

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

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

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

Howard called the meeting to order at 7:07.

The committee reviewed the draft letter for the town report that Howard had written and made some suggestions for changes.

Howard said his plan was that if Tom still wanted to join the committee after this meeting he would ask the selectboard to appoint him. But we forgot to advertise the open position. It will be advertised and then the selectboard can make an appointment on January 6th. Committee members said that they feel Tom would fit in well on the committee. Tom said he would be happy to join. Joie asked, what if many people want to join the committee? Howard said in that case we will interview them all.

Joie said that the minutes of the last meeting do reflect what she said but she wanted to clarify that when she said she would rather drive to the dumpster than sort trash, she didn't mean that she didn't think we should sort it, just that she personally would prefer not to do that job.

Tom asked if vendors need to take their trash. Sophia said they used to but the previous committee raised the vendor fee and said that we would handle trash and we continued with that. We are asking vendors not to use styrofoam and to use compostable containers.

Howard said Black Dirt will collect compostable materials for \$20 per pick up. He tried contacting a Boy Scout leader about having the Boy Scouts do trash sorting but he hasn't heard back. Mara said kids who need community service for high school are another possibility. Howard said Restorative Justice is also a possibility.

**Sophie moved to approve the minutes of November 21, 2019, Mara seconded and the motion was passed.**

Mara handed out a draft budget for next year. She said it looks like we will probably have a surplus at the end of next year. The selectboard agreed to pay for one toilet so our cost will be less than the amount budgeted. There is padding in the budget numbers.

Mara said Howard was going to follow up with Brian Story about carrying over funds from one fiscal year to the next. There is precedent for that with the rec committee. Howard said he spoke to the selectboard. They are going to decide if the board should put a TNL reserve fund before the voters. We would have to earmark the money for something specific. Mara said it is possible to encumber funds.

Tom asked if the board can buy things on its own. Committee members said yes; purchases don't have to be approved by the selectboard.

Mara said she needs to run the draft budget by Brian Story.

Mara said she will have Rosemary bill the vendor who did not pay for this year.

Sophie asked about the best approach if there is a vendor we do not want to use again next year. Tom suggested saying nothing to the vendor and if they reach out we can tell them we already have that type of food. Joie asked, what if the vendor just shows up? Tom said he could make sure that all vendors who show up on the first day are people who have already paid. Sophie said we can reach out to a different vendor and then do as Tom suggests. Mara gave Sophie the card for a vendor who might be interested. Sophie said she knows of another possible vendor. Joie said if we haven't heard from the problem vendor by about June we can talk about what to do. Tom said he could let the vendor know at that point that we are all full for vendors.

Mara said it looks like the budget we have for next year will leave a couple of thousand dollars surplus at the end of the year.

Howard suggested increasing the amount budgeted for compost and recycling from \$400 to \$600 and the committee agreed to that.

Tom asked if sponsors are allowed to vend. Committee members said they don't think there is any reason they could not. Tom said when Cal Stanton was running Tuesday Night Live one year when vendor spots were all full Cal told him that he could vend if he paid a sponsor fee, so he did that. Sophie said no sponsors have asked to vend; we have only had vendors ask to sponsor. Joie said she doesn't think we would want to let a sponsor vend without also paying the vendor fee.

Tom asked if the committee got any complaints when the vendor fee was raised. Mara said no. Tom said he wonders if we might want to add a week to the season so that vendors could make more money. Other committee members pointed out that by the end of the season it is getting dark early enough that we would probably have to start earlier. Joie suggested we could possibly add a week before the usual start date but starting after July 4th is the tradition. Perhaps for 2021 we could think about extending the season. Tom said he thinks if we are not getting revenue from attendees we probably should keep the season the same length.

Sophie said she thinks for the letter we sent to the vendors we need a good reason for increasing the fee. We could explain that the cost of dealing with trash and recycling was more than we thought. Joie said she doesn't think we need to give any reason unless people ask. She thinks we should just tell them what the fee is and if they ask we can explain our reasons.

Howard said the compostable containers should be uniform in size and shape. He wants to find out from vendors how many they need in different shapes and sizes. We could buy them and sell them to the vendors at cost. Mara suggested checking with the town to see if we are allowed to do that. Tom said they may all want something different. Howard said he feels we probably will

have to buy them ourselves if we want the system to work. Tom suggested it may be cheaper to get them from W.B. Mason. Mara said if we were going to sell containers to vendors she would want vendors to pay for them up front before the event. She would not want us to sell them at Tuesday Night Live. Joie said she will check with W.B. Mason.

Howard said Tim would like us to pay his students. Tim suggested \$50 plus dinner for two students for a night – not \$50 each, \$50 for two of them. Committee members agreed that they would like to discuss this with Tim when he is present.

Mara said if we are going to do that it adds a considerable expense to the budget. Can she change the title of the equipment line item to something that could include paying sound people? Joie suggested paying the sound people should be on a separate line item from equipment because equipment depreciates. It was agreed to add a Miscellaneous Entertainment Expenses line item and put \$800 in it, removing some money from equipment. Tom asked about the legal requirements for what we must pay people. Other committee members said that is one of the reasons we need to talk to Tim about it.

Joie said she will ask Brian about paying for an extra pickup of the town dumpster instead of getting a dumpster for Tuesday Night Live. She will also contact Casella.

There was discussion about whether the portable toilets should be locked. It was agreed to try leaving them unlocked and see how that works. The committee discussed the schedule for cleaning the toilets and agreed that doing it around Friday would probably be the best. Howard said he will call Working Dog and ask about that.

The next meeting will be on January 16th. Howard will ask Tim to come. .

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:34 and the motion was passed.

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*