



Village News

April 2020

Covid-19 Response & Resources

Like all communities throughout Vermont and the United States, Johnson is dealing with the changes to daily life and normal operations brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Village and Town of Johnson elected officials and municipal staff have been actively working together since the onset of the pandemic and that coordination continues each day.

To provide Johnson residents with a single point of access to information and resources related to the pandemic, we have created the following page on the municipal website: <http://townofjohnson.com/covid-19/> Please check this page regularly for updates, including local information about changes to municipal operations.

To protect the health of both staff, residents, and utility customers, the Village has implemented staffing changes and the Municipal office is closed to the public until further notice. Full details about Village operations and utilities can be found on the reverse side of this page.

Annual Village Meeting & Elections Postponed

Due to the social distancing order and ban on gatherings over 10, the Village has postponed the Annual Village Meeting and Village elections that should have taken place in early April. At this time, we hope to reschedule the Annual Meeting and elections to take place during the first week of June, with the Village Annual Report mailed out to Village residents a few weeks before. Obviously, if the ban on gatherings of over 10 people continues beyond early June, the Village will have to come up with another plan. Updates and more specific information will be provided as soon as possible.

Village Trustee Monthly Meetings

In late March, Governor Scott signed bill H.681, which provides for temporary changes to the Open Meeting Law. In particular, the bill suspends the requirement for a public meeting to specify a physical location where the public can participate and the meeting can be held completely electronically when a quorum of the public body participates electronically without being physically present. The bill requires the public body to use electronic means that will allow the public to participate in the meeting and shall allow the public to access the meeting by phone whenever feasible.

With these new provisions now in place, the Village plans to hold the April 13th Trustee meeting electronically. The means by which the public can participate in the April 13th meeting, either online or by phone, will be posted at least 48 hours before the meeting on the meeting agenda and will be posted on the Municipal website, Village facebook page, and Front Porch Forum. It is possible future monthly Trustees meetings beyond April may be conducted electronically as well.

[See reverse for more info](#)



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON
Water & Light Department

PO Box 603
Johnson, VT 05656
Phone: 802-635-2611

Update on Village Utility Operations During Covid-19 State of Emergency

The Village wants to assure its customers that it is taking active measures to maintain our ability to provide essential electric, water, and sewer services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Staff Availability

In order to protect the health of our office and field staff and in keeping with CDC recommendations, changes have been made to Village staffing.

- The Johnson Municipal Building is closed to the public until further notice. Some staff will be present during normal business hours (Monday-Friday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM) to take phone calls, respond to emails, and answer questions.
- In order to protect the health of our field crew members, the Village field crew presence on-site daily will be reduced to the minimum needed to maintain operations. This staffing level intended to preserve the Village crew's ability to respond to an outage or emergency when needed. At this time, all outage and emergency response procedures are unchanged. Please use the following contacts to report a utility outage or emergency:
 - During business hours, please call 635-2611
 - Outside business hours, please call 1-844-287-6709

Utility Billing & Payments

- The Village crew will complete the normal monthly meter reading needed to calculate customers' monthly electric, water, and sewer bills.
- We do not anticipate any changes to our billing process or schedule.
- **Please make every effort to pay your utility bills as usual.** If you are having trouble paying your utility bills, please call us so we can discuss payment options with you.
- With the Municipal Building being closed, in-person payments are not possible. These are the methods of bill payment currently available:
 - By Mail: Utilize the envelope provided and mail your payments
 - Drop Box: Cash and check payments can be put in the drop box near the main entrance to the Municipal Building. Make sure to place your payment in an envelope and include your name and account number.
 - By Phone: The Village can accept credit card payments over phone during normal business hours.
 - Online: The Village accepts credit card payments made online using the following link - <http://townofjohnson.com/documents/make-payment/>

Help Protect the Sewer System

The Village wants to remind our sewer customers **NOT to flush anything other than toilet paper**. Toilet paper is made to disintegrate and our wastewater system is able to handle it. Disinfecting wipes, paper towels, and other similar materials, even those labeled as flushable, are thicker and are not designed to disintegrate like toilet paper. Flushing these items can result in clogged sewer lines and negatively impact wastewater plant operations. The Village wants to remind the public that these items are **not flushable like toilet paper**. **If you are using these alternatives to toilet paper, please throw them in the trash and do not flush them.**