

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018

Present:

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

Others: Brian Story

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:06.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda

Doug added a Beautification Committee update. Kyle said she wanted to change the title of the 8:00 pm agenda item to Request for Reimbursement for Materials for Form-Based Code Vote. Brian added an update on municipal building repairs and an executive session for a personnel disciplinary issue.

3. Recess for Vicious Dog Hearing

The meeting was recessed from 7:08 to 7:36 for a vicious dog hearing.

4. Request for Reimbursement for Materials for Form-Based Code

Kyle said she and Phil Wilson designed posters about form-based code and Phil got them printed. They got 250 made and handed some out at Tuesday Night Live. They are requesting reimbursement for the \$58.30 Phil spent on printing costs.

Nat moved to reimburse Phil Wilson \$58.30 for the cost of printing form-based code materials, seconded by Kyle.

Doug said he doesn't think we should pay for the materials. The town is supposed to be neutral. If we pay for these then we should pay for flyers for those who are against form-based code. Eric said before we took a vote to adopt form-based code we were neutral, but now that we have voted to adopt it these materials are promoting our position. Mike suggested that the motion could be amended to include an exact amount to set a precedent so if anyone came in with a request to print a poster opposing form-based code that would be the maximum amount we would pay. Kyle said we already voted on form-based code and said yes to it so she feels the selectboard is not neutral now. Eric said he agrees. Doug said he disagrees. He feels the first vote is irrelevant because the question is now in front of the voters. We have thrown it into their hands. Nat said Doug has a good point.

The motion failed with Eric and Kyle voting in favor and Doug, Mike and Nat opposed.

5. Beautification Committee Update

Kyle said Jen Burton from the Arts Council is willing to make a two-panel mural to direct bikers to downtown Johnson. She will not charge for her time but would like reimbursement for materials. She estimates the cost of panels and paint will be about \$800. She will give back any money left over. The mural will be designed to encourage people to go down Railroad Street from the rail trail. It will not use actual business names but will indicate types of businesses - café, groceries, gasoline, clothing, maple products, art, etc. The location is yet to be determined. The best location is not on town-owned property. It will be a free-standing

sign. Parker & Stearns had said the mural could be on their building but now that they are hoping to sell the building the sign was designed so it could be relocated. Brian said the best location for it is probably still on Parker & Stearns property.

Mike moved to approve reimbursement of up to \$800 to Jen Burton for materials used to make a mural, seconded by Doug.

Eric said he believes the railroad has a 60 ft. right of way. Brian said he will get in touch with the railroad. He is not sure if there is a fee to put something in the right of way. Chan Parker is okay with locating the mural on his property. Town property may also be an option but it is less ideal.

Nat asked how the mural will be anchored. Brian said with 4x4's or 6x6's in concrete.

The motion was passed.

Brian said the Beautification Committee has been talking about a gardening project to beautify the village green. They met with Andrea Sargent about it. They are talking about mostly focusing on the back part close to the parking area. They may start in the southeast corner and spread out from there, with the amount covered at one time depending on how much it is costing. They are looking at shrubs to separate the green area from the parking area without making the parking area dangerous or difficult to observe. Kyle said Andrea brought in examples of shrubs that would grow 3 or 4 feet high that could be used. Doug said Gordy Smith talked about the need to plow the area. The committee discussed uses of the green for occasions such as Christmas or Green Up Day.

Doug said the village has \$750 to contribute. Brian said we have \$3K total. Kyle said about \$800 of that will be spent on the mural. Doug said money will also be spent on hanging baskets and watering equipment. The committee will get a proposal and design and bring it to the board.

Kyle said Andrea had indicated trucking help could be useful if she needs to bring in a lot of compost or topsoil. The committee said maybe the town or village could help with that.

Nat said he had gotten a comment that the work Peter Moynihan has done is not as aesthetically pleasing as it could be. Mike said he has heard similar comments.

Nat asked if we get free compost from the compost facility. Brian said he doesn't believe they want to give it to us for free. Several board members said they felt the town had been promised free compost. Brian said he will follow up on that.

Eric said he got a call from someone who was upset that the solid waste district is going to start charging for recycling. Someone from the state had told them to call the selectboard as the selectboard was responsible. He informed the person that they should contact Johnson's solid waste board representative.

6. *Municipal Building Repairs Update*

Brian said the building repairs are progressing. We are finding more rot than anticipated, especially on the eastern side of the building. We are also finding some additional settling in the tower area. There had been work in the past to try to reduce that but there is still some settling. He will try to get a price quote to address that again but he suspects it will be cost prohibitive. Probably we will just have to shim the doors when they are put in. It will be pretty noticeable on the side door.

Eric said he thinks transit readings were taken when the previous stabilizing work was done. He suggested it would be a good idea to refer to those. It would be interesting to know if what is being seen is old damage or if the building is still settling. Brian said we are trying to figure that out.

Brian said there was a problem with the light over the entryway. Apparently it had a short. There will be a cost for a new outdoor light fixture. There will be some cost overruns for the repairs. He thinks we will need to cut some of the work he had hoped to have done on the tower.

Kyle asked if the front entryway will be open on voting day. Brian said he will talk to Stanley about having it open for access. The work won't be done but he will recommend that Stanley take the day off and make sure the building is easy for people to access for voting.

7. *Executive Session – Personnel Discipline Issue*

Nat moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel 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 8:06. The board came out of executive session at 8:15.

8. *Recess for Vicious Dog Hearing Deliberations*

The meeting was recessed from 8:15 to 8:40 for deliberations on the vicious dog hearing.

9. *Adjourn*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41.