

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018

Present:

Selectboard Members: Mike Dunham, Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood
Others: Brian Story, Rosemary Audibert, Brian Krause, Sgt. Chris Watson (LCSD), Scott Meyer, Kim Dunkley, Matt Hill, Dan Noyes, Rich Westman, Lois Frey, Charles Gallanter, Jackie Stanton, Duncan Hastings, Dean West, Jen Burton, Eli Harrington, Jeanne Engel, Greg Stefanski, Russell Taylor, Chrissy Taylor, Katie Orost, Peg [Unknown], Scott Griswold (NEMS), several other community members

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:01.

2. Public Hearing – Form Based Code

Eric said this is the second and final public hearing on form based code.

Scott Meyer said he hopes the selectboard will support form based code. He feels it will be good for business. Another voter agreed. Kim Dunkley said she also agrees. She said she feels a good example of how it could work is what happened at the store that used to be Stearns and is now owned by RL Vallee. People in the community were able to talk about modifying plans for the store to be kinder to the way the village looks. The appearance and historical nature of the village can be preserved with form based standards. A lot of work by the form based code committee and the Planning Commission went into developing this code.

Hearing no other comments, Eric ended the public hearing at 7:04.

3. Additions, Changes to Agenda

Brian added discussion and possible action on the village's request for a contribution to pay for landscaping work, input from Jen Burton on issues with Sinclair Road, discussion of a potential joint meeting with the village, a request to add a plaque to the bench on Legion Field, and an executive session to discuss a discipline issue. Mike asked for discussion of the tax sale and of the fees we charge for late tax payments. Donna Griffiths asked to present a request for trash cleanup.

4. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Kyle moved to approve the minutes of April 9 and 16, 2018, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.

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

Rosemary said we are at 81% of budget spent. Current delinquent taxes are \$148K. Last year at this time the figure was \$196K.

The tax sale will be June 12 at 2:00 pm. Mike said he can be there. He asked if the town is still interested in buying properties with land. Eric said the board had discussed even purchasing trailers this year. Nat asked if we have money in the budget to buy properties. Eric said we didn't budget for it. There was discussion about issues with the town owning trailers but not the land they are on. Doug said he doesn't think the board can make a

decision tonight about what to purchase at the tax sale because it was not on the agenda. Eric said the board had previously agreed to bid on all properties that had no other bidders. That is what we will do.

Rosemary said our current IT person is retiring June 30. She would like to purchase two new desktop computers before then and have him install them. The total cost should be about \$1K.

Mike picked an example from the list of individuals included in this year's tax sale. With penalties, interest, legal fees, etc. the total owed is now \$1800 more than the original tax. Sometimes people fall into a problem and can't seem to get themselves out and it snowballs with the extra fees until they can't dig themselves out. He thinks we need to revisit the fees and possibly lower them. We need to show a little sympathy to people in our community. If people didn't feel they were treated unfairly they might be more likely to pay what they owed. Eric asked if others want to discuss this. Nat said he thinks it is worth looking into. Kyle agreed.

6. Road Commissioner/Road Foreman Report and Action Items

Brian Krause said the highway crew is starting to get caught up on grading and calcium chloride application. Fourteen of the 30 additional authorized overtime hours are left.

Eric noted that employees have been to quite a few trainings. He asked if the new employee is working out well. Brian K. said yes.

Eric asked how much calcium chloride is being put down. Brian K. said more heavily traveled roads may get 1000 gallons per mile. More lightly traveled roads may get 800 gallons per mile. Eric asked if extra calcium chloride is being put on Sinclair Road. Brian said yes. Eric asked if Clay Hill and Ben Ober Road are also getting extra. Brian said Ben Ober and Mine Roads were just treated. He is not sure if Clay Hill Road was done today.

Brian K. suggested that at some point perhaps the radar speed sign should be shifted to Mine Road. Some people are going pretty fast there. Brian S. said VTrans loaned us the speed sign. We wanted to rent a second one but couldn't find one to rent. Now that the weather is better he will look into using the one the sheriff's department has. It has issues when it doesn't get enough sun to charge its batteries. Sgt. Watson said LCSD moves that sign between the three towns, with each town getting it for about a week at a time.

Kyle asked about gravel and sand expenditures. Brian K. said we were a little over budget for sand and salt. We are okay on gravel.

Nat noted that one of the upcoming tasks Brian listed in his written report was making a determination on the gravel pit. Brian K. said he and Brian S. will get advice from a consultant. Brian S. said they will use a private consultant. The tests on the area adjoining the current pit were inconclusive and Brian S. and Brian K. didn't feel qualified to draw conclusions about whether the tests support opening a new pit there. They wanted help interpreting the data.

7. *Planning Commission Report*

Duncan Hastings said the regional Planning Commission has discussed being more proactive in attending selectboard meetings. He would like to get on the selectboard agenda more frequently. Tomorrow the regional board is going to adopt amendments to the regionwide revised energy plan. The plan pretty much came out against utility-scale wind installations anywhere in the county.

Doug said he read the whole plan and is in favor of it.

Eric said he thinks in the future the Planning Commission Report agenda item can be for either town or regional reports. Duncan can report under that item if he is here.

8. *Review and Adoption of Form Based Code*

Kyle moved and Nat seconded to adopt form based code as presented by the Planning Commission. The motion was passed.

9. *Noise Ordinance Waiver Application by Heady Vermont*

Eli Harrington from Heady Vermont spoke about the noise ordinance waiver request submitted for an event at Willow Crossing Farm. The event is tentatively scheduled for July 1. The intent is for it to end at 10:00 pm but they are requesting a waiver in case it goes late. They intend to have amplified music. They will have shuttles and offsite parking and some people will be camping. They have talked to adjoining neighbors and will work with them on parking. This will be a 100% renewable energy event. They will hire Chocolate Thunder Security from Burlington.

Nat asked if they will be selling alcohol. Eli said they are working through the process. They have been in contact with breweries and catering companies. His expectation is that there will be a couple of hundred people at the event. Between 500 and 1000 would be a good turnout.

Doug asked what the neighbors said. Eli said Keith Morris spoke to them, mostly about parking offsite. He thinks they have experience with what has worked well in the past. Doug asked if there were any comments about noise. Eli said there were none that were relayed to him.

Eric asked, why Johnson? Eli said Keith Morris has been a friend to the organization. He is a hemp cultivator. They thought about having the event in Chittenden County but an outdoor event permit would be required and they were not sure they could get it in time. This is a music event celebrating marijuana legalization.

Mike asked about the demos that are planned. Eli said there will be demos about hemp cultivation.

Duncan asked, if alcohol will be served, doesn't it require a catering permit? Eli said yes. He will work with a brewery or local caterer on that. Duncan said this board, as the local liquor control board, will be responsible for issuing that permit.

Sgt. Watson asked where the offsite parking is. Eli said he understands it will be on the property of the adjoining neighbor between Willow Crossing Farm and the church on Route 15. Sgt. Watson said LCSD's concern is pedestrians on the highway. Eli said people will be able to walk to the farm on a path, not along Route 15. He would be happy to work with LCSD if an overflow parking plan is needed.

Sgt. Watson asked, what about EMS and fire? Eli said they will pay to have EMS on site.

Eric said he would rather not see this event. He knows this county has a lot of drug issues. He thinks this is the last thing we need. But we can't stop the event.

Doug moved and Nat seconded to approve the noise ordinance waiver for the event at Willow Crossing Farm on July 1, 2018 under the condition that parking, emergency services and security are provided as described.

Nat said he feels previous events at Willow Crossing Farm have been planned responsibly. Kyle said she doesn't think we have ever gotten a complaint about Willow Crossing Farm events. She sees this not as a drug party but as a music event with an educational piece. She personally appreciates things happening aboveground and not underground.

The motion was passed with Mike opposed.

10. Review of the Legislative Session with Our Representatives

Eric said our legislators offered to review the legislative session. Representative Matt Hill said legislators have been called back to session this Wednesday through Friday. The big issue is about spending one-time funds on property tax. He thinks many legislators from all parties are wary about spending one-time funds for a short term fix and being in the same spot next year. He would love to hear board members' thoughts on the issue.

Representative Dan Noyes said he is on the Human Services Committee. They created an older Vermonters working group to bring together agencies that provide services to older Vermonters so they can have the same outcomes and measurements. His committee worked on giving more parental rights to foster parents. They couldn't sign a permission slip or let a foster child sleep over at a friend's house without getting a DCF worker involved. The changes in requirements will provide more normalcy for foster children. The Child Poverty Council, which helps families get out of poverty, was updated by adding someone from the business community and someone from Capstone Community Action. The committee looked at adverse childhood experiences and how the Department for Children and Families works to mediate stressful experiences such as having a parent incarcerated or substance abuse in the home. Data shows these experiences can turn into health issues later in life. Rep. Noyes started an older Vermonters caucus that met for an hour every other week to discuss issues such as taxing social security.

Senator Rich Westman said the legislature increased funding by 2% for services that help older Vermonters such as Home Health and Meals on Wheels. They spent a lot of time working on childcare. Childcare is a crisis for young families. In Vermont there are only enough regulated childcare placements for 47% of children born. If we expect young families to stay here the issue is a crisis.

Rep. Noyes said there was more money in the capital budget to help Northern Vermont University with its transition. Sen. Westman said there are one-time funds that will be put in the budget over 3 years to facilitate the merger.

Eric said the selectboard recently learned of a vacancy on the unified school district board. The selectboard has not had a role in appointing school directors in probably a decade. Now they have a courtesy role. The school board consults the selectboard and then decides who will be appointed to the school board. His concern is that if Johnson has a vacancy on any other board or committee the selectboard determines who sits on the board to represent the town. But school board representatives from other towns will decide on the Johnson representative to the school board. He doesn't think that is the way it should be.

Sen. Westman said he can raise the issue in the legislature to try to have discussion but it is really too late to introduce anything this year.

Rep. Noyes said he thinks it comes from before Act 46, when the town school board picked school board members. Now that school districts have been consolidated he thinks the procedure just carries over.

Rep. Noyes said the legislators all agree with Eric that there should be a change.

Doug asked what happened with vehicle inspections. Rep. Noyes said the Department of Motor Vehicles is rewriting the inspection manual. They are still giving provisional inspections for another year on check engine lights if there is no safety issue. If there is a safety issue they will not pass your car.

Sen. Westman said the state has to comply with federal requirements on environmental impacts (from catalytic converters, etc.) People will have the ability to apply for more time to come into compliance due to economic hardship if the issue is not safety related.

Nat said he understands Route 15 in Johnson won't get paved for at least 3 years. Rep. Hill said his understanding is that Cambridge to Johnson will be done in 2021-22 and Johnson to Wolcott will be done the next year. But the members of the transportation committee understand that something needs to be done. He has talked to them about what can be done to fill the holes.

Rep. Noyes asked who the town's representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Brian Story said he is. Rep. Noyes said to keep bringing it up with the committee. Brian S. said it is on the top of the list.

Mike said the section in front of Nadeau's needs to be fixed. It is deadly, especially to people who are not from this area and don't slow down.

Sen. Westman said it will be hard to move paving up in the plan. But certainly a shim coat would help. There is money to do that. There are revenue problems related to more electric vehicles, which pay no fuel tax, and more efficient vehicles, which mean less revenue. Mike

said a shim coat does no good in that section of road. Sen. Westman said the Agency of Transportation is taking a look at it. They are aware of the situation. He understands it needs more than a shim coat but it could be helpful. Mike said if it gets a shim coat then it will get put on the back burner. Sen. Westman said no, it won't, because it is on the plan. Duncan Hastings said he used to serve on the Transportation Advisory Committee and he has seen the situation where a road gets moved down in priority after a shim coat is done.

Mike said the town doesn't have the ability to regulate our speed limits without spending money for a traffic study. We wanted to reduce the speed limit on Sinclair Road to 25 mph for 6 weeks but we can't do it lawfully in a way that will allow it to be enforced by the sheriff's department. It is ridiculous that the town can't regulate its own speed limit.

Jen Burton said she had emailed Rep. Noyes and Rep. Hill about the speed limit on Sinclair Road. It's a huge problem. With the current speed limit you can't ask people to slow down and have them respond to you with decency. She described a couple of interactions she had with motorists after she indicated they should slow down. She felt the drivers did not respond respectfully. You can't ask people to slow down and have them respond respectfully when they are going the speed limit. She feels the speed limit on Sinclair Road is too high. It seems possible to her that someone could make an exception happen somehow to allow the town to lower the speed limit for 6 weeks. She would love it if that could happen. The first week of the twin bridges project wasn't pleasant. The St. Onge people have been great and everything else has been fine but the speed limit on the road is a problem.

Eric said it would be nice if towns had the ability to temporarily reduce speed limits due to a construction situation. He understands it can't happen this year. Jen asked if anyone has tried. Eric said we are also seeing an uptick in traffic on Clay Hill and Ben Ober Roads. Rep. Hill said towns should be able to set a temporary speed limit. Jen said she asked for this two years ago when we first started talking about the twin bridges project, so it is not new. There was plenty of time.

Sen. Westman said if there was a thought-out proposal that came before the Transportation Committee they would be willing to discuss it. He suggested that the town start with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. It would be easier for proposed legislation to get movement if it came from VLCT and had been vetted. The Transportation Committee will ask VLCT and the Agency of Transportation for input.

Nat said even if we can lower the speed limit, it has to be enforced. Can we have increased patrols? Sgt. Watson said directed patrols have been added. Officers are trying to spend time in that area at least several times a shift.

Nat said he is hearing that speed is an issue in many places in the village. A resident said Railroad Street is a place where speeding is a problem. Nat said we would like to be known as a town where you get pinched if you are speeding.

Duncan said generally when there is a construction zone the contractor owns that site for the duration of the construction. He doesn't know how far up Sinclair the construction zone goes. Brian Story said it is confined to 100C. Duncan asked if the contractor can place a 25 mph

sign within the identified construction zone. Nat said there is someone in front of his house with a slow/stop sign and people just go right by him without slowing. Scott Meyer said MUTCD codes say that if a construction worker is out, the area is a construction zone and the speed can be limited. Jen said the speed limit is lowered near the new construction outside of Morrisville. Scott said he is not certain why the contractor doesn't extend the construction zone. If there is a worker out but no construction zone around the worker they are out of compliance with MUTCD rules. The construction zone could be moved back and the speed could be reduced within it. Sgt. Watson said even if the construction zone was moved it still wouldn't cover the majority of the areas where there is an issue on Sinclair and Rocky Roads. Jen said it would help.

Sen. Westman said if the town wrote a letter he would be happy to take it up with the Agency of Transportation. He would also encourage the town to put it in front of VLCT. Other towns must have this issue.

11. Various Residents to Discuss Acts of Intolerance in Johnson

Kyle said she asked for this to be on the agenda. On April 22 she got some messages from concerned citizens who witnessed a neo-Nazi gathering on Railroad Street and were upset. She thought it was her duty as a selectboard member to invite them to a meeting to give them a safe space to voice what they saw.

Russell Taylor said the gathering was at his place. It was not a neo-Nazi gathering, just friends hanging out. Chrissy Taylor said Jackie Stanton came to talk to them about the Confederate flag they had up. She called the flag racist but it is just a southern thing. They are not flying it due to racism. It is on their property and they should be able to fly it if their landlord has no objection. Russell said someone complained to the landlord. Before that the landlord had no problem with it.

Eric said this board has no jurisdiction over Russell flying any flag in his yard. He has the right to do that. He asked if someone was going to speak about what the issue is.

Jackie said she did not make the charge of a neo-Nazi rally. She saw the flag and came over and introduced herself. She left when Russell asked her to but he gave her a "Heil Hitler" salute. Russell said he did not. Jackie said she didn't tell his landlord about the flag. She talked to him about how some people might be offended by it. Russell told her some Vietnam vets had thanked him for flying it and said she was the first to complain. There were several people there and they all ended up yelling at her to get off the property. A couple of days later she noticed the flag was down and she felt the situation had been worked out. She didn't bring this concern to the selectboard. She is not asking them to tell people what to do on their property. She would encourage all citizens to confront it if they see hate speech. She would like veterans to give Russell their opinions, as those opinions seem to hold weight with him. She would like the town to think about what kind of community we want to live in. We want all residents and visitors to feel welcome. The flag could be seen from Main Street. Several African Americans live close to Russell.

Chrissy Taylor said she and her husband believe in southern pride as veterans. They have the flag in their house now. No one else has complained.

Eric said this doesn't need to be discussed at a selectboard meeting. Jackie and Chrissy said they were asked to come to the meeting.

Russell said if he had his way he would still have the flag outside. Someone went to his landlord and said he was having a KKK party.

Kyle said this was on the agenda just to inform the selectboard of what happened and that there is a lot of concern. She wanted the board to be aware.

Eric said people can do or say practically anything on their own property.

Greg Stefanski said he feels there are issues the board needs to pay attention to even if they are not cut and dried. There have been community meetings about issues like vandalism. He thinks there is a role for the selectboard in creating a place for conversation. He thinks this is something we need to pay attention to. If it is having an impact on the community and people are getting worried or scared about their safety we should be concerned. It is good for the community to know this is a place to talk about these things. He thinks maybe it is in the selectboard's interest to think about its role in promoting good communication, for instance possibly sponsoring an event to talk about what flags mean to people. He believes the board has a responsibility to make sure people feel safe in the community and are getting along. These kinds of issues are a reminder that there may be issues below the surface. He hopes the board will see a role in promoting and supporting events that bring us together.

Mike said Jackie had asked for veterans' perspective. His great-grandfather and father were war veterans and he was in the Marine Corps. He feels all Americans have freedom of speech. Those in the military swear an oath to defend the Constitution against foreign and domestic enemies. He doesn't like Communist t-shirts, etc., but if someone wants to wear one it is their right. If he objects to that he wasted 34 years of his life. He believes we all have individual rights in America. It doesn't matter if others like it. The strength of our country is being tolerant of others' beliefs. When we judge everything we don't like we all lose.

Jackie said she has seen signs saying "Hate has no home here." Maybe that is something we would want to put up here in Johnson at the town offices.

Russell suggested people could start flying the flag.

Jackie said she agrees Russell has every right to fly the Confederate flag.

12. Eben Patch to Discuss the Renaming of Peak "Elevation 2006"

Eben Patch said there is a mountain near Plot Road that he wants to name. Currently maps only show its elevation. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names and the Vermont Board of Libraries need the selectboard to vote on the name.

Mike moved and Kyle seconded to approve renaming Elevation 2006 to Emery Mountain. Eben said most surrounding neighbors have signed a petition regarding the name change. The owner of the peak is fine with it. **The motion was passed with Doug opposed.** Doug said he was not at the meeting where this was previously discussed.

13. Historical Society Seeking the Purchase of a Trailer

Brian S. said the Historical Society has asked for release of reserve funds to buy a trailer for storage and transportation of equipment related to Tuesday Night Live.

Nat asked about insurance issues. Brian said we would have to add the trailer to our insurance. Nat asked if it can be pulled by volunteers. Brian said he believes so. Nat said a concern he has is that it might not be covered by insurance if it were pulled by a volunteer. Brian said that is a good question to answer. He can make sure it will be covered by our insurance.

Nat moved to approve release of \$2700 in reserve funds for purchase of a trailer to be used by the Historical Society, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.

Nat asked if the Historical Society would be open to another group using the trailer – say, the Recreation Committee to move gymnastics equipment. Dean West said it depends on how much is already stored in the trailer. They will be using it for storage as well as transportation.

Kyle asked if the trailer will be kept at Holcomb House. Historical Society members said no.

14. Review the Future Disposition of the Holcomb House

Brian S. said the Historical Society developed a new draft use and sales agreement. They have requested the presence of a selectboard member at meetings to work toward a resolution. Duncan said the Historical Society is asking for a subcommittee of selectboard members to work on the draft with him and Dean to come up with something both groups can approve.

Doug said he has a fundamental question about this. There is language in the draft about the Historical Society forming a 501(c)(3) organization to raise funds to buy the Holcomb House from the town. He thought it was being purchased for the town. He never understood that it was being purchased for anything but town ownership.

Lois Frey said the 501(c)(3) was to raise funds to support the Historical Society, not just to buy the building. A large portion was to pay the mortgage and to have operating money. The disposition of the house has not been addressed.

Duncan said he doesn't believe it was ever the intention of the Historical Society to raise funds to buy the house for the town per se. He thinks they always saw two possibilities. The town could own the building as it does now. Or the Historical Society could split off from the town and just be a 501(c)(3) and not a town entity and then the Historical Society would want to own the building and reimburse the town for the cost. Part of the agreement is to figure out how much the Historical Society would contribute toward the purchase price of the building under each of the two options.

Peg said she is on the fundraising committee for the Historical Society and she understood that the town acquired the building because the Historical Society didn't have the money and the Historical Society is raising money to pay the town back so the building will be the Historical Society's. She always understood that the town essentially lent the money.

Scott Meyer said when this came up at town meeting there were concerns about the town owning a property with rental units. The town didn't want that responsibility. If the Historical Society owned the building the town wouldn't have to worry about that anymore.

Duncan said the Historical Society has not made a decision about whether to own the building and separate from the town. Dean said now the Historical Society is only trying to create a document that both the Historical Society and the town understand so that whatever the situation is in the future we would know how to handle it between us. Doug said he thought he understood the situation and now he understands it differently.

Duncan said when he was working for the town the Historical Society presented the original sales and use agreement which talked about the possibility of ownership by the town and use by the Historical Society or outright ownership by the Historical Society. Now the Historical Society has no agreement with the town to occupy and use the space. This document is intended to clarify the portions of the building the Historical Society can use and also lay a foundation for either the sale of the building to the Historical Society continued ownership of it by the town.

Doug said he thinks the Historical Society needs to define where they are right now. Duncan said the Historical Society board has made no decision about whether they want to continue to be a town entity or separate or some mix of the two. Lois said it never was addressed from the very beginning. Duncan said the loan will be paid off at the end of the year. The Historical Society would like clarity.

Mike asked if there is a solution the Historical Society prefers. Dean said he thinks the Historical Society would prefer to have an agreement that would allow them to make the decision at a future date and know how ownership would be handled if they made that decision, not an agreement forcing them to make a decision. Mike said he thinks if the Historical Society had a vote it would be easier for the selectboard. Duncan said nothing can be done without the consent of both boards. Mike said it would be nice for the selectboard to know which way the Historical Society wants to go.

Nat said it sounds like what they are asking is for a couple of selectboard members and a couple of Historical Society members to get together and hash it out. Duncan said yes. It might be clearer if people looked at the agreement in more detail why they are looking for some kind of agreement.

Mike said he would think deciding which way to go would be the first step. Duncan said it's a fairly complex decision whether to become totally separate.

Mike said he thinks if the Historical Society wants to become separate from the town the townspeople should vote on it. Duncan said the town can't sell a piece of property without at least an open public meeting.

Eric and Doug agreed to be the ones to work with the Historical Society on the use and sales agreement.

15. Review of Candidates to Fill Remaining Term of School Board Vacancy

Eric said there was only one letter of interest received by the deadline. Another came in today, but in his opinion that was too late. Kyle and Nat said they thought the late candidate should be considered. Nat said he thinks we want the best candidate and should consider both. Eric said he doesn't know either candidate.

Katie Orost said Eve Gagne sent a letter of interest before the deadline. She served on the high school board in the past. Whoever is appointed will serve only until March. The LNMUUSD board personnel committee will take the selectboard's recommendation and make a decision, probably within the next week.

The late candidate is Lucia Green-Weiskel, a professor at Northern Vermont University. Board members had received her letter of interest by email.

Doug asked, meeting the deadline is not part of the qualification? Nat said it can be considered but he doesn't think not meeting the deadline would disqualify someone.

Mike said he thinks it would be good to have the two candidates here.

Lois said she thinks the posting on Front Porch Forum could have been confusing as it said letters of interest should be sent either to the chair of the selectboard or the chair of the school board.

Lois asked who is on the LNMUUSD personnel committee that will make the decision on whom to appoint. Katie there is someone from each town. Members include her, Bobbie Moulton, and David Whitcomb.

Mike said in the past if you didn't make a deadline you were never considered. Eric said that is his attitude.

Doug said he hadn't seen the letter of interest from the person who applied in time so he would have a hard time recommending that person. Katie read the letter of interest from Eve Gagne.

Nat asked if the school board would consider moving back the meeting to make an appointment until the selectboard can consider the two candidates. Katie said the school board has a 30 day deadline to appoint someone.

Mike moved and Doug seconded to recommend appointing Eve Gagne to the LNMUUSD board as her letter of intent was submitted by the deadline and the other applicant, who also appears to be qualified, did not meet the deadline. The motion was passed with Kyle opposed and Nat abstaining.

16. Reappointment of Town Fire Warden

Nat moved and Mike seconded to reappoint Gordon Smith as Fire Warden. Kyle asked if there is anyone else interested in serving. Brian said no one else has offered. We did not solicit applications. **The motion was passed.**

17. Signing NEMS Contract

Scott Griswold said he has 6 contracts, one for each town. The contract is for the lower of the two budget amounts previously presented. NEMS is asking for original signatures on each of the 6 contracts to emphasize the partnership between all the towns. All but Johnson and Waterville have signed already.

Nat moved and Doug seconded to authorize Eric to sign the contract with NEMS.

Nat asked what towns do that don't contract for ambulance service. Scott said he doesn't know of any that don't. Towns don't have to contract but they have to have a primary service. NEMS added 5 towns this year up north.

The motion was passed.

Scott said his concern this year was response time with the road work on 100C but it hasn't been an issue.

18. Local Emergency Operations Plan Updates

Brian said this year the daycare services in the plan were updated. Contacts were also updated and Johnson State College was changed to Northern Vermont University.

Kyle moved and Mike seconded to adopt the updated Local Emergency Operations Plan.

Scott Meyer asked if the Incident Command System organization chart is in the plan. Brian said there is not a space in the plan for any of the org chart below the top level. It lists only the director, coordinator and information officer. Scott said the org chart shown on the whiteboard behind the selectboard is not consistent with typical ICS org charts. He would recommend being consistent with what everyone else is doing. That would help those who come in with ICS training know exactly what to do. He would be happy to help out with the org chart. Brian said this plan's most essential function is to store contact information. It also lists sites where dangerous equipment is stored and where vulnerable populations are located. Scott said usually there is a blank org chart in the plan so when people show up they know where they fit in.

The motion was passed.

19. Dental Group Plans: Open Enrollment Period

Brian said the open enrollment period is the time to make any changes to dental group plans if the board wants to. Last year we elected to include orthodontic coverage for dependents.

Eric asked if there have been any requests for changes from employees. Brian and Rosemary said no.

Brian said no one has been using the orthodontic coverage. He thinks we could talk about either making it permanent or ending it. We might see some use if it were made permanent. There is a small fee we have to pay even if no one is using it. He thinks it is about \$50 per

employee. It could be a useful recruiting tool. Better coverage could help if we are hiring a fifth highway employee.

Mike moved to continue to offer orthodontic coverage to employees, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.

20. Facility Use Request by Lamoille Valley Bike Tours

Brian said Lamoille Valley Bike Tours, run by Jim Rose, wants to file a facility use application just like last year's for use at Old Mill Park on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, with occasional drop-offs or pickups on other days. He was also interested in expanding his use to the area around the old mill house on Saturdays. Brian expressed some reservation that that might interfere with access to the food shelf or cause a problem if there was an emergency and the highway or electric departments had to be called out as they travel close to that area. But Jim thinks he can keep people out of the roadway. Village departments had concerns but did not feel it definitely wouldn't work. If Jim manages his customers well there shouldn't be a problem.

Eric asked if we set any conditions last year. Brian said no. We asked him to relocate to the old mill house once last year during a soccer tournament. The application to use the old mill house area will have to go before both the selectboard and the trustee board.

Nat said it was a really nice presence last year at Old Mill Park. It was helpful to have eyes and ears there. He feels it was really productive and he wants to approve that use again.

Nat moved and Mike seconded to approve the facility use request from Lamoille Valley Bike Tours for Old Mill Park.

Nat said he is open to allowing use at the old mill house too. Brian said Jim Rose has not submitted an application form yet. He feels we should have a more formal weigh in from the village on the old mill house use.

Doug said last year he thinks he was the most negative about issuing a facility use permit for Lamoille Valley Bike Tours. He had concerns about preferring one business over another. But he thinks it worked well. He thinks it benefits the community to grow use there. Since there is no competition he is willing to issue a permit to this business.

Brian said he has talked to the Rec Committee about vendors being able to come in there for tournaments but no one has applied to be a vendor for that space at any other time. Right now Jim Rose is the only one asking. Nat said there is a lot of space there for other vendors.

The motion was passed.

21. Planning Commission Vacancies

Brian said there is one official vacancy. A member formally resigned at a meeting. Another member has not been showing up but has not officially resigned. The selectboard can remove members who do not officially resign.

Eric said they do serve at our pleasure but he thinks there is a process. Charles Gallanter said the process is a vote by the selectboard, which has to be unanimous. Doug said he thinks we

should contact the person. Eric said we should get a resignation letter. Charles said Planning Commission meeting minutes indicate resignations were received from both people. Brian said his understanding was that Ben Waterman had resigned but Eben Patch had not.

Brian will post a vacancy on the website, Front Porch Forum and Facebook and in the newspaper. Eric said we can post it without saying how many openings there are.

22. *Vacancy on Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System*

Brian said there is a vacancy on the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System board. Would the board like to submit a candidate? Board members did not wish to submit a candidate.

23. *Community Development Conference: Building a Sense of Place June 14th*

Brian said this upcoming conference relates to things he has talked about with Johnson Works – the identity and character of Johnson, attracting businesses and development to Johnson. He thinks it would be worthwhile to send someone but it does not fit well into his schedule. Kyle said she would be interested. Mike asked if the trustees are sending someone. Scott said this is the first he has heard about it. Kyle will check whether she can attend and she and Brian will work out coverage.

24. *Update on the Light Industrial Park*

Brian said he and Eric started crafting an initial set of questions about the revolving loan fund with Duncan. He will be getting clarification on what modifications we can make to the guidelines we wrote for making loans. We will lay out what the review committee will look like and start recruiting members. Brian has been talking to local people and Johnson Works about staffing it.

Eric said we were told the loan funds couldn't be used for purchasing property but could be used for developing. Should we look at having the ability to loan outside of Johnson to make sure we get the money loaned out in time?

Brian said we could but he doesn't think we will have trouble making enough loans in Johnson. He said we think we could make loans under the existing guidelines if requests were brought before the board. We don't have a review committee but the board could vet applicants.

Brian will be meeting with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to talk about the light industrial park and other sites in Johnson. He has met with developers about opportunities in Johnson. Through Johnson Works we have started reaching out to some professional groups, inviting them to explore opportunities in Johnson. He will find out more about where in the process our Northern Borders Grant application is.

25. *Lamoille County Sheriff's Department Report for April 2018*

Nat said the minutes of last week's trustee board meeting show they have some serious concerns about speeding in the village and sheriff's department enforcement. Maybe that should be a topic at a joint meeting.

Scott said there is overall frustration about speeds throughout the village and town. The trustees want this to be a walkable community. There is frustration with the ratio of warnings to tickets. There are towns in Vermont where you do not speed. This town seems to be like

the Wild West. He has almost gotten hit several times since 100C closed. The community is spending a lot for sheriff control. He is not sure why they can't write tickets.

Nat said over a one year period about 2/3 of people stopped get warnings and 1/3 get tickets. That is not necessarily out of whack with the State Police or other communities. He would like Johnson to have a reputation as a place not to speed. Some people have seen tickets as a good revenue source. He feels that should never be our motivation. The motivation should be to make it safe. Scott said making money is not his motivation. He is just alarmed at the speed on roads in our community. It is only a matter of time until someone gets hit.

Kyle said she feels like ever since she has been on the board we have talked about this. She feels like this conversation doesn't go anywhere. It is frustrating. She doesn't know what it will take to get this addressed in a concrete way, not just for safety but for the business community. People pass by too fast to notice businesses.

Nat said Roger Marcoux talks about challenges he has. His department has a huge area to cover. He thinks if he were here talking to us we could get more perspective on the challenges. Scott said the communities that have more enforcement have the same issues with budget, etc. He is not buying the argument that LCSD is spread too thin and doesn't have the budget. If an officer shows up to do a speed trap, they should pull people over. That will send a message. Nat said he wants to have an opportunity for Scott to say that directly to Roger. The more he hears that the more traction we get.

Doug said enforcement is only part of the issue. His opinion is that traffic calming infrastructure will change things more than enforcement. He doesn't think enforcement will change much. Scott said he disagrees.

Eric said this topic has come up numerous times at selectboard meetings. Maybe we should invite Roger to a joint meeting. Doug and Scott agreed that would be a good idea.

26. Review Old Business

Brian said we are still not selling plots at Evergreen Ledge but an individual who owned a plot passed away so there will be work there.

27. Village Request for Contribution to Pay for Landscaping Work

Brian said the village is hiring Peter Moynihan to work on several sites around the town and village. They will hire him for the summer, to be covered under our insurance. They approved \$2400 worth of labor and materials. They will pay 60% of that and will have him start with landscaping around the signs and at the Cold Spring. If we can cover the other 40% he can include other places, such as the municipal building.

Eric asked if it would come out of grounds and maintenance. Brian said it could. There are a couple of different lines it could come out of. Eric asked if we have the money after trimming our budget. Rosemary said some of the expense will come out of this year's budget and some will come from next year's. Brian said it's an unaccounted for expense. Eric said he thinks we need to know where the money is coming from before we approve it.

Doug said the beautification committee thought this work could be funded out of the beautification money. The committee planned to spend money for a sign to direct people off the rail trail, but thought that idea should be put on hold.

Doug moved to approve paying for 40% of \$2400 for landscaping work to be done by Peter Moynihan, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.

28. *Joint Meeting with the Village*

Brian said our IT contractor is retiring and we need to hire a new one. We have gotten 3 proposals and need to make a decision. He thinks that is appropriate for a joint meeting because it doesn't make sense to hire two different people. He suggested June 6 as a meeting date. Eric said we will have to develop an agenda with the village. Eric and Brian can decide what topics they want to include and Brian can pass that on to Meredith.

29. *Legion Field Plaque*

Brian said the veterans' group that put the bench on Legion Field would like to add a plaque with wording along the lines of "He worked to make the world a safer place." The board agreed that would be fine.

30. *Trash Cleanup Request*

Donna Griffiths described a location on town land near the rail trail where people bring in things to shoot at and leave junk behind. It's ugly and it's too close to the rail trail to be a good place to shoot. She and her daughter picked up much of the trash for Green Up Day but there are some things that are too heavy for them to move. Her hope is that if everything is removed people will be less likely to shoot or leave junk there. She wondered if the town crew could clean up what is left and perhaps put up a "no shooting" sign. The board asked Brian to look into it.

31. *Executive Session for Disciplinary Matter*

Mike moved to enter executive session to discuss an employee discipline issue under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (4), Kyle seconded, the motion was passed and the board entered executive session at 10:09. The board came out of executive session at 10:35.

32. *Adjourn*

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths