

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015

Present:

Selectboard Members: Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood, Howard Romero
Others: Steve Smith, Mary Jean Smith, Lois Frey, Casey Romero, Dean West, several other citizens

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:02.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda

No changes were suggested. Eric said there will be a BCA meeting on August 3.

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Howard moved to approve the minutes of May 18 and June 8, 2015, Doug seconded, and the motion was passed.

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

Eric said Rosemary had left some figures. Total revenues were 109% of budget and total expenses were 105%.

Eric said Rosemary wants to know what direction the board wants to take with a donation of \$100 to Evergreen Ledge Cemetery. Some people from out of state with relatives buried there came up and cut some lilacs and left brush in a pile. They donated \$100 for removal of the brush. Rosemary wonders if we want to put it into the general fund or the Evergreen Ledge reserve fund. Howard said because its purpose is to compensate whoever will remove the brush it seems the gift is fairly specific and putting it into the reserve fund for the cemetery doesn't address the intent. Where does money for cemetery work normally come from? Eric said now that we have ownership it will come from our pocket. Howard said he thinks the money should go into the general fund with a note that it should be used to clean up the cemetery. Eric asked if the highway department can help with picking up brush. Steve said if they get an hour they can do it. **Doug moved to deposit the \$100 donation for Evergreen Ledge Cemetery into the general fund, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.**

5. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past (continued)

Nat moved to approve the minutes of July 6, 2015, Kyle seconded, and the motion was passed, with Howard abstaining as he was not at that meeting.

6. Road Commissioner/Road Foreman Report and Action Items

Steve said 6.3 of rain fell since the last meeting. The sand pile is half finished. The highway department has started putting Sta-Mat on the Clay Hill Road shoulders. They have been grading, mowing, and screening and hauling gravel. Morale has been low at the garage due to employees being told there would be no raises and Jason being told he would not get the raise the board voted to give him. Steve said Eric told the employees this is a new board and the vote of the previous board is null and void.

Steve said he has enjoyed working here. The town should be proud of the road crew. He thanks the office employees for a wonderful retirement party. The board thanked Steve for all his years of service.

Doug said he is concerned that those entering or leaving Old Mill Park may be confused about who has the right of way and whether Lendway Lane or the driveway to the garage is the main road. Lendway Lane, where it continues after Old Mill Park, almost looks like a driveway. He feels there should be a stop sign or yield sign for people coming out of Old Mill Park. Eric said to those coming up Railroad St. it looks as if the highway would go right to the town garage. We could use striping and maybe arrow signs to show where the road actually goes. Steve said the road is so narrow he is afraid the travel portion would look very narrow if there were lines painted. Howard asked, once Duncan is working just for the town aren't we finally going to address stop sign issues? Doug said he thinks at the least we should put up a yield sign for those coming out of Old Mill Park.

VAST wants to close off access across the rail trail to the fishing spot at Dog's Head Falls. They would like us to provide gravel and equipment to widen the road for parking spaces near there and place some reflectors along the curve. **Doug moved that the town provide gravel, equipment and reflectors as requested by VAST, seconded by Howard. Howard suggested a friendly amendment, which was accepted – that the town discuss the requests with VAST before committing to agree to them. The motion was passed.**

PACIF came and did an inspection. There are a few items that need to be addressed. Steve said batteries for the town garage exit lights have been ordered, addressing one of the items.

PACIF gave us almost \$22K for the salt shed. Duncan has gotten a rough quote on a hoop structure. He will come back to the board with more detailed costs once he gets them.

FEMA is not willing to pay for the cost of the structure we are required to put in on Codding Hollow Rd. There is a huge gap between what we are required to do by the state and what FEMA is willing to pay for. So we will have to appeal. The state seems pretty confident FMEA will grant the appeal. The Codding Hollow project won't happen this year.

On behalf of the town, Eric presented Steve with a plaque in token of appreciation for his years of service. *(The Smiths left at 7:38.)*

6. Recreation Committee

Nat said Denise Sargent has submitted her resignation from the Recreation Committee. Howard moved to accept Denise Sargent's resignation from the Recreation Committee and the motion was seconded and passed.

Lea has been working on road signs to direct people from Main St. to the rail trail and Old Mill Park. She got a \$100 grant from Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. The Recreation Committee would like to contribute \$200 from the Recreation Committee Reserve Fund. **Nat moved to authorize spending \$200 from the Recreation Committee Reserve Fund to help pay for signs directing people to the rail trail and Old Mill Park, Kyle seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Nat said he spoke with Peter Moynihan about the baseball score boards on Legion Field. All agree they should come down. It is just a matter of finding volunteers to do it.

The Recreation Committee encouraged the school board to restore the basketball court and will be working with them on that. Howard asked what made them think of getting rid of it. Nat said there was a concern about it attracting older kids who may use foul language or even drink.

7. *Manager's Report and Action Items*

Kyle moved and Nat seconded to appoint Laura Branca to the Conservation Commission and the motion was passed.

Doug moved and Nat seconded to reappoint Dave Bergh to the LCPC Board and the motion was passed.

Steve Pitkin has submitted a proposal for bid and construction services. It is broken down into two components – a bid phase (not to exceed \$1400) and a construction phase (not to exceed \$4875.) Mileage is extra. Duncan recommended in his report accepting the proposal. He thinks the bid phase can cost less than \$1400 as he can do a lot of the work involved. There was discussion about whether Duncan was recommending that the board accept both the bid phase and the construction phase components or only the construction phase component. Doug and Howard said they thought Duncan meant the board should accept both and he thinks he can save us money on the bid phase. **Howard moved to accept both the bid phase and construction phase proposals submitted by Steve Pitkin, Doug seconded, and the motion was passed.**

The quote of \$2750 Duncan previously obtained for painting the Holcomb House roof did not include the porch roofs. Duncan wants to know if the board is willing to pay extra to have the porch roofs painted as well. **Howard moved to approve paying to have the Holcomb House porch roofs painted, seconded by Kyle.** Doug asked how much more that can cost before the board thinks it is too much. It was agreed to leave it to Duncan's discretion. **The motion was passed.**

At their last meeting, the trustees expressed concern about the high number of warnings shown in the last report from the sheriff's department, compared to the number of tickets. There were few tickets given out in Johnson compared to Hyde Park. Eric sent a note to the sheriff asking why. He got a note back today from Chris Watson saying that deputies have a lot of discretion and depending on circumstances they may issue warnings rather than tickets, but he will send a report out with statistics for the period from January to July so we can see the ratio of warnings to tickets over a longer period. The trustees felt more tickets might help reduce speeding.

Gilles Lehouillier is not able to take on the office renovation job. Duncan was hoping to get a bid in from another contractor but it appears he hasn't gotten it yet.

The trustees are interested in an interim manager but they are thinking they may need one for a significant amount of time. They asked Duncan to contact Sandy Miller. He is interested but thinks taking on just the village would work better given his other commitments. Lea has said she would consider covering the town role for September if the board is interested. Howard and Doug agreed that would be a great idea. Nat asked if she would still do her current job plus additional hours. Eric said she wouldn't initiate new projects. She would just represent the town as needed, for instance if a citizen had an issue or something needed to be done related to the Coddling Hollow project. **Doug moved to authorize paying Lea to cover town administrator duties during September, seconded by Nat.** Nat asked if she would be the right person to deal with personnel issues that might come up in that month. Eric said there would be a department head she could work with if there were a personnel issue and the board could help her. Doug said he thinks she should be briefed on areas where she should think about getting assistance sooner rather than later. **The motion was passed.**

If the town is okay with accepting debris collected in an emergency situation at our transfer station, it should be formalized in a vote. Eric said we would be identified as a possible location for debris but they would still have to ask our permission at the time and it would be only in a major emergency. Howard said he would be in favor as long as the debris would not be left here permanently. Doug said it is not clear what "permanently" means in this situation. Nat said he doesn't think it is clear enough. It was agreed to table this until Duncan comes back.

The board also agreed to postpone discussion of transfer station issues. LRSWMD would like to make improvements at the transfer station but would like the town to provide plowing, grading and gravelling of the road and not get services that the other towns in the district are not getting.

Howard moved to authorize Rosemary to pay the bill for the recreation trail work when it is received if the work is acceptable. Doug asked if people are satisfied with how smooth the trail is. Howard said he, Lea, and Duncan were not happy with it when they checked it, but it is not done yet. **Nat seconded the motion and it was passed.**

Doug moved to authorize to approve a sewer capacity allocation of 210 gpd for Elaine Bouchard at 1188 Route 100C and to authorize Duncan and Eric to sign the permit, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.

Brian Krause has accepted the position of Highway/Public Works Foreman and would like to have a week overlap with Steve.

PACIF denied Travis Hill's claim again. Duncan has been in contact with Travis to discuss what might be possible from the town perspective.

The board had asked Duncan to look into the cost of plots at other nearby cemeteries. Morrisville charges \$500 per plot. At Lamoille View a single plot is \$248, a double plot is \$470 and a triple plot is \$544.

The Invitation to Bid has gone out for the Municipal Building roof. Bids are due back by August 7.

Duncan has gotten a proposal for assessor services and been contacted by two other people interested in providing assessor services but there has been no interest in the lister position.

Lea is going to attend a meeting to discuss next steps in the Beard acquisition.

8. Vermont Agency of Transportation Public Hearing on Twin Bridges Replacements

The AOT hearing started at 8:01. AOT representatives explained the plan to replace the twin bridges on Route 100C in summer 2017 and got input from those present.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths