

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2015

**Present:**

Selectboard Members: Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood, Howard Romero

Others: Duncan Hastings (Manager), Rosemary Audibert (Clerk)

**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***

Duncan added discussion of retirement party funds and discussion of whether he should be the next town administrator.

**3. *Retirement Parties***

The board agreed Eric should draw up a proclamation for Steve Smith on his retirement day.

Duncan said Jan estimated the cost of two retirement parties – one for Rose and one for Steve – would be around \$300. The board agreed that spending that amount of money seemed reasonable.

**4. *Review and Award of Bid for Old Mill Park Trail***

Duncan said grant funds won't contribute more than \$19,500 to the cost of the Old Mill Park trail project. That leaves a shortfall of \$1,650 if we pay the low bid amount. Duncan learned that ANR does not consider talc tailings to be hazardous material. We can leave them where they are if the contractor encounters them. He went out with a posthole digger and probe and dug in about 6 different random locations in the park. Almost everywhere he found about 2 feet of fill, except for one spot where he encountered tailings at 9 inches. There will be at least a couple of places we can run into tailings.

Duncan asked Gary Tatro if he would be willing to reduce his price to the amount we have available if we reduced the gravel thickness enough to get to that price. He said he would rather have us consider his proposal as written, but he will be able to do the project one way or the other. Lea checked and found that the grant was predicated on 6 inches of gravel. He didn't find more than 8 inches of gravel anywhere. Some places it was 6. Our RFP called for 10 inches – 6 inches of ¾ inch gravel and 4 inches of sure-pack. Gary's proposal is 100% sure-pack. Nat said he should be able to reduce his quote if he quoted it without using 100% sure-pack. Duncan said he not sure of that. It is sold by the ton. The per ton price may be more for sure-pack, but a ton of ¾ inch may not go as far.

Doug asked what depth we would request. Howard said he would suggest leaving the existing gravel, but it depends what it is. Duncan said it looks like gravel out of our pit, which is what Mike Patch and Steve Smith said it is. Howard said he would suggest replacing the top 4 inches with 4 inches of sure-pack, assuming what is beneath is not disturbed and is well packed.

Duncan said he wouldn't go less than 6 inches because that is what we put in the proposal. If Tatro can do 8 inches and not go over the amount we have available, why not do 8?

**Howard moved to award the contract for the Old Mill Park trailhead work to Gary Tatro for the amount available for the project (\$23,750), seconded by Doug.** Nat asked how that motion modifies what we are asking him to do. Duncan said he bid assuming the path would be 10 inches deep, so he is sure making it 8 inches would make the cost low enough. **The motion was passed.** The board agreed we should indicate to Gary Tatro that he should adjust the depth of the cut if he hits talc. Doug said we should tell him to put down a minimum of 6 inches of gravel.

5. ***Consideration of LCPC Grant for Modeling of Flooding***

Duncan had previously sent out information about model flood mapping. LCPC got a grant that would allow a consultant to do modeling for Wolcott, Cambridge, and Johnson. Jeffersonville has already done this. They came up with 40 mitigation measures and have gone to the state to implement half a dozen. He thinks some have been funded. The idea is to come up with measures to reduce the impact of a flood. Duncan asked Melinda Scott of LCPC if the detailed mapping the consultant will do in the village will help us make an argument to ANR that their mapping approach is inadequate. She said it might help our case a little bit but she thinks the biggest benefit of the mapping will be coming up with specific measures that might reduce flooding in the village. **Doug moved to support LCPC's application for grant funding for flood hazard modeling for Johnson, Wolcott, and Cambridge and the motion was seconded and passed.**

6. ***Town Administrator Position***

Duncan said he is willing to work as Town Administrator if the board is willing. **Doug moved that the board not advertise for the position of Town Administrator, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.** Eric said tomorrow he, Gordy, Duncan, and Rosemary will meet and talk about what the office might look like with separate village and town administrators. Duncan said his last day in his current position is September 1. He can't be hired by any municipality that is a member of the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System for at least 30 days after that, so he will be out of the office for a month.

7. ***Evergreen Ledge Cemetery Issues***

Rosemary joined the meeting at 7:37. She said the fee for plots at the Evergreen Ledge Cemetery, which has been turned over to the town to take care of, are \$150. That is a one-time fee that includes perpetual care. About 3 or 4 plots a year are sold. There are about 20-25 plots left. We need to decide who will administer it and whether we want to adjust the fee.

Eric asked if the office can manage it. Rosemary said someone has to stake out the sites. There is a map showing the plots, including the empty ones. Doug said probably someone needs to measure to see if it is accurate. Doug said he thinks we should ask Lillian why the prices were so low. Howard asked if that is the only open cemetery we have. Others said yes. Lamoille View is privately owned. It was agreed that we should find out what other area cemeteries charge. Duncan said he can do some research. He and Howard can take the map and visit the cemetery to check it out.

8. ***Retirement Parties***

The board agreed to pay for retirement parties for Steve Smith and Rose. Gifts for the retirees were discussed.

9. ***Adjourn***

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56.

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*