

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2018

Present:

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

Others: Brian Story, Rosemary Audibert, Charles Gallanter

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Eric called the meeting to order at 5:01.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda

Brian said he wanted to make it clear that the library trustees would not be at this meeting. The reference to the library trustees was copied from an earlier agenda that was for a joint meeting with them. It was agreed to add an update on the hemp festival from Eric, discussion about future large events, clarification on streetlights in East Johnson and a citizen request related to the streetlights, and signing of the official warning for the transfer of the right of first refusal and the right of way on Bob Sweetser's property.

3. Set the Tax Rate

Rosemary said the grand list went up slightly to \$215,738,420. The adjusted budget gives a tax rate of 0.7493. With the Jewett property down payment, principal and interest payments and adjustments for the Masonic Lodge and veterans' exemptions the tax rate needed is 0.7878.

Doug asked how McQuin Island fits into this. Rosemary said she doesn't believe it's in the grand list.

Doug moved to set the town tax rate at 0.7878 for the upcoming 2018-2019 tax year, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.

Rosemary said PILOT revenue went down. It is still more than what we budgeted, but not by much.

4. Set the Date of the Vote by Australian Ballot for Form Based Code

Brian showed the board the warning he had drawn up. It is for a special meeting on Tuesday, August 14 where residents can vote by Australian ballot on whether the town shall adopt form based code and a public information hearing on August 7 at 7:00 pm. The warning was written by our attorney.

Rosemary said absentee voting starts next week. Charles Gallanter said early voting for the primary has already commenced. Do people who have already requested an early ballot have to request an additional one? Rosemary said there have been no requests yet for the primary. Charles asked, what if an early voting request comes in before the ballot for the form based code vote is available? Rosemary said she would send out another mailing with the second ballot. Charles asked, what about those who have already mailed in the primary ballot? Rosemary said there are two separate ballots that can be returned separately.

Doug moved to adopt and issue the official warning for the special town meeting on August 14 and the informational hearing on August 7 as presented, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.

5. ***Appoint Duncan Hastings as Town Representative on Lamoille County Planning Commission***

Eric asked if LCPC sent a report on Duncan's attendance. Brian said no. Eric said he believes Duncan has been a regular attendee. **Kyle moved to appoint Duncan Hastings as town representative on the Lamoille County Planning Commission, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.**

6. ***Review the Proposals for Repairs on the Municipal Building***

Brian said the only proposal is from Stanley Wescom. His estimate is \$45K to cover the area from where he stopped last year around to the southeast corner of the building. There will be a certain amount of time and materials cost if he gets into things he is not anticipating. We are satisfied with how he completed the work last year.

Nat asked where the request for bids appeared. Brian said it was on our website, in the newspaper and on the section of VLCT's website for RFP's.

Nat moved to accept Stanley Wescom's proposal for repairs to the municipal building, Doug seconded and the motion was passed.

7. ***Facility Use Requests for Old Mill Park***

Brian said we have two requests. One is from Madison Bisotti for a birthday party and one is from the public library for a kickball game. The birthday party is July 15 from 3:00-5:00. Neither event conflicts with existing planned uses. **Nat moved to approve the two facility use requests for Old Mill Park as presented with no conditions, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.**

8. ***Special Event Permit for The Alchemist***

The Alchemist will be serving alcohol at a Lamoille Housing Partnership event on Legion Field on August 3 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm. At the last meeting the board approved use of the park. This is a permit to serve alcohol. **Nat moved to approve the special event permit for August 3 for The Alchemist, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.**

9. ***Review Personnel Policy Issues with 10 Hour Days for Public Works***

Eric said we have to settle the question of whether public works employees get paid for 8 hours or 10 hours for July 4. Brian said that question has been settled. We went with the existing personnel policy which says holidays are paid as 8 hour days. Eric said the employees made up the other 2 hours on another day. Brian said we need to figure out how to handle holidays and leave time for the future. If a holiday falls when employees are working 10 hour days, do they get paid for 8 or 10 hours? Eric said another question is how we handle it if a holiday falls on Friday and that is their day off.

Eric said where he works if a holiday falls on your day off you get 8 hours' pay. If it falls on a day you are working you have the option to work and get extra money or take the day off and get 8 hours of pay. You have the choice of taking the remaining 2 hours without pay or supplementing with vacation time to get a full day's 10 hours of pay. Doug asked how that is received. Eric said it seems to be pretty well received. Some would rather have the time off

than the extra money so if a holiday falls on their day to work they take the time off and often do the remaining hours without pay to save vacation.

Brian said what the employees would like is to be paid for 10 hours' holiday time if a holiday falls on a day when they would normally be working 10 hours. If they are taking a day off they would expect to pay 10 hours of their time. They see that as fair.

Eric said the problem he sees with that is that the employees who only get 8 hours of pay vs. 10 won't see that as such a great deal. Nat said he thinks holidays should be counted as 8 hours, the same number of hours as before. The intent wasn't to give an extra benefit.

Eric suggested that Brian draft something in writing for the next meeting.

Brian asked if the board's guidance for now is that when an employee takes a day off they use 10 hours of their time.

Eric said if an office employee took a day off it would cost them 8 hours vacation time because they have an 8 hour day. Brian said it is stated in our policy that if you have a day off because it is a holiday we pay you 8 hours. If you take the day off by choice, should that cost you 2 more hours? Nat said the holiday always has been 8 hours. We are not changing that. As you use vacation hours they are deducted from your accrued time the same as always. Doug said to get 40 hours' pay an employee will have to work 2 more hours if they have a holiday. Eric said they could also take 2 hours of vacation.

Board members agreed that for now if a public works employee takes a day off they need to use 10 hours' vacation time.

10. Hemp Fest Update/Planning for Future Large Events

Eric said the hemp fest went off well. There was one transport to Copley for what was probably a heat-related issue. That was the only incident he is aware of. He thinks we should start thinking about developing incident plans for other events with large gatherings of people. That was done for this event with the help of the state. Our biggest concern was the heat. We reached out to the Mormon church. They were willing to let us use it if we needed a temporary shelter to get people out of the heat. We gave the college a heads up that we might need to use it if we needed shelter for more people. The organizers were very well prepared and took extra measures for the weather. They had ample supplies of water.

If we had an incident at Field Days we might have to provide shelter for all the people and we would also have all the animals to deal with. We will want to work with the state to develop an incident plan with the people in charge of Field Days. He mentioned to the chair of the Hyde Park selectboard that perhaps they should sit in. We could be overwhelmed with all the animals and probably would be looking for help from Hyde Park if there were an incident. We probably would get contact information for vets.

Kyle asked how much of that planning the Field Days people do. Eric said we don't know. Maybe they do some already. Probably they are not preparing for a large scale event.

Eric said in the future we might want to consider impact fees for any event over a certain number of people. He is not sure what that number would be. If there is an incident there won't be any state or federal money to cover costs. It could quickly absorb any money we have saved up for emergency management.

Doug asked if there are communities that have addressed this. Eric said he doesn't know. Nat said googling indicates that some towns have event ordinances. Larger tourist towns like Stowe and Shelburne have them but Georgia also has one.

Nat said he feels the board can do a better job in the future of notifying the sheriff's department and the fire department about large events.

Doug said he thinks we need to decide where the risks really justify emergency management planning. It is not necessarily needed for all civic activities. Kyle said we don't want to de-incentivize people from holding events in Johnson because there are a lot of hoops to jump through.

Doug suggested maybe Brian could look into an ordinance that would fit us. Brian said he can look for examples.

11. East Johnson Streetlights

Brian said he was thinking that when the board discussed East Johnson streetlights that meant the Sinclair neighborhood. He would like a better definition of how far the East Johnson area extends.

Eric asked what streetlights we pay for. Brian said he thinks we pay for all the lights outside the village.

Eric said our discussion was about the whole East Johnson area, not by street. We looked at a budget number that probably included some lights on 100C.

Brian said we did not zero out the streetlight budget number. He thinks we reduced it by \$1200, a little less than a quarter of the amount. It includes all the streetlights we pay for, not just the East Johnson ones. He will take care of shutting off the rest of the streetlights we pay for in the East Johnson area. He had a citizen request to restore the light near the corner of Sinclair and 100C. The citizen says the intersection is difficult to see at night without a streetlight. Nat said it would be okay with him to turn that one off. He was happy to have the lights go out. It was really dark, which was fine with him.

The board agreed to turn off other lights on 100C and restore the one near the Sinclair/100C intersection.

12. Sweetser Property Transfer

Brian showed the board the notice he had drawn up for the transfer of the right of first refusal and the right of way to Bob Sweetser. **Doug moved to publish the notice as of conveyance of real estate to the Sweetzers required by statute and to proceed with the transfer if there is no objection to it, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.**

13. Selectboard Issues/Concerns

Kyle said she wants to talk about maintenance of town property like the Beard Recreation Area and Old Mill Park. Eric said he noticed that mowing is needed. Kyle said weeds are growing into the rocks on the walking path at Old Mill Park. It is being slowly reclaimed. Eric suggested that Brian talk to Brian Krause about it.

Brian said he thinks this year we will want to go out to bid again for park mowing. We have been doing well with the same company we have used for several years but we should occasionally take it out to bid.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

UNAPPROVED