

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

Present:

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

Others: Lea Kilvadyova, Brian Krause, David Butler, Heather Rodriguez, Sandy Miller, Gordy Smith, Susan Alexander, Charles Cooley, Dana Sweet, Greg Stefanski

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:58.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda

Nat said he would like to add discussion of allocation of reserve funds for the basketball court at JES. Lea said Tasha Wallis's item can be removed from the agenda because she can't make it tonight. She will likely reschedule for next month. Eric said a possible agenda item is a request from Zachary Schuster to extend the end time for the fall hoedown event. (*Gordy and Sandy arrived at 7:01.*)

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Doug moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2015, Kyle seconded, and the motion was passed.

Howard moved to approve the minutes of June 15, 2015, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.

Howard moved to approve the minutes of June 22, 2015, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.

Howard moved to approve the minutes of August 12, 2015, Kyle seconded, and the motion was passed with Nat abstaining.

Nat moved to approve the minutes of August 17, 2015, Kyle seconded, and the motion was passed.

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

Eric said for current taxes collected we are basically on track with the previous two years.

Lea said we have received an audit representation letter from the audit company, Graham & Graham, detailing the process they went through to do the audit job. We have to sign that we agree. Rosemary has already signed. **Howard moved to authorize Eric to sign the audit representation letter from Graham & Graham, Kyle seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Lea said we haven't had a formal loan servicing agreement in place for Union Bank to service the revolving loan fund. Now a formal agreement needs to be signed. Doug asked about the substance of the agreement – cost, etc. Lea said she hasn't had a chance to review

it. She doesn't think there is a pressing need to sign it now. The board agreed to wait until Rosemary can provide more information about it.

The board needs to approve a lister errors and omissions letter signed by Rose Warner, adjusting the acreage assessed for two properties. **Howard moved to approve the lister errors and omissions letter, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Lea listed 5 grant agreements with the state that needed to be submitted online by September 15, which Rosemary did. One is PILOT. The state increased the amount we will receive by 5.5%. The procedure to administer it is different. Eric said there was some discussion at the VLCT board meeting about why they are now being called grants. Will there be strings attached? No one knows why they have changed it.

Lea said Rosemary recommends setting up a work session meeting to close out the last fiscal year. That is a potential item when Duncan comes back.

Rosemary has sent out the final letters to delinquent taxpayers. (*Heather Rodriguez arrived at 7:17.*)

5. Road Commissioner/Road Foreman Report and Action Items

Brian said his crew is having to clean out a culvert on Plot Road every 3 days due to heavy beaver activity. The crew built the foundation for the new salt shed. They have been grading and mowing. Mud abatement work on Waterman Road will be done from October 5-9. The crew will start to erect the salt shed this week. They have been working on the Dog's Head parking area.

Brian's feels rerouting Travis Hill's water line would be very expensive. Rather than that, his recommendation is to dig it up and insulate it. Travis Hill's existing line is a 2-inch line off the main. Tom Elwood says it would be no problem to split that off and add on 2 curb stops in order to provide water to Legion Field. Peter Dodge told Brian that insulating the water line with 2 inches of insulation in a 2-ft. wide strip would cost \$3700. If the line stays at its current elevation, 2 inches will be enough. If it comes up higher and we need 3 inches the cost would go up to about \$4K. Eric suggested talking to Duncan about this when he comes back, because Duncan has been talking to Travis.

Brian said we got 2 proposals for School St. paving. He has learned that the paving grant money will still be available next year if we don't get the paving done this year. Lea said we were originally under the impression it would run out at the end of this year, but we have until December 2016 to use it. Brian said if there is a reason we need to have it paved this year, he recommends going with the proposal from Pike, for \$169,700. The earliest we could do the paving would be the second week of November, which is very iffy. If we don't have to pave, he would recommend we push it off. If the board wants to wait to make a decision we could see how it looks toward the end of October. Lea said we have a 2-week paving window from November 1 to November 15. SD Ireland's paving price is about \$15K more than Pike's. These prices do not include paving of the basketball court. It might make sense to pave the basketball court at the same time the street paving is done.

Doug asked what happens if we accept Pike's bid but don't have them pave this year. How does that set us up for next year? Lea said she thinks there are a couple of potential scenarios. One would be to speak to Pike about holding this price, which works for our budget. Depending on that conversation we could also readvertise in the spring and ask for proposals again. One other difficulty with paving this year is timing of the School St./College Hill sidewalk project. That is supposed to be completed by the end of October but we are not sure that will happen.

Nat asked how the School St./College Hill project will impact the pavement in the roads. Will they have to dig up sections? Brian said yes, and they will patch it. Nat asked if they will still they have to patch if we pave directly after the project. Brian said yes; we would just be less strict on how well they patch it. Doug asked how tolerable the patch job will be for the winter. Brian said it will be almost the same as it is now. (*Dana Sweet arrived at 7:30.*)

Howard moved to accept Pike's bid for School Street paving, contingent on Brian's decision on whether to proceed based on weather, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.

Brian said he is not sure what the town's policy is on dealing with beavers or what has been done in the past. Eric said he can't remember a previous problem like the current one on Plot Road. David said the state allows beavers to be trapped or shot in a situation like this. There is also a tube-within-a-tube design he has seen used in a culvert situation that beavers are unable to block and that allows you to maintain all your culvert capacity. Howard said it would not maintain full culvert capacity in a high water event. Eric said he is not aware of any official policy on dealing with beavers. The board agreed Brian should look into the situation further and make a decision on how to deal with it.

Brian said Duncan had expressed concern about signing another 5 year contract with UniFirst for uniforms. Our current service agreement doesn't actually finish until next July. UniFirst is willing to work out a 3-year agreement and they plan to send it to the office.

Nat said someone rutted the parking area in Old Mill Park. He asked Brian if he could look at it and maybe grade it. Heather said there was no damage to the grass, just the parking lot. Howard said there is an old 2-wheel rut on one of the ball fields. He thinks it would be nice to fill that in.

6. *Introduction of Interim Village Manager*

Gordy introduced Sandy Miller, the interim village manager. He said the trustees are very happy they were able to find someone to fill Duncan's shoes on an interim basis. Sandy knows Duncan and they will work together. So far there have been 19 responses to the advertisement for a manager. The trustees, Sandy, and Rosemary met and narrowed down the field to 8. All have strengths but no one is strong in every area. The trustees are readvertising. It does not mean they are not accepting any of the 8, but they want to leave the door open to more good candidates.

Eric explained that Ralf Labelle was sent a request to pay Edelweiss's share of the cost of removing the dead elm tree between Edelweiss and the municipal building. He said he had

not consented to have the tree removed and to share the cost. He is refusing to pay. Gordy and Eric asked if he would be open to meeting with them to work out a resolution but he had no interest. He said he has no obligation to pay as he did not authorize the removal. Gordy said the trustees authorized Sandy to send a letter expressing disappointment that we weren't able to work out a solution with Edelweiss and authorized Gordy sign it. Does the town want to pursue another option or should Eric and Gordy co-sign the letter? Eric said Edelweiss's share would be \$375. If we took legal action, it would cost us more than we would get. There is a possibility of putting a lien on the property. Do we want to go that far? That would not cost anything.

Doug said he doesn't see much to be gained by sending a letter to express our disappointment. They probably know we are disappointed. Nat asked what the trustees are looking to get out of sending a letter. Gordy said he thinks closure. Sandy said he thinks the trustees were just frustrated and wanted to express it formally. They hadn't thought of the idea of a lien at the time. Removal of the tree was initiated by Edelweiss. He has been directed to write a letter, so he is going to. The question is whether the town will sign it as well.

Howard moved and Nat seconded to authorize Eric to co-sign with Gordy a letter to Edelweiss expressing disappointment. In answer to Nat's question, Eric said he doesn't have a problem with sending the letter. Doug said he thinks it is a bigger issue than the tree. They have a different perspective. We don't know where it will end. **The motion was passed 3 to 2.**

Gordy said Lea asked the trustees about pursuing a grant for a charging system for electric vehicles. It would need signage similar to a handicapped spot. Putting it in would mean losing 2 parking spots. The trustees have asked Sandy to do some research. Sandy said we would put in a dual plug Type 2 240-volt station like the one in Morrisville. We would power it by generator or run power from a telephone pole. If our costs are similar to Morrisville's total project cost would be about \$12K, including a 25% match the village would contribute in cash or in kind. Morrisville's charging station brings in revenue of about \$60-80 per month. Payback would be in 3-4 years. It seems to be a good rate of return. The trustees authorized Lea to explore the concept.

Lea said if the charging station is put on joint town/village property it would require selectboard approval. The selectboard would have to be comfortable with the lost of parking spots. The grant application is due at the end of October. Howard asked if there is any reason we would not think this is a good idea. Eric said possibly the loss of 2 parking spots. Merchants already complain about lack of parking. The application will be put in by the village but the selectboard would have to consent if joint property will be used.

Doug moved to give conceptual approval for the Type 2 charging station grant application, seconded by Kyle.

Nat asked what kind of utilization is seen in other places like Morrisville. Sandy said Morrisville provides about 60-80 hrs of charging. He guesses there will be more electric

vehicles in the future and utilization will go up. A charging station draws people who otherwise won't come to the town. It leads to someone parking for 2 or 3 hours and exploring the community, which is good for economic development. Nat asked if parking restrictions for the station would be part of the village ordinance so a person could get a ticket for parking there if not charging. Sandy said the grant will require that we post it for EV parking only. He doesn't believe they require that we pass an ordinance regarding enforcement. *(Susan Alexander and Charles Cooley arrived at 7:58.)*

The motion was passed.

Gordy said Casey Romero came to the last trustee meeting to talk about the possibility of a water fountain on School St. The village doesn't want to dig up the new pavement from the School St. project. They talked about putting in a new curb stop. Sandy said if hand washing is provided it has to be connected to sewer. There is a sewer line at that location.

Sandy said the roof project has been ongoing and will wrap up tomorrow. The contractor reports there is some rotten trim that needs to be replaced. We won't know how much until the gutters are removed from those areas for full inspection. The contractor is proposing replacing the trim on a time and materials basis. There are also some holes in gutters and some sagging. The gutters are plastic, which is probably not ideal for this situation. Sandy got quotes for gutter replacement. The flashing around the clock tower does not have to be replaced, so we will get a \$1000 credit for that, irrespective of other decisions about the trim or gutters. There is \$1000 in the project now to repair the gutters. The recommendation from the contractor is to replace the plastic gutters with 6-inch aluminum gutters. The gross cost for that is \$4,569. The net cost would be \$2,569 – around \$1300 each for the town and the village. The building is relatively dirty. The contractor gave us a quote of \$1380 for pressure washing. The town has a pressure washer and the village and town may be able to pressure wash the building. He does not recommend spending \$1300 on pressure washing. The contractor proposed using gutter toppers to keep leaves and other material out of the gutters, but the gutters are so high up not many leaves get in. He doesn't think the toppers are necessary.

Howard moved that the town share the cost of replacement of the municipal building gutters with aluminum gutters and the cost of replacement of rotten trim as needed, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.

Gordy said the trustees are wondering if a joint town/village committee should be formed to review policy on CTO, health care, and insurance. It has been 10 years since that was looked at. Sandy said he thinks it would be reasonable to include employees on the committee. Doug asked if municipal managers would be on it. Sandy said the trustees have asked him to do research on what is happening in other places. Gordy said Sandy won't be affected by any changes so he can be neutral. He has worked for other municipalities. Doug said he would like to have Duncan on the committee. Board members agreed that conceptually they are interested. Eric and Gordy will talk about it.

Sandy said we got the permit from the state for office renovation. There was a pre-construction meeting last week at the office with Dana McKnight. We don't know when construction will start. We have asked him to accelerate the project. His contract doesn't include computer and phone wiring. Rosemary will coordinate that work with him.

Selectboard members introduced themselves to Sandy. (*Sandy and Gordy left at 8:12.*)

7. Planning Commission Report

David said the Planning Commission has been unable to make a decision on form based code. They got hung up on approving technicalities in the code. He suggested approving it as it is and dealing with those issues in a public venue. He tasked each commission member with developing and presenting to the board a list of all the things they don't like or want to change. The Planning Commission approved paying Paul Dreher his final amount and approved presenting the document to the selectboard.

The Planning Commission also ran into problems on the energy chapter of the joint town and village plan, specifically on wind power development on ridgelines. There has been no decision there. The group was divided between saying we want to reserve certain ridgelines that can't have any wind power and saying wind power could be done provided certain criteria are followed. A lot of the ridgelines people wanted to protect are not entirely within the Town of Johnson, which brings up the question of whether we should deal with what is inside the town limits or what we can see.

Another thing tackled at the last Planning Commission meeting was the river corridor project for the state. River corridors were designated with a wide paintbrush based on requirements set by the state legislature. There doesn't seem to be any consideration for history within a river corridor. For instance, there is a house that is between Foote Brook Road and Foote Brook but water has never reached it. There is a 3-mile section with an elevation change of over 1300 feet. Those areas are not really in danger of flooding. Staci Pomeroy from the state told the Planning Commission that they felt flooding could be a hazard in those areas in some epic event in the future because weather is changing. She is willing to meet with town reps to go out and look at some areas to see if the river corridor designations can be modified. That is where the Planning Commission left it. Nat asked if those meetings will happen at some point. David said he hopes so. Right now the Planning Commission has too much to deal with. Staci told them that river corridor designations would not interfere with private road crossings being replaced but stream alteration permits will be required. There is a big concern about spots where town roads are in river corridors, but not a big push to move the roads out. We may have to do mitigation to prevent erosion.

Lea said the Planning Commission is recommending to the selectboard that a Municipal Planning Grant application be submitted on behalf of the Conservation Commission for a natural resources inventory. This year we did not identify any other competing priority, so the Planning Commission is endorsing this application. The Conservation Commission is in the process of getting a quote from a consultant. In 2013 the quote they got was for \$15,800. She believes we should consider a total cost of \$17K for the purposes of our local match, which would be \$3K. The Conservation Commission has committed at least \$1500 and may be able to contribute more.

Howard moved to agree to submit an application to the Municipal Planning Grant program on behalf of the Conservation Commission, to confirm agreement by signing the resolution, and to approve a match of up to \$1500, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.

8. *Recreation Committee Report*

Nat invited Heather to speak about the JES basketball court. She said last summer there was conversation about having it removed. The rec committee felt that removing it would take an asset away from the community. They went to a school board meeting and proposed saving it. Over the summer, she and Beth Foy contacted 3 companies that refurbish basketball courts and got quotes for 3 different levels of work. The one they chose and presented to the school board last week is a middle of the line fix. The cost of the project will be \$19,800. Three new hoops will be put in. Two will be full height. None are full height now, but the basketball coaches at Lamoille Union said it is important to have full height hoops because with lower hoops some kids have learned to shoot incorrectly by the time they get to Lamoille Union. The rec committee was hoping to coordinate paving of the basketball court with the School St. paving project. Lea said the quote from Pike for paving the basketball court is \$11,250. Heather said that is a little more than the quote from the company they chose to work on the basketball court. Their quote was \$10K. The rec committee would like to use \$11K out of the rec committee reserve for this project. The school has agreed to purchase the hoops. It is a 3-step project. First the existing hoops would be removed. Then footings would be poured. That would coordinate with paving. Then a coating similar to that on a tennis court would be put on and lines would be painted. That would happen next summer. There is a little over \$29K in the rec committee reserve now. **Howard moved to authorize expenditure of \$11,000 from the recreation reserve fund for work on the basketball court at Johnson Elementary, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Heather said the rec committee is running out of space for storage at the rec house. At the top of the stairs is an open area with two filing cabinets with old VOJ Water & Light records. She is wondering if those are important and if they can be moved. Eric asked Brian to follow up on that with Troy. Howard asked why the recreation committee can't use some space in the steel cold storage building. Eric said the building is jointly owned by the town and village. He suggested that Heather send an email to Lea about using the building and she can share it with Sandy and see if the village has any concerns. (*Greg Stefanski arrived at 8:32.*)

9. *LRSWMD Transfer Station*

Susan Alexander, manager of the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District, introduced herself and LRSWMD board members Charles Cooley of Morrisville and Dana Sweet of Cambridge. She said LRSWMD is a municipality operating under the leadership of a 12 member board with a representative from each town in Lamoille County and from 2 towns outside of the county. The new Universal Recycling Law is imposing new requirements on the district and as a result the district is looking at all its facilities. The board is talking about making a fairly significant investment (probably \$50K) in the Johnson facility, at the old landfill on Wilson Road. They want to put up a new roof to cover the compactors and boxes and keep out ice and snow. Before they do that, they wanted to talk to the selectboard. Over the years expectations between the community and the district have changed. The board wanted to address those changes and go back to the commitments we

had in the past in terms of partnering. They have noticed that as LRSWMD has taken on more responsibilities the town has asked the district to do more. The LRSWMD board would like to have level expectations for all its communities. At the other facilities, the towns plow and do road maintenance. And when LRSWMD has put a significant investment into a facility part of the host town agreement has been agreement on a buyout of infrastructure improvements if the relationship between the town and the district fails. This provides protection for the district. About \$160K of improvements has been put into the Johnson facility and about \$50K of that is not yet depreciated. Now the district is looking at putting another \$50K into the facility immediately and there could be another \$20-30K invested over the next few years.

Eric asked when our contract is up. Susan said it was just renegotiated last December. It is usually a 5-year agreement. At the time, she and Duncan were going back and forth about the terms of the agreement. Additional requirements for the district were added in and the district signed the agreement somewhat under duress because their certification was due and they didn't want an interruption in service. It is not a binding contract if the town wants the district to leave.

Susan said the Johnson facility is excellent. There are rarely complaints about it and the district often gets calls from people saying they are happy with their experience there. There haven't been any violations there. The district is happy with the location. One requirement of Act 148 is to divert food scraps and organics. The district has talked to the village and the state about possibly using the village's composting facility for organics diversion. The Johnson transfer station is not a money maker. It probably brings in about \$90K of revenue but has similar costs. The district uses some of its surcharge to help support the facilities. They try to keep prices as low as possible to make using the transfer stations an affordable option for people. The district's landfill and recycling costs recently went up. LRSWMD would love to see this relationship continue and would like to expand services at the Johnson facility. They would like to have a positive and mutually beneficial relationship and they want our partnership to be well documented and understood.

Doug asked what road maintenance and snow plowing at the transfer station cost the district. Susan said plowing costs \$2500 to \$5K annually. She is not sure maintenance costs are very significant. She would guess \$500-1000 annually.

Dana said the district wants to construct a building to cover the compactor units and keep snow off the compactor boxes. There has been a problem with snow building up and freezing around the boxes. Doug asked if construction of that building is dependent on how the selectboard reacts to the district's requests. Charles said yes. Susan said the executive committee feels the district needs a commitment from the community before making this investment.

Doug asked how many other transfer stations the district operates. Susan said there are 6, 5 of which are on municipal property. There are several privately operated facilities in the area. Cambridge and Wolcott operate their own facilities. Cambridge contracts with Casella and Wolcott runs its facility with its own employees.

Eric said the town could draw up a bid of what we would charge to plow and maintain the transfer station if the district wanted to contract with the town. Susan said she thinks the LRSWMD board wants the same relationship with Johnson it has with other towns, where the town takes responsibility for that work and doesn't charge. That was in the original host agreement with Johnson and somewhere over time that responsibility got transitioned to the district. Last year, the town made additional requests for free tire and trash disposal. Johnson is moving in a different direction from the other communities while the district is having to take on additional responsibilities due to Act 148. The LRSWMD board would like a level playing field.

Charles said the district tries to operate as a not-for-profit. They have been able to do that because of partnership with communities. He represents Morristown. Morristown plows at the transfer station. When the Morristown site was relocated last year the town incurred the cost to move it. Stowe lets the district use the facility there for free. It has been a partnership with the towns. If it becomes not a partnership in Johnson and becomes too costly for LRSWMD, the other districts could push back, not wanting to subsidize Johnson. The district is looking at increased requirements down the line. LRSWMD probably has the lowest surcharges and fees of any district in the state. They have been able to maintain those low rates because they have kept their operation as lean as possible.

Eric said he thinks Johnson is the only site that provides stump dump storage. He thinks that is how we got where we are. Johnson is giving more than the other towns and as a reward the district backed off on the requirements compared to other towns. We aren't accountable to the taxpayers of Stowe, but to those of Johnson. LRSWMD has what he considers a generous deal. They use the site rent free. Johnson doesn't generate any income off it. The site costs us money because of all the surface wells we have to monitor. How could we stand before our taxpayers and say we are going to open up the contract and be more generous?

Charles said it may be an impasse. Then the district will have to decide if it wants a transfer station in Johnson. They are having similar issues in Morristown. They have one more year at their current location there, then they will need to decide whether to let the private sector take over rather than continuing to operate a drop-off center in Morristown.

Susan said she wasn't manager when the stump dump came up. There are some things the district does at other facilities that it doesn't do in Johnson, like redemption and reuse. They are not looking for all services to be same in all places. But the district is here as a service to the town. If the town can't hold up its side of the partnership the district can't keep taking on expenses. The Casella facility in Hyde Park would be another option for Johnson residents, but it would be more expensive. The district is trying to balance its budget on its fees.

Doug asked what locales have residents going to the Johnson transfer station. Susan said they don't ask for ID's. It is possible people come from Hyde Park or Eden. She knows the facility in Worcester gets people from Calais, which is in a completely different district. It would be onerous to ask for ID. Charles said Cambridge has an agreement with Casella. That would be an option for Johnson. In some other districts each town is responsible for its own

drop-off center and the district just coordinates. Dana said Cambridge maintains the road at its facility. They know they have people from Fairfax, Fletcher, and Belvidere using it. Under their contract with Casella, Casella must charge the same rate as the district. The agreement with Casella has worked well there for 20 years. Cambridge keeps the road plowed.

Susan said the district doesn't have a specific proposal for the board to act on right away. She can provide draft language for the town's consideration that would secure the district's financial investment against what might not be the most stable partnership.

Doug asked, are we stable if we have a new contract? He doesn't know when the district can terminate the contract. Susan said she believes it can be dissolved by either party.

Doug said he is hearing that the district wants to renegotiate the contract. He feels the transfer station is a service to our community. We need to consider how unhappy the community would be if the district left.

Charles said to run the Johnson facility effectively the district is looking at addressing operational problems in the winter. That would mean a lot more investment. If the district leaves now, it will write off \$50K so they are not very motivated to leave, but they need to invest more. They are just trying to get communication going so the selectboard can hear where they are at.

Doug asked about the commitment the district is looking for regarding the investment. Would the town have to pay only if the town defaults on the host agreement and not if the district decides to leave? Charles said he thinks it is about the town backing out after the district puts in the investment. The district would want to get reimbursed at that point for what is not depreciated.

Lea said that makes the letter from the district clearer. The selectboard thanked the LRSWMD representative. *(Susan, Charles, and Dana left at 8:58.)*

10. Support for Johnson Holiday Jubilee

Greg Stefanski said he is here as president of Johnson Works. The Holiday Jubilee will be December 4. Johnson Works is hoping the town and village will continue to support the Jubilee as in the past. He is not sure what amount the town has given in the past. He thinks it might have been up to \$750 each from the town and the village. Johnson Works asks for an "up to" amount because they try to be frugal. They also get contributions from businesses that participate. **Doug moved to level fund the Holiday Jubilee, contributing up to the same maximum amount specified last year, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.** *(Greg and Brian left at 9:02.)*

11. Duncan Hastings Retirement

Eric said Duncan is looking for an exemption from VMERS participation for his employment so that no further contributions for him to the retirement fund would be made by him or the town, because he is already retired. He needs an exemption because he is working for a municipality. He will not gain anything more by participating in VMERS. There is a savings for him and for the town if he does not participate. The savings for the town will be about \$2500. **Howard moved to approve exempting Duncan Hastings from VMERS**

participation related to his employment by the Town of Johnson and to authorize Eric to sign the exemption document, Doug seconded, and the motion was passed.

12. Administrator's Report and Action Items

Lea said the board needs to approve the Union Bank note for the College Hill project. Doug moved to approve the Union Bank note to borrow \$120,000 for 6 months at an interest rate of 0.7%, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.

Desroches Construction is planning to mobilize during the last week of September and start work on the School St./College Hill project in October. By the terms of the contract, substantial completion of the project is required by October 30, 2015. The work may extend a little into November due to weather. Both JES and JSC have been involved. They participated in the pre-construction meeting.

Dean Locke is interested in being appointed to the Conservation Commission. Lois Frey approves of the appointment. **Nat moved and Howard seconded to appoint Dean Locke to the Conservation Commission and the motion was passed.**

We received a grant agreement from the state. They are awarding us \$42,500 towards purchase of the Beard swimming hole. **Howard moved to authorize Eric to sign the Gihon River Swim Park Grant Agreement, Kyle seconded, and the motion was passed with Doug recusing himself.**

Nat had emailed out copies of the Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan developed by the Tree Board. He asks the board to consider adopting it. Doug asked what the financial commitment is. Nat said essentially zero. Acknowledging that if the ash borer hits there will be costs to the town to clean up trees that are killed, it makes sense to be proactive and recognize which trees in rights of way we might take down preemptively. Kyle said the plan is more about educating the right people. Lea pointed out the summary of recommended actions which include educating the public and staff, prioritizing and removing or treating inventoried trees, conducting an inventory, and advertising tree removal and treatment on the town website. If the ash borer hits there will be a massive budget hit so they suggest we might prepare by gradually removing trees so the expenditure doesn't come all at once. **Howard moved to adopt the Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Lea said her contribution toward the health care premium is based on being a part-time employee. During her full-time employment in September, she is asking the board to decrease the level of her contribution so she would have to pay only the amount Rosemary calculated the contribution would be for a full-time employee. **Nat moved and Howard seconded to adjust the level of Lea's health care premium contribution as requested, and the motion was passed.**

Lea said she got an estimate from Great Big Graphics for replacement of the Welcome to Johnson sign on the west entrance to the village with a synthetic sign. JSC is willing to contribute \$250 of the total cost of \$1895. The village may be willing to contribute. It also just came to Lea's attention that the new JSC president is interested in signage on both ends

of town that highlights the college more than the current signs. Maybe if we changed the design of the sign they would be willing to increase their contribution. Lea suggests waiting another month before making a decision on the sign so she can find out more about possible contributions to the cost. Nat asked if we could add in the cost of some landscaping underneath the sign, maybe \$100 or so for some shrubs, to prevent weeds from growing up underneath it. Lea agreed.

The Holcomb House painting job has been done. The painter still needs to remove the overspray on the siding.

We have received a draft of the Lamoille County Regional Plan for 2015-2023. The first public hearing on the plan is tomorrow.

We received a notice from VLCT that they are offering a new plan for 2016 (the Non-Standard Blue Rewards Gold CDHP high deductible plan) and that we will receive information on renewal for 2016 by mid-October.

Lea met with John Mandeville to discuss light industrial park funding and business interest. She is looking into two potential grants or loans. Her goal is to develop a complete picture of what the financing for the purchase and development of the park could look like. John is looking into the business side of things. VEC is conceptually interested. John will also contact commercial brokers and ask whether they are aware of businesses that might like to locate in Johnson. She will keep updating the board.

Sharon Duffy and David Jones had requested identification badges so Lea ordered them at a total cost of \$125. Rosemary approved the payment since there is money available in the animal control officers' budget line items.

A copy of the signed Caring for Our Canopy Grant agreement was sent to the state for their signature. A copy of the signed Ambulance Services Agreement was returned. A copy of the signed grant agreement for Foote Brook road ditching was returned by the state.

We received a notification about AT&T's intent to modify existing wireless antennas and equipment at the Dibden Center at JSC. We have 45 days to submit comments. Lea will bring this to the attention of the Planning Commission as well.

13. Selectboard Issues/Concerns

Doug asked when the rail trail is going to be completed. Lea said they are reluctant to say it will even be this year. Some unexpected repairs were needed due to erosion in Morrisville. They don't have money to complete any other legs, so our leg will be it for a while. They need to raise millions of dollars to do other legs.

Eric asked board members' thoughts on the solid waste district. Howard said he thinks we should do our share and plow the site. Each town has some niche they fill. Ours happens to be the stump dump.

Eric asked, isn't the responsibility on LRSWMD? They signed the contract.

Doug said he doesn't feel like he is a citizen of a district, but he is. He has a convenient drop off to use. He doesn't understand the Casella and private involvement ideas and what they are threatening us with. If Casella came in, would they offer the same price? Would LRSWMD really leave Johnson or is it a bluff?

Howard said to him that doesn't matter. He feels there should be a level playing field. Doug said we might have a level playing field with other towns with transfer stations but there are towns without transfer stations. What is their contribution? If we have a transfer station we have an added cost but also a benefit. Howard agreed. He said we have a convenience benefit.

Eric said we know people in Hyde Park and Eden are using the Johnson facility and not contributing. There is no cost to those taxpayers. Howard said they pay the same fee we do.

Eric said we negotiated in good faith. They are asking us to back out because they did a bad job negotiating.

Nat said he would be open to meeting them somewhere in the middle. A few years ago they dropped Green Up Day tires on us. He thought that was unfair. He thinks it is appropriate for them to take Green Up Day tires. Maybe we could do plowing.

Doug said the greater expense might be if we have to purchase a building we don't want. He thinks we need to look at that forced purchasing. Eric said he understands we would only have to purchase the building if we ended the contract. Doug said we would have to look at what would be considered a breach of contract. Could it be failing to plow the site really well?

Kyle said she would hate to see the dump go. She thinks it is weird that this is coming up when we just did negotiations a year ago.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34.