

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019

**Present:** Howard Romero, Joie Lehouillier, Mara Siegel, Sophia Berard

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

Howard called the meeting to order at 7:05.

The committee discussed rewording the minutes of October 17 to make it clear that Jack Dennis is not part of the composting operation. **Mara moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2019 with that change, Sophie seconded and the motion was passed.**

Mara distributed information on 2019-20 and 2018-19 income and expenditures from Rosemary and proposed budget estimates for 2020-21. She said Brian sent her a copy of the budget form she needs to fill out for the town. We accrue most of our income during one fiscal year and spend it in the next fiscal year. Brian explained to her that any income we have left over has to go back to the taxpayers, but we can encumber funds, which means committing the money. That is what we will be doing. She will work on the budget some more and meet with Brian again.

She budgeted income from 20 sponsors at \$250 each. She is hoping we will have more sponsors but thought we would have at least that many. She budgeted for 8 vendors at \$175, even though she thinks we are going to try to get 10.

Mara said in looking over income from the past 2 years it appears that one vendor did not pay us last year. The town can bill them. Joie suggested telling them that we need last year's money and this year's by a certain date. And maybe we should put in our policy the date that vendors need to pay by. It is a small amount of money so there is no reason it should take a long time for people to pay.

Sophie and Mara mentioned possible vendors they know of.

For FY21 expenses, Mara budgeted \$500 times 8 for the bands. She thought \$500 was an average fee. She estimated \$1000 for portable toilets based on the amount we paid previously plus a little more. The town isn't going to pay for them and she understands why. They wouldn't have them on Legion Field if not for TNL so they feel we should pay.

Howard said he called Hartigan and Working Dog. Working Dog charges \$110 for a standard unit and \$135 for a handicapped-accessible one. Hartigan charges \$155 and \$199. He reserved 3 standard portable toilets and one handicapped-accessible one from Working Dog.

Sophie asked if we want to keep the toilets locked except for TNL and the pizza bake nights. Mara said she thinks we should just keep them open.

Mara asked what other expenses anyone anticipates. Howard said he thinks we should budget about \$2K a year for equipment purchases and little by little we will build up our sound system.

Mara said we would have to spend it each year. Howard said he doesn't think that is a problem. Mara said from what she understands we can't accrue an endowment. Howard said he wonders how the skate park does it. They are saving up for another feature. Joie brought up the fact that we are raising the money; it is not taxpayer money. Mara said it is being raised on behalf of the town. Howard said we may have to establish a reserve fund. The town does that for things like truck purchases. Mara said she will ask if the rules about not carrying over money apply to money that doesn't come from taxes.

Sophie said we had talked about water bottles and meal vouchers for bands. Were we talking about having vendors eat the cost of the meal vouchers, or would we pay for the meals? She thinks the bands should eat for free. We could pay for meals each week or they could be allowed to choose a vendor and that vendor would provide the meal at no cost. Mara asked, what if everyone chooses the same vendor every week? Sophie said we should pay. Joie suggested we could mention this as one reason we want to raise the fee for vendors. Mara said we would increase their fee but also cover this cost. Howard suggested we could print up vouchers and hand them out and then vendors would return them to us for money. It was agreed that the voucher will cover the cost of the meal up to a maximum of \$15. Sophie said we can suggest that the vendor can cover the cost if they want to, otherwise they can hand the voucher back to us.

It was agreed to budget for water bottles.

Joie said someone has to be in charge of handling the vouchers. Sophie said she can hand out vouchers when she greets the bands. Mara said there are usually a couple of people there at the end who can pay vendors for vouchers used.

**Sophie moved to give each band member (including the sound person if they bring one) a voucher for a meal not to exceed \$15 and the motion was seconded and passed.**

**Joie moved to raise the vendor fee to \$200, Mara seconded and the motion was passed.**

It was agreed to budget \$300 for supplies. That includes materials for a couple of new signs.

Howard said he thinks it would be good to use Black Dirt to pick up our compost rather than LRSWMD because if we going to insist that vendors use plant-based tableware that needs a really hot pile to break down. The piles at the LRSWMD facility are too small and not hot enough but Black Dirt said it would no problem for them.

Mara said we can also talk to the Stefanskis about their composting operation's capabilities. Joie said it doesn't sound like their piles will be hot enough to break down the compostable dishes. Mara said they will know more by summer about their capability.

Howard said Black Dirt charges \$20 for each pickup. So we should budget \$160 for compost fees. We won't be able to leave compost sitting around for a week because it will smell bad. We will have to do something with it every week.

Howard said he thinks the trash and recycling station should be beside and a little behind the Historical Society booth. Most people come and go from that direction.

Joie said there was a question of us paying for an extra pickup rather than getting our own dumpster. Did we ever ask about that? Howard said he didn't. Joie asked if Mara had budgeted for getting our own dumpster. Mara said no.

Howard said if vendors can all use plant-based dishes and we have someone sorting materials, we can reduce the number of trash bags by a huge amount.

Sophie said she needs to send a link for the compostable containers to vendors and tell them to purchase them if they want to be a vendor. Last year two vendors initially showed up with styrofoam. What do we do if that happens again? Howard said we tell them they can't sell their food. Sophie brought up the plastic bags the popcorn comes in. Howard said that can be recycled. And pizza boxes can be recycled if the vendor puts a grease absorbing slip between the pizza and the cardboard.

Joie said we really have to make sure we have people who are willing to sort trash and she doesn't think that will be easy. She would rather drive to the dumpster than stand there. Howard said we may have to have an employee or two. Mara said the town won't let us hire someone because they would be a town employee. Howard said he thinks there is a pay threshold or a way around that. He will try the Boy Scouts. Mara said students who need to do community service are a possibility. Or maybe a high school or college club. Howard said maybe an Eagle Scout candidate could man the greening station and also build it. Sophie said she can ask about the setup at the Waitsfield farmer's market. We should remember to have lights so people will know to go there and can see what they are doing.

Sophie asked if we are going to budget a stipend for Tim. Howard said Tim said no to that. His sound crew from the college gets paid from his budget there.

Howard said he doesn't know the cost of a dumpster. He hopes we will be down to one bag of trash. Much of what was in the dumpster was food service containers. Mara said if we are down to one bag it seems like we could ask for an extra pickup from the town. Joie offered to ask the town about that. She said she can also get the price of a dumpster from Casella.

Mara gave Sophie the card of a band that could potentially play at TNL. Sophie said she reached out to Seth Yacovone to try to get him for the first spot. She hasn't heard back.

Sophie said Tom Moog contacted her and wants to be on this committee. Howard said he had spoken to someone else who expressed interest in being on the committee and invited them to this meeting. Sophie said she will invite Tom Moog to the next meeting.

It was agreed to schedule the next meeting for December 12.

Howard said his question was about the timing of booking bands. Sophie said she thinks it could happen at any point.

The committee discussed when to contact businesses about being sponsors. Joie said they may want to make contributions before the end of the year for financial reasons. It was agreed that Sophie will send out a letter to businesses in early December and will contact them again early next year.

Howard suggested that committee members read over the draft letter he had prepared for the town report.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:17 and the motion was passed.

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*