

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD / VILLAGE TRUSTEE JOINT MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016

**Present:**

Selectboard Members: Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood, Mike Dunham  
Trustees: Gordon Smith, Walter Pomroy, David Goddette, Scott Meyer, Bob Sweetser  
Others: Duncan Hastings (Town Administrator), Sandy Miller (Interim Village Manager), Rosemary Audibert (Clerk), Robert Schulz, Jane Nuse, Jessica Bickford, Stacey Waterman, Jane Marshall, Jeanne Engel

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

**1. Call to Order**

Eric and Gordy called the meeting to order at 7:00.

**2. Additions, Changes to Agenda**

Walter asked to add discussion of the Jim Marvin awards. Gordy asked to add discussion of the electric vehicle charging station. Sandy said the trustees need to sign some orders and they need a brief executive session. Eric mentioned the sad news that the community just lost two members – Tommy Horner and Jollie Parker. (*Nat arrived at 7:02.*)

**3. Library Crosswalk/Sidewalk**

Duncan had brought copies of a plan for the crosswalk. Gordy said he thinks the question is whether the town and village are going to work together and, if so, who does what and how are the costs split? Or is there more to it than that? Eric said probably not, but personally he thought that if the town were going to be investing money, he would rather see a sidewalk down the library side of Railroad St. There are a lot of reasons to start working on Railroad St. Roger Marcoux has provided data on the amount of crime on Railroad St. This won't fix the crime problem, but if we start making improvements on that street maybe we can change the climate over time. Of the calls LCSD responded to last year in Johnson, about 6% were on Railroad St. The deputy sheriff who came to the last selectboard meeting that LCSD is very familiar with Railroad St. One thing the deputy said he had noticed was that Railroad Street has changed from primarily college student rentals to more family rentals and there are more domestic issues as a result. There are some drug issues and there was a fatal drug overdose a month ago. There is crime coming onto that street. That is one reason Eric thinks it makes sense to put a sidewalk on the library side of the street.

Gordy said the trustees have come to a point where they feel they can't maintain more sidewalks than they already have. They had Troy audit all the sidewalks and they have a list of the work that needs to be done on them and a per-foot price estimate for the work. They feel they have to start saying no. They can't afford more and more sidewalks. When one of the trustees suggested a crosswalk, they felt that was a good solution for now. It will at least get people to the library in a safe manner.

Walter said if we put in a sidewalk in the future, that will take a while and will require grants. And we will probably not put sidewalk all the way down Railroad St. beyond the library, so a crosswalk will still be needed for people coming from the other direction. So he sees this as step one, or at least as something we can do immediately, this spring, to address a need

people have expressed. He thinks we should plan to go ahead with a crosswalk now, and try to figure out how to do it as quickly and cheaply as possible between the town and village crews.

Doug asked if Troy's survey also looked at where additional sidewalks would be beneficial. Gordy said the trustees asked him to look at existing sidewalks.

David said his concern is that the trustees are having a hard time maintaining the sidewalks they have. Where can they add sidewalks when they are having trouble maintaining the ones they have?

Doug asked if the trustees can say why they are having trouble. David said they have a lot of feet of sidewalk. Walter said the lowest cost estimate to replace all the sidewalks we have in place is \$686K. The highest estimate is \$2.2 million. That is about 80 years of 10 cents on the grand list. The sidewalks on Pearl Street and School Street need repairs. There is work to be done now before the trustees think of expansion.

Eric asked how much the village is currently spending on sidewalks. The town is giving the village \$60K a year. Where is that going? Walter said some is going to plowing and maintenance. The last 5 or 10 years it has been used for Main Street and School Street project matches. The village finally has no ongoing project and can use it for maintenance. David said the village is budgeting \$9K this year for sidewalk maintenance. Sandy said they are also putting about \$4K into reserves. David said their plan is to start putting money into reserves to be used to upgrade current infrastructure and for projects like the crosswalk project. He can't look at adding any more sidewalk and approaching the ratepayers in Johnson and asking for more money.

Eric said a good amount of sidewalks are new through various grants, so they shouldn't need to be touched for a good number of years. Walter said the flip side is that they will all fail at the same time so the village needs reserve funds ready for that.

David said this project was what started the conversation about a capital plan for sidewalks.

Doug asked whether the village is putting money aside to match grant funds or to pay the entire cost of sidewalk work. Walter said we can get grants for new sidewalks but not for replacing existing sidewalks. The village will probably have to pay the full cost for replacing sidewalks. They are thinking of creative ways to wrap sidewalk work into grants, for instance at the School St./Pearl St. intersection.

David said the idea of a crosswalk was the trustees' compromise instead of putting in a sidewalk. A crosswalk is a safe way for people to cross to go to the library. It is a lower cost option and a first step. Maybe in the future we can put in a sidewalk.

Doug said he didn't hear any plan or commitment for the future. The crosswalk sounded to him like a bandaid and a bad idea and he felt that once this issue was removed from current thoughts that would be reason to ignore it.

Mike referred to the minutes from the trustees' annual meeting on April 5. At that meeting, Walter discussed a mistake in the general department budget that meant money needed to be added to the fire department budget. David said the money should be taken from the reserve for sidewalk repairs and the other trustees agreed. There is money in the village sidewalk fund. Is any of it money that came from the 10 cents on the grand list? Walter said a lot of that was excess from the Main St. project. Eric said to a great degree that was from the 10 cents on the grand list and it was not meant to go to the fire department. Sandy said it was cash on hand that was going to go into the reserve fund; it wasn't already in the reserve fund. It is hard to say exactly where it came from, but it was from the general fund.

Mike said he doesn't believe the town ever receives an accounting of where their money goes. Eric said he is questioning that now. The town is giving the village \$60K a year and he isn't hearing where it is going. Gordy said a lot went into the School Street project. And the village plans to put some into work at the School St./Pearl St. intersection. Sandy said it goes into labor, plowing and repairs. Mike said he would like to see an accounting every year before the town authorizes any more money to the village. Gordy said the town has to pay 10 cents on the grand list by state statute. But the town has a right to see where the money goes.

Doug said we have a charter that we need to address. It says the town will give the village 10% of the village list and if that is done then the town is completely held harmless with regard to curbs, storm drains, and sidewalks. We should be addressing that. The 10% is dedicated funds, almost like a reserve fund, dedicated for a particular use only.

Gordy said 10 years ago the boards had a discussion about who owns storm drains and came up with what they felt was an excellent idea about dividing the responsibility. Eric said Gordy is right that years ago the boards came up with that agreement. At that time, the town never paid the full 10 cents. The two boards used to negotiate it. Over the last few years the town has been paying the full 10 cents on the grand list. He read the relevant part of the village charter aloud. Every year the selectmen are to give 10% of the village grand list to be used by the village for building and maintaining sidewalks, gutters, sewers, and drains and the Town of Johnson is relieved of any liability for sidewalks, gutters, sewers, and drains. The town is not relieved of liability except on payment of the 10%. He said when the boards made the agreement Gordy referred to the town wasn't paying the whole 10%. They were negotiating a payment of significantly less, more like \$20K. It made sense to have a cost share between the town and the village. But for the last few years the town has been paying the whole 10%.

Gordy asked, who sweeps the sand on town streets? And the town doesn't get a bill. Selectboard members said the town does get a bill. Gordy said to his knowledge the town has only been billed once for that and they got reimbursed.

Walter suggested focusing on how to do the crosswalk project. Gordy asked if there is a cost estimate for materials. Duncan said he doesn't think Brian and Troy did a cost estimate.  
*(Robert Schulz left at 7:24.)*

Eric said if we keep doing it the way we have been it's clean but the town doesn't get an account of what the money is used for. The old way was clunky but there was a cost share between the town and village. They would work on projects together and negotiate the town's payment. Another thing he thinks we should put on the table is the possibility of the village assuming the highways within the village. The town could cede them and then the village would own them and it wouldn't be as confusing. Or the sidewalks and storm drains could be ceded to the town. That would also be cleaner. If the town ceded the highways to the village there could be some savings to the town. The town probably wouldn't need a fifth highway department employee as they otherwise might, and they could get rid of their dump truck. If it went the other way, with sidewalks and storm drains coming to the town then the town would have to hire staff but might be able to use the additional staff to offset some of the needs of the highway department. Maybe we should look at those possibilities. New storm water runoff requirements are coming and the village is not eligible to apply for structures grants as it would be if it owned the highways. Any work the village does on storm drains will be on their dime. It makes sense to look at transferring ownership one way or the other.

Gordy said he disagrees. The village isn't in the business of plowing and sanding roads. The problem with ceding sidewalks and drains is that the village is made up of four departments and each gains from the other three. If one or two parts are taken out, the village won't be able to run its utilities without raising rates a lot. The current system works well. He thinks the boards should be able to resolve these issues tonight, be positive and get the crosswalk done.

David suggested steering the conversation back to the crosswalk and sidewalk and coming up with a plan jointly to solve the problem. Personally he thinks a crosswalk is a great first step. It is the less expensive of the two ideas.

Eric asked what the match requirement was for the grant to put sidewalk down to the library. Duncan said it was 10% of the total cost, but he doesn't remember the total cost. Eric asked if that match would be more or less than the cost of doing all the curb cutting for a crosswalk. Duncan said he would say it would be more than the cost of putting in a crosswalk.

David said Eric is losing sight of the original concern the trustees had. They have priorities already for other pieces of sidewalks that need to be replaced.

Duncan said the question is who will pay for the crosswalk. Eric asked why the town should pay anything. Walter asked if the town would contribute some labor if the village paid for materials. He thinks we should take the attitude of working together on all the projects on the list. One year the village may contribute more labor and one year the town may contribute more. Eric said personally he wouldn't object to donating labor to help the village.

Doug returned to Gordy's comment about the relationship between village departments. When people are working on sidewalks, what rate are they paid? Gordy said the electric utility rate. Walter asked to get away from discussion of the village budget and just talk about the crosswalk. Doug said he thinks the system is broken. He would love to help the village

out. Walter said the boards should just move on to the next agenda item. (*Jeanne Engel and all the library trustees except Jessica Bickford left.*)

**4. Solar RFP**

Gordy asked why this item was on the agenda. Duncan said there may have been some question about how credits would be shared. Walter asked, why not wait until we get information on the credits from experts and appoint a subcommittee to act fast to evaluate proposals and come back to the boards?

Sandy said part of the analysis would be evaluating what incentives and benefits there are to the town and village. Walter said there may be valid reasons to say some of the credits should be the village's and the town should then be compensated in some way. That could be better than just doing it 50-50. As of January 1 there will be definite business reasons the village should own the panels but the village would want to make the town whole. He thinks we should look at the total package, evaluate like businessmen how best to save the ratepayers and taxpayers money, then decide how to split it up. He doesn't want to take anything off the table. He would like the two boards to appoint a subcommittee to start working on the 27<sup>th</sup>. They would sit down with the managers and evaluate proposals so we can move quickly. This is the last opportunity for us to lock in some good power rates for the people of Johnson, so he wants to move quickly. Duncan said there is a fairly good possibility we won't get any proposals. Gordy, Walter, and Mike volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Eric said the individual boards can determine who will represent them. Sandy said he thinks we will get a few if any proposals.

**5. College Hill Stormwater System Costs Town/Village Reimbursements**

Eric spoke about the cost overruns on this project. He said the town got a \$130K grant because the village is not eligible, which goes back to the point that if the village had highways it would be eligible for these grants. The town donated \$24K of taxpayer dollars into this as their contribution to the grant. The town's position is that the town has done its share by giving \$24K of taxpayer dollars and securing grant funds.

Walter said we should be focused on trying to resolve this with our partners so hopefully the additional cost will become zero. He suggests putting the issue to the side for now. Eric asked if the village is willing to make the town whole. Sandy said as has been discussed before, there is additional structures grant money available. What does the town need to go forward?

Duncan said if Desroches agrees to the reduced change order amount of \$16,786 and the town gets VTrans approval to amend the grant, the town's new share would be \$3600 more than the town originally committed to pay. He thinks the selectboard wants to limit the town's exposure to the original amount.

Sandy said Duncan had previously proposed looking to Otter Creek to reimburse us before having more discussion between the town and village. Why not stick to that? Duncan said he has always said the town should not be on the hook for additional costs. Sandy said virtually all the cost overruns were due to bad design. Otter Creek has conceptually said they are willing to contribute funds. If the trustees agreed to reduce the cost to the town by a certain amount that is so much less Otter Creek will come up with. It would reduce our ability to

leverage money out of them. We should talk to them first as originally planned. He won't say the village will hold the town harmless. That would let Otter Creek off the hook. Duncan said he doesn't see why it makes any difference. He thinks Otter Creek would act based on their bad design, not on whether the village will hold the town harmless.

Walter suggested moving on, negotiating with third parties and seeing what comes to the table and having a discussion about the actual additional cost figure, which may be zero, when we have it.

Eric said the taxpayers of Johnson gave the village \$84K – the \$60K from the grand list and the \$24K match. That is significantly above and beyond the requirement in the charter.

Gordy suggesting waiting until we have a number to have this conversation. Sandy said he would rather spend his time talking to Otter Creek so the town doesn't have to spend more money. Duncan said he thinks the village should negotiate with Otter Creek because the village has the contract.

Duncan said the state has offered to amend the grant. He needs to finalize the amount to request. We need to find out from Desroches if they will accept the state's recommended \$16K for the disputed change orders. It's possible Desroches will appeal to the trustees. Duncan said he can put in a request for a number higher than the cost if Desroches accepts the \$16K, in case they appeal. Doug asked about the timeline for finalizing the grant amendment application. Duncan said it should be done as soon as possible. If someone comes along before us with a more needy project they could get the money. If we want to finalize it now, he thinks we should bump the number up a little just in case Desroches gets a higher number.

Sandy said Desroches recently got a letter from Lea with the \$16K figure. He doesn't know that there is a specific time frame for appeals. Duncan said he thinks it is 15 or 30 days. Then they can appeal to the State Board of Transportation. Gordy asked, wasn't the \$16K figure given to us from VTrans? Sandy said yes, based on additional information from Desroches. Eric said we should know within 30 days if Desroches is going to appeal. Once that time has passed then we would have solid numbers for the grant amendment. Duncan and Sandy said yes, if they didn't appeal. Duncan said if they do appeal, it's a crap shoot.

Eric asked, if we apply for a certain grant amendment amount now and then Desroches appeals and our expenses are higher, can we go back a third time? Duncan said he thinks the likelihood of success would not be high. He would suggest bumping the number up a bit. If we don't need all the money, it goes back to VTrans. Eric said he would suggest doing that.

Sandy said the village will pursue negotiations with Otter Creek, but he would like Duncan's participation. Duncan said he is happy to help but he doesn't want to negotiate directly because the town doesn't have the contract.

**6. School St./Pearl St. Stormwater System Work Coordination/Reimbursement**

Eric said the town has been making a lot of contributions to the village. A lot is being asked above the 10 cents on the grand list. This is one more thing. Since the town has been fully paying the 10 cents the town has been relieved of liability for storm drains.

Walter said projects come and go. One entity or the other will sometimes contribute unequally. The village electric department contributed a lot of man hours and materials running wire out to the bandstand. The year before, the village hooked the rail trail building up to water and sewer and didn't ask for money. Now it seems things are turned around the other way and he keeps hearing about money. Where is the spirit of cooperation – working together on special projects to try to save the taxpayers money?

Duncan said he doesn't think that characterization is accurate. With both those projects, the village was compensated at least for materials and both town and village put in labor. Walter said the village didn't ask for payment. All of a sudden the taxpayers are getting lost. Let's work together. That is how we will do things most cheaply. Eric said he understands but the selectboard represents its own taxpayers. The \$24K is over a penny on the grand list. Gordy said if the village had had to pay they wouldn't have had the money to do that project. Walter said the citizens of Johnson gained something. Duncan said the town committed money to pave School Street and structures grant money because they knew the village wouldn't have enough and it would make a better overall project. Eric asked, where is the appreciation for what the town has already done? Gordy said the town uses the village tractor and the village chipper. They tell Troy to work with the town. He noted that the town and village crews get along fine. Bob said when Duncan worked for both the town and village the town and village got along fine. He doesn't know why it is different now. Duncan said he often played referee between the two Steves, who argued about things like who owned the French Hill/Railroad St. storm drain. That was a perfect example of how the ownership system the two boards came up with didn't work that well.

Gordy asked if there is anything the town is willing to donate to the Pearl St./School St. project. They would like to use Brian's knowledge and experience. He thinks the agreement was to do the work with two town people and two village people. The village wants to get it done before the paving is done.

Mike asked if this is a special project or maintenance of what is already there. Gordy said there are 3 failed storm drains near the intersection that need to be relocated. The village is talking about tying them all into one that is at the southeast corner of the School St./Pearl St. intersection, which then will empty into the river. He asked Troy today to have the fire department check that that one actually works by running water through it. The project will require about \$11K in contractor costs and the labor of about 4 people.

Duncan said they should look at the storm drain that empties into the Gihon on the gym side. There is a good-sized stone backing things up, probably under the road. Steve Towne was trying to figure out how to get it out. If it remains it will cause continued problems.

Eric said there are 3 discharge pipes on the town gym side. Sandy said they think the furthest downstream one is connected to these storm drains. Duncan said the big one is connected to the new storm drain system on the Studio Center side. He thinks the little one ties into the School St. Storm drain system.

Sandy asked if the town is willing to consider sharing labor. Nat asked what they are asking for. Sandy said Brian and Troy know what needs to be done. Gordy said 4 people would be needed to do the work, along with hiring an outside contractor. Sandy said the estimated contractor cost is \$11K. Our labor would be in addition to that. Duncan said there would be an additional cost if they decide to put in a new catch basin. He thinks that would be another \$3500. Sandy said his recollection is that the \$11K includes relocation of 3 storm drains. The village is asking for labor.

Mike said he would agree to that if the village will put in the crosswalk at the library. Gordy said he doesn't even know the cost of the crosswalk. Mike said it can't cost more than \$2-3K. Sandy said Walter already proposed that the village buy the materials and the town share the labor.

Nat said the village is asking for 2 people from the town to help with the labor. For about how much time? Duncan said it is a week's worth of work. The only caveat is that the catch basin under the sidewalk is in a failed state and really should be replaced. Sandy said that one is going to be moved. Duncan asked if there will be a new one. Sandy said yes.

Gordy asked if the town has a schedule for paving. Duncan said it has to be done before July 1.

Scott said he had to leave. He said the beginning of this meeting was embarrassing. It was full of anger. He would like it to be remembered that we all pay town taxes. The School St. project is improving the area of the town school. Everyone benefits.

Nat said it sounds like the village is asking for a couple of town employees to help out 50-50 with labor on this project. He thinks the town should agree. Sandy said the village would not expect to be billed for town labor. Duncan asked, can the town also expect not to get billed for sweeping?

**Doug moved to share labor with the village for the storm drain project on School St., Mike seconded and the motion was passed.**

**7. *Planning Commission Email Accounts Cost Share***

Eric said the town is exploring getting some town email accounts for Planning Commission members. If they do not use their personal email accounts then if a Freedom of Information request comes in it is a lot cleaner. They can just dump all their correspondence. It is a village Planning Commission so they are asking for cost sharing.

Walter said the village ceded all control of the Planning Commission to the town. They have no power or authority over the Planning Commission. Eric said the village adopted the Planning Commission as their Planning Commission.



Eric said there are 9 members of the Planning Commission. Duncan and Sandy said the email accounts will cost about \$7-8 per person. Eric said the town has not asked the village for help with any other Planning Commission expenses but there is a cost.

Gordy asked if the town foresees any new Planning Commission costs coming. Eric said the town has a line item for consultants for them and the town pays for minute taking for them.

Walter asked what the Planning Commission does for the village that doesn't benefit all the people in the town. Eric said the village plan. Walter said it will be a joint village/town plan. He said village residents are being asked to pay twice but they are not getting double services. Everything the Planning Commission does is for the benefit of all Johnson residents pretty much equally but the village taxpayers are being asked to pay twice. This amount is small but he is concerned about the principle.

Other board members spoke in favor of working together. David said we are here tonight to work as a team, not to argue. He doesn't have a problem paying \$55 to help. **David moved that the village trustees pay 50% of the cost of email accounts for Planning Commission members, Walter seconded and the motion was passed.**

8. ***Library Crosswalk/Sidewalk (continued)***

Nat said it sounded like we were starting to get somewhere on the crosswalk issue. A crosswalk is beneficial. Would it be amenable to the trustees to handle it the way the storm water system project is being handled – with the town providing half the labor and the village providing half the labor and paying for the materials? Trustees said that was what they were hoping for. **Nat moved that the town contribute 50% of the labor for the library crosswalk project as described in Brian Krause's plan, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.**

9. ***Clark St. Stormwater Issues***

Eric said the issues came about because a few years ago the town paved the road and crowned it correctly. It used to be that all the water ran down the road. The road is working as designed, but the amount of water being shed is causing some problems with flooding in residents' basements. It would benefit from a storm drain.

Walter asked, wouldn't some curbs suffice to direct water downhill? Duncan said in 2013 he and staff met with experts who had several suggestions for dealing with Clark St. stormwater – a dry well system, a curb, or storm drains. But he was told that some of the elevations are off and we would have to redo some storm drains on Railroad St. in order to put a storm drain on Clark St. Walter said he doesn't see a storm drain as the low cost option compared to curbing to keep the water on the road. Eric said he thinks we have done the lost cost items. Highways are designed to shed water, not keep it on the road. (*Jessica Bickford left at 8:28.*)

Duncan said one lower cost option that he is not sure would be 100% effective would be to put in a dry well. That would work well at certain times of the year and less well at other times. Its effectiveness depends on the underlying soil. Solutions like this are now being referred to as green solutions and we are going to be asked to do more of them.

Sandy asked if it can be done within the right of way. Duncan said yes. David asked if we need to hire an engineer. Duncan said we can do it ourselves. It was agreed to have Troy and Brian look into it and come up with an estimate for a dry well. Eric said there is no need for them to come back to the boards with the estimate if the cost will not be substantial. Duncan said we are just talking about digging a hole and filling it with fabric and stone.

Doug said he would like to try to be proactive and maybe come back to this. When the town puts in a road they create a problem for the village. He thinks there should be planning involving both boards in this. He thinks we should look at the existing situation with regard to curbs and water to know what issues we might want to address. David said he is talking about a capital plan for all structures. Doug said yes.

Duncan said he doesn't know another village in Vermont where the village doesn't take responsibility for highways in the village. He has been on a VLCT committee discussing the new stormwater legislation coming out. Every time the subject comes up of who will be eligible for grants he explains Johnson's situation where the village owns the sidewalks and storm drains and asks if they will be eligible to apply for grant funding and they give blank stares like they don't know but aren't going to design the rules for Johnson. The new rules will either require the town and village to cooperate in applying for grants or a changed situation where one entity or the other owns everything. That is a reality we are going to face within a couple of years.

Doug asked if a capital budget plan would help us then. Duncan said yes. David said the trustees have already started the planning process with sidewalks. Eric asked what the condition of storm drains is. Duncan said except for those that are new they are in terrible condition. Doug said going forward he finds it easier to cooperate if we have a plan and know what is coming and are not dealing with things on an emergency basis.

Mike asked, wouldn't it be cleaner if everything in the village limits was the village's? Eric said he thinks we will have to think about it one way or the other in the future. Gordy said up until tonight we were both in it together. Now it sounds like the town is saying the village is in it alone. Duncan said if the town ended up owning all the infrastructure then it would be cleaner. Then there would be no competition between town and village projects. Getting the College Hill structures grant takes the town out of the loop for a few years as far as getting other structures grants. Gordy said the old agreement about which drains the town and village would each be responsible for seemed like a good solution to both boards. Eric said at that time the boards used to negotiate the 10 cents on the grand lists. Duncan said it seemed like a good solution but Steve Smith and Steve Towne used to argue about who owned a particular structure. It often was hard to apply the theory to given situations.

#### **10. *Jim Marvin Awards***

Walter suggested Butternut Mountain Farm would be a perfect candidate for a Jim Marvin award. He suggested that the trustees and selectboard each submit a nomination for Butternut Mountain Farms. Eric said that and the bandstand were the two ideas the selectboard had. Walter said he thinks both boards should nominate Butternut Mountain Farms in recognition of the significant investment and commitment to downtown Johnson. The town could also nominate the bandstand. Eric said the bandstand could possibly be nominated next year.

Duncan said he would recommend nominating Butternut Mountain Farms because they received state tax incentives due to the village downtown designation and because the town provided tax stabilization, so there is both a town and a village connection.

**Walter moved to direct Gordy to submit a Jim Marvin award nomination for Butternut Mountain Farms, David seconded and the motion was passed.**

**Mike moved to direct Eric to submit a Jim Marvin award nomination for Butternut Mountain Farms, Kyle seconded and the motion was passed.**

#### ***11. Electric Vehicle Charging Station***

Gordy said by December with the help of Rosemary and the village manager the trustees can try to get the numbers Mike asked for.

Gordy said he doesn't want to discuss the merits of a charging station. He just wants to bring up that he would like to see more cooperation between the boards. The trustees had a discussion about the charging station and voted 2-3 against applying for a grant for it. Then Lea went right to the selectboard and it felt like the selectboard went behind the trustees' backs in applying for the grant. If one board says no to something, can the other board at least communicate with them about why?

Eric said the village had asked if it would be all right to use joint property for the station. As it was relayed to the selectboard the trustees decided not to apply for fiscal reasons. The selectboard was asked and decided to go ahead, given that the village had already been planning on it.

Nat said it might have been good if someone had communicated with the trustees to ask why they turned down the opportunity and what they thought about the selectboard applying for the grant. Doug disagreed.

#### ***12. Other Business***

Eric said the selectboard had discussed that if Lea were not here it might be possible to combine her position with the town administrator position. Lea is leaving. That is good reason for the selectboard to offer a full-time position to someone who could serve as both town administrator and community economic development coordinator. If the town does that, they could subcontract with the village to help out with community economic development if there was capacity but there might not be. What are the trustees' thoughts? The selectboard is going to have a meeting next week to discuss the job description.

Gordy said he had considered having the village manager do more of what Lea did.

Eric said he is not sure how many hours the town would need. An option on the table would be to subcontract with LCPC for grant administration. The selectboard hasn't had a chance to talk this through since finding out Lea will be leaving. Their thought was that there would be enough workload between the two positions for one full-time employee.

Gordy said the trustees can discuss it. David said given the circumstances in the village on Railroad Street, he thinks it is imperative to have someone looking out for the best interests

of the village and town and helping grow our community. He would be supportive of having a joint village and town person again but the trustees haven't had a chance to have a conversation about it. Doug asked is if that is the sense of the rest of the trustees. Walter said he hasn't thought it through. There is a lot of sense in what Eric is saying but the person will flutter around from project to project. He is not sure how to address that.

Eric said the town administrator position and the community economic development coordinator position are very different. It may be hard to find a candidate who can fit the two roles. But it might also be hard to find someone who is willing to work 27 hours a week. He is not sure what the selectboard will do but they have to advertise for a new town administrator quickly and they may combine the two positions.

Doug said for simplicity he would favor having the community economic development coordinator be a town employee but he thinks it is in the interest of the village and town to have a shared position for a shared vision. He thinks it is easier to fill it as a town position but we would benefit if we had the same person working towards the same goals for town and village.

Bob said if the village had a manager doing this type of work for 2-3 hours a week there would be no reason that person and the town employee couldn't share notes.

Duncan said he thinks there is definite wisdom in having the employee be under one entity, which would contract with the other entity. He thinks that would make sense for that position. He thinks even if the town hires the person there is still capacity for the person to provide assistance to the village, which would pay the town an hourly rate.

Eric said one item in the town administrator job description was responsibility for overseeing all the buildings. There is a question of what to put in the job description regarding shared buildings. How did the trustees address that in the village manager job description? Walter said he doesn't think they addressed it. Sandy said it seems obvious that the two administrators have to work together.

Eric asked, should we somehow divide up the buildings so the buck stops with one person? Sandy asked if there is a problem with the way it has worked out this year. Duncan said there will be two new administrators with no history. There are some unique situations. It would be useful to have agreement between the village and the town about what buildings are shared. The Water & Light building is jointly owned but the village has taken care of it. The highway department building is a shared building but the town has taken care of it.

Sandy said there will be a power outage from midnight to 4:00 am Thursday night/Friday morning. There is a problem with the Morrisville line and the electric department will do some other work while the line is de-energized.

Rosemary gave the trustees some orders to sign.

Doug said he thinks the boards need to move forward with a capital plan.

Eric said the meeting started out contentious but he thinks the boards worked things out. Gordy agreed that the two boards came around.

Eric encouraged everyone interested in economic development to come to the community meeting at the end of April. There will be discussion about crime, schools, and poverty, which all tie together.

Sandy said the trustees have to reapply for the village center designation. They plan to extend the boundary to include Railroad St. if the state accepts it. That would allow investors there to get tax credits, which could possibly spur improvements.

Eric said he saw quite a number of traffic stops on Railroad St. on the report from the sheriff's department. What was striking was the number of "quality of life" type calls.

**13. Adjourn - Selectboard**

The selectboard adjourned at 9:07.

**14. Trustees – Other Business**

The trustees discussed giving a donation in memory of former village employee Tommy Horner. The board agreed a donation of \$50 would be appropriate. Rosemary will take care of it.

**15. Trustees – Executive Session for Personnel Matter**

**It was moved and seconded to enter executive session for a personnel matter at 9:11 and the motion was passed. Walter moved and Bob seconded to exit executive session at 9:42 and the motion was passed.**

**David moved and Walter seconded to accept Lea Kilvadyova's resignation and to direct Sandy to communicate to Lea the trustees' thanks for her service to the village and to wish her well in the future. The motion was passed.**

**16. Adjourn - Trustees**

Walter moved and Bob seconded to adjourn at 9:42 and the motion was passed.

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*