

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016

Present:

Selectboard Members: Mike Dunham, Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood
Others: Duncan Hastings (Administrator), Rosemary Audibert (Clerk), Brian Krause, David Butler, Sam Carlson, Sharon Duffy

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

Doug said he would like to add a statement on behalf of Albert Nadeau about gravel testing.

Duncan said there are several old cell phones around. Should we throw them away or try to get something for them? Eric suggested it might be worth getting hold of the cell phone carriers to see if they have any value.

Eric said he had a request that the board take time to go over the orders as a group. He will do whatever the board wants. Mike said he thinks it is difficult to go over the orders while other business is taking place. He suggests devoting 5 or 10 minutes to looking them over. Then if anyone has any questions about them they can ask them without interrupting the meeting.

Eric said in the past it has been requested that board members come in before 7:00 to review the orders and then ask any questions about them during a pertinent part of the meeting. Would it make sense, for efficiency, to ask board members to get here 15 minutes early to go through the minutes? Mike said he would have no problem with that. Eric said if someone has a question they can wait to sign until the question is answered.

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Nat moved to approve the minutes of June 7, June 20, and July 13, 2016 and the motion was seconded and passed.

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

Rosemary said the budget status report doesn't reflect complete year end figures. There are still a few journal entries to do. Expenses are at 97% of budgeted and income is at 95% of budgeted. Duncan said we have a number of grants that are due to come in. Rosemary said that will affect the revenue. She should be ready to declare the final balance at the next meeting.

Rosemary said we are due for an audit, which is done every two years. Does the board want to use the same company used in 2014 or go out to bid? We went out to bid in 2014. **Mike moved to solicit bids for an audit, seconded by Doug.** Doug asked if there is much work involved in putting it out to bid. Rosemary said no, she can just change the dates on the previous documents. **The motion was passed.**

Rosemary said a library trustee asked her today when the crosswalk to the library might be complete. Duncan said he thought the village was going to be responsible for the prep work. Kyle said she emailed Gordy about it today. He was unsure about it and was going to look into it. Duncan said he thinks the decision was that the trustees would be responsible for the project and the selectboard would provide some labor. Eric said we need to look to the trustees to take the lead.

Brian said the highway crew recently did some regrading and ditching on a few hills. It seems to have paid off. In the big storm the areas that got that work held up fine. They mowed the rail trail. He purchased a hydro seeder. Our Unifirst contract has ended and we will start with G&K for uniforms. Duncan said the G&K contract should be set up so it doesn't automatically renew. The company agreed to that. Brian said his crew will be finishing up mowing roads and will have to start doing work for grants.

Brian asked if we have a permit for the gravel pit. Duncan said further research is needed. Brian said he will keep the existing loader then until the board figures out what we are doing. It will be needing some brake and bucket repairs. Its wheel bearings are questionable.

Brian said he was asked to get a cost figure for a water source at Legion Field. He came up with a cost of \$650 for materials and \$750 for equipment and labor. We will provide the equipment and labor so the out of pocket cost to the town will be \$650 (probably less.)

Duncan said Katie Orost emailed him to let him know that there used to be a water service for the yellow building and the school is not putting another building on that location so that water service would be available to the town if we want it. Brian said his price did not assume tapping into an existing curb stop. Duncan said tapping into it could lower the cost. Brian said he doesn't know that it would unless we change the location of the yard hydrant. He was planning to splice onto Travis Hill's line and give him a new valve along with putting in a new valve for Legion Field and a yard hydrant near there. He can see where a good location for a yard hydrant would be if we used the yellow house water service.

Eric asked if there is any issue with tapping into an existing resident's line. Brian said not as long as we put in a valve for the resident so the village can shut off each individual service. Doug asked if Travis Hill owns that line. Duncan said he would own from the curb stop beyond. Brian said we would hook in after the existing curb stop, so he would lose a couple of feet of what had been his line. We would put in a new curb stop about 2 feet away from the existing one. He talked to Troy and Cliff and they had no issues with us doing that.

Mike said he thinks it would be better to use the existing curb valve for the yellow house. Duncan said that would be his recommendation. He is not certain that doing what Troy indicated we could do completely comports with water rules and regulations. He would be more comfortable with it if the trustees had given conceptual approval.

Eric asked what we would do if we went with the yellow house service. Duncan said we would put in an application like anyone else. The curb stop would probably be within the

highway right of way, close to the edge of the sidewalk. The village would maintain the line from the main to the curb stop and we would own it from the curb stop out.

Doug said he thinks that would be cleaner. Brian said the price will probably go up a bit. Duncan said we would want a freeze-free hydrant and we would want to lock it. At Tuesday Night Live someone would need access to the key. It could potentially be used for flooding the ice rink. We will have to put in an application to the village.

Eric said he had talked to Ray after he attended a grader class and he mentioned that a lot of towns use a roller on the back of their grader. He asked if Brian has any thoughts about that. Brian said he and his crew are currently looking for a piece of pipe to use as a roller. He is thinking that would be a winter project. Towns that use them are very happy with them. He thinks it would be worth putting it on. Duncan asked how it works with chloride application. How is chloride penetration if the road has already been rolled before chloride is applied? Brian said other towns haven't found that to be a big problem but it is better if we can grade, apply chloride, then roll.

Brian said Ray also watched a shoulder disk being used in the grader class. A problem with our roads is that berms fill up along them. The roads that get damaged in storms are all ones with berms that trap water. It is hard to remove berms with the grader because of the vegetation on them. There is a type of disk that can be put on the back of a tractor that takes shoulder vegetation and chews it up and throws it back in the road with gravel, cutting the berm down. He is excited about looking into that more. He believes using that type of disk would save us money. Duncan said he has seen them in action. They are a great tool. He thinks it would be good if we could get berms cut down and roads narrowed. We have roads that are 30 feet wide or more that don't need to be that wide. Brian will do more research.

Doug said he noticed the highway crew has put stakes next to eroded areas along Foote Brook. Should we think about moving the road over where it is eroding? Duncan said we have a Better Back Roads grant for work in that area. Part of the proposal is to push the road back a bit.

Donna said she had looked up what had been decided about the library crosswalk at the joint trustee-selectboard meeting. It was agreed that the town and the village would each provide 50% of the labor and the village would provide all the materials.

Duncan said he thinks the pavers did a good job. Brian did a good job getting things laid out so water would drain to the catch basins and he did a great job assisting the village with placement of catch basins at the intersection of School St. and Pearl St. Board members agreed they look great.

Duncan said the village has sent two requests for reimbursement related to the School Street project. They have asked about reimbursement of their cost of adjusting manhole and water valve box covers. They wonder if that is an eligible reimbursement expense under the Class II paving grant. It is not. The state always requires any utility to pay the cost of moving any structures within a state highway and they don't allow reimbursement of those costs. We

don't have any money in the Class II paving grant to cover those costs. His recommendation would be to indicate that the \$4,742 the village is seeking is a cost of the village owning and operating utilities.

The second request is to reimburse the village's cost of \$1712 to repair damage the paver did to village infrastructure. The village has asked us to reimburse them and to go after Pike to reimburse the town. Duncan feels that if damage was done the village should submit a claim to its own insurance and the insurance company would then try to subrogate against Pike. Or the village could go directly to Pike and ask for reimbursement. He doesn't think the town should be directly involved. Doug said if we were to pay and then seek reimbursement from Pike we might end up getting a different amount than what we paid.

Mike moved that the town not reimburse the village for the \$4,742 that was their cost for adjusting sewer manholes and water valve boxes, Doug seconded and the motion was passed.

Mike moved not to reimburse the village for their \$1,712 cost to repair damage allegedly caused by the paving contractor and to recommend that the village file a claim with their insurance company or pursue a claim with Pike, Doug seconded and the motion was passed.

Duncan said the town has received a request for a "children at play" sign. Those signs are strongly discouraged. He distributed information about why. In the past, the board has indicated to the road foreman that they should not be put up. Our insurer strongly recommends against putting them up. The signs are not really compliant with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices because they don't present a clear message.

Kyle asked what street the sign has been requested for. Brian said Upper French Hill, on a curve. He would suggest putting a "blind drive ahead" sign on the side where the drive is. Duncan said if anyone has issues with cars speeding we can request that the sheriff's department do speed patrols in the area. (*Sam Carlson arrived at 7:49.*) Some people put out their own signs. We can't tell someone they can't do that. He doesn't think "children at play" signs are effective. People are not concerned about children playing in the road so much as about people going too fast.

Nat said Duncan has given the board information in the past on these signs and it seemed clear from the literature that they are not terribly effective and our insurance seems to think they cause more liability. He thinks asking the sheriff to do proactive patrols is a good idea.

David Butler brought up the possibility of solar speed signs. Duncan said many people would want them on their road so we would need to think about that. David said he has seen them on a post that could be moved from one location to another.

Brian said he has removed 3 "children at play" signs from areas where they are no longer necessary.

The board decided to take no action on the request, continuing the past policy.

Mike asked, what if someone requests a sign and we don't put one up and then something happens? Someone could come back and say the incident might not have happened if we had put a sign up. Nat said the recommendation of our insurance company is that we not put one up. They know more about the risks than we do.

5. *Planning Commission*

David Butler said only 3 members showed up for the last Planning Commission meeting due to confusion about the date. They discussed the proposed Vallee project. They will meet again on August 10.

Mike asked what the Planning Commission's thoughts are on traffic at Vallee's gas station. David said the Planning Commission is pretty well divided on the project. The project has been downsized from the original plan, with fewer pumps and parking spaces for big trucks planned, so they don't necessarily think it will increase traffic that much. A restaurant will increase traffic some, but will it be any worse than traffic from DJ's and Stearns? He doesn't think the commission has anything to say about traffic. He thinks we would be just as well off if we asked Vallee to make some adjustments as if we went to the Act 250 hearing and asked for changes to improve appearance.

Doug said he thinks the Planning Commission should ask to be on the agenda for the Act 250 hearing. David said he will make that recommendation.

Duncan said the point at which Vallee will want to negotiate is before or at the hearing. Once the hearing is done and plans are approved he would be foolish to make any concessions because he would have to amend his plans.

David said the Planning Commission had a couple of minor applications for solar sites that they will approve because they meet the requirements of the town/village plan.

6. *Green Lantern Proposal*

Sam Carlson from Green Lantern reminded the board that he had come previously to talk about the project planned on the Orost property. Green Lantern filed for a Certificate of Public Good with the Public Service Board and they got it at the end of June. They have a permit to go forward with the project. He is here to put back in front of the board the idea that the town be a beneficiary of the solar array by purchasing the net metering credits the array generates and using them to pay down the town's electric bill.

He assumed an annual town electric bill of about \$30K. Based on that, he figured out the number of net metering credits that would cover about 90% of that cost and calculated the town would see savings of about \$4K a year from purchasing those net metering credits. There would be no upfront costs, no liability, insurance, or maintenance costs. The town's only risk is that maybe the Public Service Board will change its tune and make net metering more attractive and there will be better technology and the town could make greater savings in the future. But that is unlikely. More likely, rates will continue to go up. They already have financing for the project lined up. It will be internal financing. Green Lantern will retain ownership of the project. Green Lantern made a similar proposal to the village but they

appear to be going in a different direction. They are convinced they can find a better deal. They have said they don't want to partner with Green Lantern. They want to either do their own array or come up with some other electricity program.

Eric asked if we really spend \$30K annually on electricity. Rosemary said that might be a little high. Duncan said many of our buildings are shared with the village. We would need a methodology to apply the net metering credits to the town's cost rather than the village's. He asked Sam if Green Lantern would still be interested if we had half the electric usage he had assumed. Sam said yes.

Doug said he assumes Green Lantern has approached JSC. Sam said they haven't yet. That will be the next step. They also plan to talk to the Johnson Elementary board (other than Katie Orost, who has a conflict of interest.)

Duncan asked what their target date for construction is. Sam said probably October. Construction for a project this size will probably take 3 to 4 weeks.

Sam said if he doesn't hear back in the next couple of weeks that the town is interested, he will assume we are not. He will talk to JSC and the elementary school board and then local businesses.

Eric asked how much electricity the array will produce. Sam said about 260 kWh a year. The town's electricity needs might be about half the array's output. (*Sharon Duffy arrived at 8:16.*) Rosemary said the town and village now split the electric bill 50-50. Eric said we would want to make sure the net metering credits were applied to the town's half of the bill.

Mike asked for clarification about the expected savings. Sam said the net metering credits would offset 12.5% of expenditures. A net metering credit is worth 19 cents. To figure out how many credits we need, we divide the bill by 19 cents. That is how many credits would take the bill to zero. We could try to offset 100% of the bill but then we would have no room to lower electricity consumption. The town doesn't want to buy more net metering credits than it needs so they don't recommend buying enough credits for the whole bill. Then there is no incentive to reduce electricity consumption. The 90% figure is just to determine the number of credits the town would buy. Then the town has to pay Green Lantern for those credits. The town would be paying less than the credits are worth. They are proposing to sell the credits for 16.63 cents each. Duncan said rates should go up over 20 years. The estimated savings figure Sam gave (\$4K) is assuming they don't go up.

Sam said next steps would be to take a net metering agreement template and populate it with specific numbers if there is interest from the town, and for the town to figure out what its electricity bill is.

Nat asked if Rosemary has concerns about the accounting. She said no. Eric asked, why would we not do something like this? Duncan said he can't think of a good reason.

The consensus of the board was that Green Lantern has conceptual approval to put a more detailed proposal in front of the board. Sam will work with Duncan and Rosemary on that. *(Sam left at 8:31.)*

7. ***Administrator's Report, Action Items, Signature Required Items***

Sharon Duffy said a couple of weeks ago she picked up 4 dogs. NCAL assessed them and agreed to take two. One ended up being euthanized after it bit the vet and someone from NCAL. NCAL then decided they did not want to take the other 2 dogs and Sharon had not been able to find another rescue to take them. But today Amy at Justice for Dogs agreed to take them and work with them for 30 days. If after 30 days they turn out not to be adoptable, Amy would like to know if the town would be willing to take them back and euthanize them. But she doesn't think it will come to that.

Eric asked why Amy would not have them euthanized herself at the end of 30 days. Sharon said she doesn't like to do that. She didn't want to be the one to put them down. But she said if that is a big problem for the town she will take the dogs anyway.

Eric asked, if they are no longer Johnson dogs, can we euthanize them in 30 days? Duncan said he had concerns about taking them back after 30 days. Normally the town would sign the dogs over and be out of the picture altogether. That is the cleanest from a liability standpoint. If the dogs are not living in Johnson, could the town legally take responsibility for them again? That is a good question. He is not sure. He would advise against anything that would put the town in a liability situation if something happens.

Nat asked if could agree to cover the cost of euthanization if it is necessary. Mike said we don't want to get involved in taking them back. Duncan said he thinks Nat is saying we wouldn't take responsibility back after 30 days but we would pay the cost of euthanization. Doug said he thinks the issue was not the bill so much as Justice for Dogs wanting to be able to say they are no kill. He thinks perhaps our ability to euthanize stops after we have sent them off someplace. He doesn't think we can take back responsibility.

Nat moved and Kyle seconded to sign the two impounded dogs over to Justice for Dogs with the understanding that if Justice for Dogs feels the dogs are not adoptable after 30 days they should let us know and we agree to cover the cost of euthanasia at a reasonable prevailing price. Doug suggested the friendly amendment, which was accepted, that Justice for Dogs should make a decision about euthanasia without consulting us and we will reimburse them for the cost. The motion was passed.

Duncan said Sharon has done a great job on this case. She has really gone the extra mile. She is doing a great job for the town. *(Sharon left at 8:54.)*

Duncan said Brian Story has signed a contract and can start as early as August 1. Is the board okay with that? The board agreed Brian can start August 1. Duncan will work with Brian and probably Eric on putting together a press release.

Brian would like to have enough overlap with Duncan for a smooth transition. Duncan is willing to extend his retirement date beyond September 1 and/or be available on an hourly

consulting basis, for instance at budget time. He thinks there is enough in the budget to pay for that. Rod Rodjenski had also offered to assist in that process at an hourly rate.

Eric said he doesn't think Duncan should do the wage and salary study for the highway department. Maybe Brian could do it, or maybe it would be better for Ron to do it. That can be discussed in August. Duncan suggested giving Brian an opportunity to review the data.

Eric asked if Brian is interested in being introduced at Tuesday Night Live. Duncan said yes. Eric said he offered Gordy the opportunity to share the stage to introduce Meredith Birkett.

Doug said he thinks the board should accept Duncan's offer to provide hourly consulting or help in the transition. Eric said conceptually he agrees. Doug said he thinks Duncan's help on the budget would be especially useful.

Duncan said he thinks the Codding Hollow project will probably go into September. There is probably value in having Duncan continue to be the lead on that. Brian felt that would be appropriate. Maybe Duncan could also work on the electric vehicle charging station. The board agreed conceptually to getting help from Duncan. Eric said he thinks by the August meeting Brian will have a better feel about whether he is going to be overwhelmed by projects like the electric charging station. It might make sense for Duncan to wrap up the Codding Hollow project.

The board agreed to send Ron Rodjenski thanks for his work.

Doug moved and Mike seconded to leave the determination as to whether the Vallee project conforms to the regional or municipal plan up to the Planning Commission and to enter the town's appearance as a statutory party for the Act 250 hearing. The motion was passed.

Maplefields and Wicked Wings both had recent liquor control violations. Both were first offenses with warnings. One was sale to an underage person and one was service to an underage person. Nat asked what the board has done in the past in response to violations. Eric said one time the board extended a license suspension, but not for a first offense. Duncan said there is no harm in sending out another copy of the letter that says that as the local liquor control board we take underage sales seriously. Eric agreed that might not hurt.

We have a fully executed electric vehicle charging station grant. Ron Rodjenksi started working on it but Duncan thinks either he or Brian should probably work on it. The board agreed.

Duncan said Jason did a great job mowing along the rail trail. He got an email today saying how much the great job of knocking back the brush on the rail trail was appreciated. It doesn't need to be done every year, just every few years.

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District has sent a request to amend our host agreement. The amendment would call for the town to cover the unamortized costs of

improvements at the transfer station if the agreement ends. He feels that would make more sense if LRSWMD were putting in a building we would have any use for. But unless the town plans on operating a transfer station there he sees very little use for a roofed structure over the dumpsters. He doesn't know why we would want to agree to accept the unamortized cost. He would suggest that in the next host agreement we might want to include a section requiring them to remove the structure if the agreement ends.

Eric said he suggested that the agreement call for LRSWMD to pay the same amount to the town if they end the agreement that the town would pay if the town ended it. If they cancelled the agreement we would have a building that is of no use to us and is a liability to us, so why shouldn't they compensate us for what they dump on us? They are afraid they will invest money and then we will break the contract. But on the flip side, why do we want their structure?

Duncan said they have agreements with some of the other districts where he thinks they actually built buildings that would be usable if they vacated the premises. Stowe actually agreed that they would cover any unamortized costs. For this type of structure, he doesn't see any value to the town. It is not useful to us and it becomes a liability to us.

Eric said his idea is to give them the same incentive not to break the contract that the town would have.

Doug asked if the current agreement has a termination date. Duncan said yes. It was signed October 22, 2014 and he thinks it is a 5-year contract.

Mike moved not to amend the current agreement with Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District, seconded by Nat. Duncan said the current contract ends June 30, 2019. Doug said if we were going to change the agreement he thinks we would want to have it that if the contract is terminated by LRSWMD they would remove the building or compensate us for the cost of removal. But he doesn't think we should change it. **The motion was passed.**

Duncan said the easements for the Coddling Hollow project are all in place. The start date for the project is August 15 and the estimated completion date is September 30. He thinks it makes sense for him to continue to be the lead on that project. The contractor encountered some ledge in test pits, roughly a couple of feet. SD Ireland proposed shortening the footings, but Ruggiano and Brian didn't like that solution. So they will be removing ledge and putting in full-depth footings. That will add a couple of thousand dollars to the project cost.

The first hearing on the unified municipal plan is scheduled for the August selectboard meeting. Two hearings are required. Duncan has requested preliminary review by LCPC to see if there are any red flags. Having an approved plan and a "confirmed" planning process is a requirement for Municipal Planning Grant eligibility. Applications are due October 31. The board should consider having the second hearing before the regular September meeting to allow enough time for regional review and approval and preparation of the Municipal Planning Grant application. The board agreed to schedule a hearing for 7:00 on August 22.

The Apt. 1 tenants at 188 Lower Main East have signed their lease. The Apt. 2 lease is due this month and Duncan proposes a \$5/month increase to help with water and sewer increases. The board agreed to that.

Duncan's appointment as Deputy Town Health Officer is over at the end of the month. Duncan suggests appointing Brian Story, though he did not ask him about it. In an email exchange with Meredith Birkett, he asked if she might be interested in being Deputy Health Officer, as most of the issues are in the village. She said she would broach the subject with Gordy. We might be able to have two Deputy Health Officers. Deputy Health Officer is an appointment made by the Commissioner of Health upon recommendation of the selectboard. By the August meeting the board should be prepared to make a recommendation.

The board needs to approve the Evergreen Ledge Cemetery deed in order to sell lots. The map we have of the cemetery bears no relation to reality. Duncan recommends having the cemetery plotted out and identifying all the vacant lots. The board may want to consider a moratorium on selling lots until that is done after selling lots to the two families who have asked to buy them. John Clegg has indicated he would give us a price to get it plotted.

Mike moved to approve the Evergreen Ledge Cemetery deed as presented. Duncan said the bylaws for the cemetery originally said up to 2 cremated remains could be in a lot, but those bylaws were never approved. **Kyle seconded.** Doug said if we are selling lots we ought to at least describe where each lot is. Duncan said he can do that with the lots we are selling because they are adjacent to lots with identified corner markers. **Nat suggested amending the motion to allow up to 3 cremated remains per lot.** He doesn't see any reason to restrict it to 2. That would give people more flexibility. **Mike and Kyle agreed to that as a friendly amendment. The motion was passed.**

Doug moved to put a moratorium on sale of lots at Evergreen Ledge Cemetery until the cemetery is plotted out, after the sales to the two families who have already contacted Duncan, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.

Duncan said he spent quite a bit of time laying out the lots for sale. He thinks if we could find a Cemetery Sextant it would be worth it. The board should think about it. Duncan said he has gotten very interested in cemeteries due to his ancestry research. It has been an ongoing issue to find people to do stone repairs and restoration. He believes he could do a lot of repair and restoration work and would be interested in putting together a proposal for after he retires.

As expected, we did not get Class II Paving and Structures Grants. We have used several years' worth of grant allotments and will not see any money for town projects for several more years.

Duncan said VTrans is now striping roads every year. They don't do fog lines. Duncan asked Brian to get a price for painting fog lines. We have some money in the budget for it and he recommends we do it.

The state is changing some parameters of the Municipal Planning Grants. They are eliminating the ability to use staff time for part of the town's match. They said it was too difficult to sort out the various ways towns attribute staff time to the match. He complained to them, and brought it up with VLCT and LCPC, who will try to get it changed.

The Caring for Canopy Grant reimbursement request has been submitted. Duncan said Sue Lovering and the Conservation Commission did a great job in administering the grant and preparing documentation for grant reimbursement.

We are awaiting post closure plan certification for the Johnson landfill. There will be a reduced number and frequency of tests.

Duncan handed out copies of Lamoille Valley Rail Trail brochures. We have a full size trail map. Duncan will volunteer his time to put it up. LEDC paid for the cost of brochures as well as plastic brochure holders. We will put one brochure holder at the trailhead. Duncan thinks one can go at Sterling Market. He wonders if Johnson Works has ideas about where to put the other one. He is thinking of offering brochures to businesses to hand out. We have the signs done for Railroad St. We are waiting on an estimate for a sharrow template to paint sharrow markings on Railroad St.

Doug asked about signs on Parker and Stearns. Kyle said Johnson Works is planning a sign there that will say something like "shopping and restaurants" but not name individual businesses.

Duncan said we got a request to restrict jake brake use on Main Street. We really can't have an ordinance against jake brake usage because it is an approved piece of safety equipment. If a person was in an accident they could say it wouldn't have happened if they had been able to use jake brakes. Where there are signs about jake brakes they are typically advisory, asking people please not to use them. But we don't have authority to put signs on a state highway. The state has said in the past that they don't like to put them up. The complaint really was about trucks needing jake brakes because they are coming in too fast. Duncan told the person who complained that we would try to target the area with speed patrols.

Final reimbursement requests for the paving and structures grants have been submitted and are in process. Duncan believes they will both be approved for the amount requested.

Duncan signed the agreement with NEMRC for assessor services and they have started. Rose has been very helpful in that process.

We got a copy of a sheet indicating no Act 250 permit is necessary for an additional structure on the Lamoille Ambulance property. Duncan doesn't know if there an active interest in a project on this property but one local permit that would be required is a flood zone permit.

Doug said, speaking not as a selectboard member but on behalf of Bert Nadeau, that Bert indicated that in late September or early October he would be interested in discussing with the town accessing his property to dig test pits.

Duncan said we are still waiting to hear from VTrans if they have approved the Town Highway and Bridge Standards.

Duncan said there used to be a ditch going across a field of Alan Lehouillier's on Hogback Road that emptied into the river. Our road ditch went under the road through our culvert and emptied into the river through that open swale. Then Alan filled in the swale and built a ditch along the edge of Hogback Road. Now drainage from the other side of the road can't get to the river and goes through the new drainage ditch. The grade is very shallow and the ditch is filled in so no water is coming through from the road ditch. The ditch is outside the town right of way. Duncan sent a letter to Alan asking him to clean the ditch out to let our water flow. Alan told Brian he thinks it is the town's responsibility. Duncan does not believe it is a town ditch or a town responsibility. If we cleaned it out we would be going onto private property and it would be a pretty significant expense.

Doug asked if the state has anything to say about water going into the river. Duncan said statute says a landowner can't restrict the flow of water from one property to another. Probably Alan should not have been able to fill in that natural drainage way, but Steve Smith apparently told him it was okay. Doug suggested we ask Dave Barra what our options are, given the facts. Duncan agreed that is probably a good idea.

LCPC has been working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Eric and Duncan met with LCPC staff and made comments/suggestions. It will probably be ready for the August meeting. Duncan will send it out before the meeting so board members have time to read it.

Duncan said Sandy stated at a trustee meeting that the village can have its own tree warden. That is correct, but the village voters would need to elect one. Duncan believes a village tree warden would have the same powers and duties as the town tree warden within the village. In the absence of a village tree warden, the town tree warden is the tree warden for the village. If the village elected one, it is not clear to Duncan who would take appeals and deal with issues of trees in the public right of way as the village does not own the public highway right of way.

Duncan said Sandy also indicated the village is eligible for grants for storm drains in the village. If that is true, it is good and it represents a change of position of ANR. As far as he knows they still are not eligible for VTrans structures grants or Better Back Roads grants, which will be the largest funding source.

Duncan referred the demolition and reconstruction on Railroad Street due to the fire to Howard Romero as Flood Plain Zoning Administrator, as the property is within the 100 year flood zone.

Doug said when Brian Story comes in, he would like to have someone start working on a blighted building ordinance. He thinks it is important. Duncan said that is one project he has thought of that he and Brian might work on during the month of overlap.

Steps have been installed on the Beard parcel. The highway department has done the parking lot. Duncan met with Bob Sweetser to review property lines and his concern over the easement. The Conservation Commission concluded that they would not want the town to relinquish the right of way along the river but they don't care about the easement along the property boundary with the neighbor. The other organizations that have an interest in the easements granted on the property will need to be involved if we are going to abolish our easement.

Doug asked if there will be a celebration of the swimming hole acquisition. He thinks one was promised. Duncan said we should have one. Doug suggested checking with the River Conservancy. Duncan said he thinks it would be good to have Brian work on that.

Duncan has not had time to look over the cost estimates for the industrial park. That would be a good thing for Brian Story to start working on. Duncan will not have time to follow up on the Travis Hill water line or the Sinclair Road right of way before he leaves.

Mike suggested that we move the clock from the Masonic Hall clock tower to the municipal building and wash our hands of the tower. Eric said we could donate the existing electric clock to the Masonic temple. Duncan said he thinks it would be a real asset to the village to have that clock here. It would take some money to do it. He noted that the bell belongs to the town too. He doesn't know what we would do with that. Mike suggested we could hang it at the municipal building too. Duncan said if nothing else we could hang it outside. Mike said we should get the weather vane off the old town hall and put it on display somewhere. Eric suggested that at a joint meeting we should see what the trustees' thoughts are on a clock swap.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

UNAPPROVED