mike Wichrowski and look into siting the river accesses. Brian said VAST has also expressed interest in a bridge over the Lamoille in that area. (*David left at 9:10.*)

Brian said the library board has voted to carry over the \$2000 earmarked for the children's room for another year.

The Local Emergency Operations Plan is up for renewal. Brian, Eric, and Lea reviewed it and updated contact information and information on vulnerable populations. **Nat moved to adopt the Local Emergency Operations Plan, Doug seconded and the motion was passed.**

A resident on 100C near the intersection of 100C and 100 has asked for help dealing with the speed limit in that area. It is 50 mph on 100C and after the stop it is 35 mph going either direction on 100. They had originally asked for a "speed limit reduced ahead" sign on 100C but highway code does not allow that because the speed limit is lowered on 100, not on 100C. A possible fix would be to lower the speed limit to 35 mph at the end of 100C to correspond to the speed on the other side of the stop sign. It is a state highway, so it is not our choice but we could ask the state to look at it. The homeowner can petition for a change on their own or we can ask for it. **Nat moved to request that the state evaluate the speed limit on 100C near the intersection of 100C and 100, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.**

A private driveway off 100C needs to be reclassified as a private road as a new house is being built and if there are 3 residences using the same driveway it must be classified as a private road. The Historical Society has no position on the name. The homeowner has suggested Bouchard's Way. **Nat moved to name the new private road off 100C Bouchard's Way, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.**

The lease for the Holcomb House tenants needs to be renewed next month. If we want to make any changes, this is the time to do it. We have to change the signature and contact person. Brian said the tenants wanted a fourth name added to the lease but we don't have room for another person. Nat noted that only two names are on the lease now. Eric said we increased the rent last year. We increased it a little to cover costs but we are not looking to make a profit. Doug said he thinks we should have the names of all tenants on the lease. Brian said his plan is to tell them they can't add a fourth tenant. We don't want someone living in the common area. The board agreed to allow Brian to negotiate with the tenants. Brian said he will make updates and make sure all tenant names are on the lease.

Mike moved to approve the noise ordinance waiver requests for Field Days and Tuesday Night Live, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.

Nat moved to approve the facility use agreement for Lamoille Valley Bike Tours to use Old Mill Park, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed. Brian said he checked that their insurance is up to date. Their agreement is the same as last year.

There are dead or dying trees at the Skate Park and at Plot Cemetery. Casey would like to try to save the tree at the Skate Park as it is in a useful spot so we will trim it back and see if some of it can be saved. Noel Dodge said it is not in great shape but might survive if we trim off dead branches. That work can probably be done in house. The danger tree in Plot Cemetery is right in the middle and is tall. It will be difficult to manage. Brian thinks we will need to hire a professional arborist. He will come back to the board with an estimate.

At Holcomb House the paved area underneath the access ramp is pooling water and allowing the water to leak into the building. Brian's suggestion of a first step is to drill holes at the lowest spot of the pavement to allow the water to infiltrate there. If that fails to solve the problem the next step will be to either grind down a channel to drain water off the pavement or install gutters to divert the water.

Mike said those holes will plug themselves up. He thinks it would be better to grind a channel. Brian said the maintenance on that would be easier. But the channel would need to be about an inch deep. It would be a fairly large project. Doug said the channel would be a more permanent solution.

Brian said in the not-too-distant future the Historical Society would like to repair the entire parking area, including taking up the concrete slab and putting gutters over it. Nat asked if Brian means the asphalt driveway. Brian said it would be both the concrete and the driveway. Eric said that would be a major project. Nat said he thinks gutters makes the most sense. Brian said the issue is that there is no space for water from the gutters to dump because the area is all paved. He is asking to put in either a channel or holes for now.

Mike asked if Brian doesn't think with holes water will migrate into the cellar. Brian said he, Brian K. and Duncan have looked at it and they don't think so.

Nat said he doesn't feel he is in a position to second guess what should be done. Mike said he thinks we should just grind a channel in the first place and then it will be done. We will have to clean holes out all the time.

Doug asked where the water would go if there were not a low spot. Brian said it would come out and we would still have an ice problem because there is such a large impervious surface. Doug asked, are we solving the ice problem or the infiltration problem? Brian said we are solving the infiltration problem now. Solving the ice problem will take a bigger project.

Doug asked if we can fill the low spot with more asphalt. Brian said they think it would flake off too quickly. It would be challenging to properly level it when working around the access ramp. A channel will be easier to manage in the small space.

Mike said we should cut the channel. Doug he doesn't know enough about it to say what should be done. Kyle and Nat agreed. Nat suggested the board should delegate the decision to Brian. Doug agreed to that but suggested Mike should talk about it with him. It was agreed that Mike and Brian will go to look at it together.

Brian said when we are doing the next budget he will probably start costing for redoing the whole parking area.

Brian said our Delta Dental plan is up for renewal. The increase is less than we budgeted. We budgeted for a 3% increase and the actual increase was 2%. They have two new options. One is an opt-in that would allow all dependents up to age 26 to stay on a family plan. There is no requirement that they go to college. There is no cost to opt in except that without this when a child reaches 19 they would go off the family plan and the parents would go to a 2-person plan unless they have other younger children. The only cost would be from people staying on the family plan longer than they would otherwise. It would cost roughly \$600 more for each year the child was on the family plan under current rates.

Eric asked, the employee would choose or not whether to do that? Brian said yes.

Eric if there is any cost to us. Brian said they would be on a family plan longer so there would be more cost to us. Mike said he is not interested in having the town incur any more costs.

Brian said the other option we have is an orthodontic rider to provide orthodontic coverage for children 18 and under. That would increase costs across the board. Costs would be increased by a little less than \$10 for a 2-person plan and a little more than \$100 for a family plan. It would increase our total annual cost for all employees by about \$150. Nat asked if that is the cost for town and village. Brian said no; that is just for our employees and joint employees.

Eric asked what the village decided. Brian said the village declined the orthodontic rider and they are interested in opting in for dependents up to 26 but they want employees to cover the additional cost. Mike said he thinks that is what we should do too.

Brian said if you have no more dependents under 18 but have dependents between 19 and 26 you would incur additional cost because you would stay on a family plan. During that time you would pay the difference in cost between a family plan and a 2-person plan. While any dependents are under 18 you would not incur any additional expense and would retain a family plan. Doug asked if employees can opt for a 2-person plan if they have a dependent under 18. Brian said yes.

Kyle said the trustees decided that because they had already done their budget they didn't want to change but they would be fine with employees paying to opt in. Eric asked, employees would pay the employee cost plus the town share of \$606? Brian said yes. There is no employee share, though. It costs \$606 per year for one family that does not choose to go to a 2-person plan. So for a shared employee our cost would be \$303. Rosemary said there are no town employees this would apply to. Brian said in the future it could apply to Jason.

Mike said if they want orthodontic coverage he thinks we should allow them to pay for it. Brian said everyone would have to be enrolled. We only have one person who would benefit from it.

Eric said he thinks it is a good point that we have already developed our budget. Nat said orthodontic coverage is not a budget buster. Our cost would be only \$165. Mike asked, but where does it end? Eric said we are almost halfway through the plan year.

Nat moved and Doug seconded to cover the orthodontic rider for employees and to allow employees to opt in for dental coverage for dependents up to age 26 at their own cost.

Brian said we should have a conversation with the village. We would be offering our employees something they are not offering. Eric said there is also the question of how we would implement it with joint employees.

The motion was passed with Mike opposed. Eric asked Brian and Rosemary to take this back to the village.

Brian said Lamoille County Sheriff's Department reports for March and April were emailed out. One thing that stood out to him was the number of additional directed patrols Wolcott had in April. He will follow up with Roger on that.

The Beard Park dedication is on track for Memorial Day. It will be held after the parade. The plaque is done and Brian will pick it up this week or next week. Eric asked about what time the dedication will start. Brian said he thinks about noon. Eric asked if the Conservation Commission is driving this. Brian said yes.

Brian said the Conservation Commission got a grant for bat boxes. They will site several at Beard Park.

We have begun to receive notices of approved Better Roads grants. We received a planning grant for work on a capital budget to help comply with the Municipal Roads General Permit and another grant for bank stabilization on Wilson Road. We haven't heard about the grant for a box culvert on Upper French Hill, which was indicated as our first priority.

A PACIF equipment grant for ergonomic office furniture came through today.

Brian has requested 4 traffic studies from LCPC. One is to study reclassification of Upper French Hill and 3 are to study placement of one or more radar speed signs. The speed studies will be conducted on Clay Hill, School Street, and Railroad Street. Brian didn't ask for speed data on Upper French Hill, just a count, but he may throw speed data in there. He is trying to get Roger Marcoux to lend us a radar cart to put on Upper French Hill for a while to get data. Brian has suggested waiting for all of these traffic studies until students are back because traffic patterns will change in the summer.

We got a reappraisal notification for municipal property.

R.L. Vallee's Act 250 permit was issued.

Two applications have been filed for Act 250 permits. They are a new home on Melody Lane and repairs to the Studio Center's old church on Main Street. Both are fairly small.

Kyle asked if Brian has heard anything more about the proposed Dollar General. Brian said they have called a couple of times to ask about real estate information. It sounds like they are moving ahead. He is not sure if they are still trying to appeal the decision that they need an Act 250 permit, but they can go through the Act 250 process. Not having to do that wasn't going to make or break their project. A developer who may work for Family Dollar has also made some inquiries.

LCLP is proposing changes to the Lamoille County Regional Plan 2015-2023. They would like our comments if we have any. Brian passed out a summary of the changes. They propose changing the definition of "substantial regional impact." A public hearing on the change is scheduled for May 23 at 6:35 at the LCPC office. Our Planning Commission received a copy.

Doug asked what our LCPC rep says about the change. Brian said he will have to talk to our reps.

Brian said there is no statewide definition for substantial regional impact. Statute requires each regional planning commission to define it in its regional plan. It is not used to determine if a proposed development is in compliance with the regional plan and is not a threshold for a regional planning commission to provide comments. Brian heard informally that this is not a significant change to how LCPC has been documenting things. It is more clearly defining it. He will talk to our reps and see if they have any particular comments or interest. Unless they have comments he thinks we are okay with the change. The board agreed.

Brian has not done any work on the derelict building ordinance yet. He will keep it as a regular agenda item and he hopes he will make progress soon.

Kyle said she heard that St. John's Church is for sale. She heard informal comments from Rec Committee and library board members about the possibility of using the building.

Nat moved to name Governor Scott Official Clock Winder for the Day on June 5, 2017, Mike seconded and the motion was passed. Eric said Governor Scott's visit is scheduled for June 5 at 11:00 am. Hopefully legislators will be there as well. He will be here for 45 minutes. He suggested that people give thought to where we might take him if there is time after the clock winding. Doug said he was here after the Grand Union was flooded. Maybe we could show him what has happened since. Eric said he hasn't seen Sterling Market. We could walk there.

Brian is going to look into ordering signs for the charging station and getting permits to put them up. The library has also asked for wayfinding signs on Route 15. Mike asked if Brian has any sense of how many people have used the electric charging station. Brian said he has not seen anyone using it. Eric said we haven't done anything to promote it. Mike said we could have it posted on the town website. Doug said he thinks a sign on the street is better.

Eric said an important place to advertise it is in the state listing of all charging stations. It is not on that yet.

11. Recreation Committee Report

Nat said there will be a fun run on Memorial Day at 8:30 at Old Mill Park. The Rec Committee has ordered a picnic table that will be placed near the trailhead facility.

Recently someone drove on the fields at Old Mill Park and created deep ruts. Volunteer parents had to repair the damage before kids could play on the fields. This happens every year. Last year a parent donated some rocks that were placed to start a barrier. The Rec Committee would like to get more rocks donated. They are looking into paying someone to haul them. Their goal is to line the entire left side of the driveway.

Mike suggested that flat rocks are good for people to sit on to watch games. Nat said the committee will keep that in mind. He said rocks are expensive so they are trying to see if they can get some donated. Brian K. has a limited number of rocks he prefers to use for culvert projects, ditches, etc. There are some within right of ways. The committee would want to talk to Brian K. about them before taking any. Brian S. said we would want to talk to homeowners also. If they are in the right of way they are the homeowners' property. Doug said he has some rocks he can donate. Nat said the committee will probably hire someone to transport rocks to Old Mill Park and maybe someone to distribute them along the edge. They will also place gates for access for mowing and maintenance. Mike said he thinks this is a great idea.

12. Host Benefit Agreement between TOJ and LRSWMD

Nat moved to enter executive session to discuss negotiations for the host benefit agreement between the town and LRSWMD for the development of a compost facility, Kyle seconded, the motion was passed and the board entered executive session at 10:10.

The board came out of executive session at 10:33.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths