

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018

Present:

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

Others: Brian Story, Brian Krause

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:00.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda

Brian added discussion of an item that probably should be included on the agenda for the regular meeting next week – form based code.

3. Review Site Conditions and Necessary Mitigation Measures for Proposed Radar Speed Feedback Signs

Brian said Roger Marcoux has offered to pay for two radar speed feedback signs. We identified the most helpful locations as the spots on Route 15 on the east and west sides of the village where the speed changes from 35 to 25. The state has been pretty supportive about their installation but there is a problem with installing a solar sign on the east side in the gulf because there likely won't be enough sun. We would have to run power to it. There don't appear to be any transformers in the area we can tap into so it is likely to be fairly expensive to complete installation of a radar speed feedback sign at that location. Brian informally asked Meredith if the village would be willing to pay for operation of the sign. State guidelines recommend placing these signs at a speed limit transition point. The state would like us to install the signs at the site of the existing speed limit signs. We would likely have to replace the pole for the western sign because the current pole probably isn't tall enough to support both signs. For the eastern sign maybe we could install a solar panel somewhere nearby where there is more light.

Doug asked, what about putting a sign on 100C instead? Brian said he thinks it would be great to have a speed feedback sign on 100C at some point. Eric said most complaints we get are about traffic coming down Gulf Hill into the village. Brian said we haven't done a speed study on 100C. Eric said people have to stop at the end of 100C anyway. Doug said we can put a sign on Gulf Hill but gravity won't change. We will be fighting a physical fact. He thinks 100C has more houses along the section where people speed than there are along the section of 15 where people speed coming into the village.

Brian said we could change the location of the speed sign. We have completed a speed study on 15. Eric said we could put the sign at the top of the hill, but the state doesn't like that location. Brian said the state doesn't like moving the sign closer to the houses or moving it farther up the hill. We could put it at the spot where the speed limit changes to 35. That would be acceptable according to state guidelines. We haven't done a speed study there. It is some distance from the gulf and he doesn't think it would be especially helpful there. Nat said that is where the accidents are. Eric said there aren't a lot of accidents in the village, just a perception that traffic is too fast. Kyle said many people have had close calls. Brian said it

would be nice to put the sign nearer to the village center but that is not supported by state guidelines. The state likes the signs at transition points. Eric said we could try putting it where the speed limit transitions to 35 and if it doesn't make a difference we can move it. Brian said he can check with the state and see if they will let us relocate it without a study.

4. *Review Proposed Scoping Study of Stormwater Issues on the Roads Within the Village Limits*

Brian said he has received a number of complaints about areas where we have pooling of stormwater on roads and sidewalks. There are upcoming ERP grants to do stormwater studies that we can apply for. We will probably do a stormwater study for the light industrial park before we install any infrastructure. He thinks it would address some resident concerns if we did a similar study in the village. He would like to split it with the village. In some cases it is not clear whether the issues are with the roadway or the storm drains. He described two spots on Railroad Street and two on Pearl Street that have stormwater pooling issues.

Doug asked what is involved in a study. Brian said a study would mean hiring a consultant to propose fixes. Eric said it might be worth checking with the village about Pearl Street. They had engineers involved in addressing issues there. Doug asked, don't we have in house expertise in Brian Krause? Brian said he could shoot some grades and get information on where water would have to go.

Brian asked if the board wants him to pursue this with LCPC. They would do most of the work of putting a grant application together. We don't know what the match would be but there is unlikely to be much out of pocket cost. Eric said we shouldn't do it unless the village is willing to partner with us. Brian agreed. Doug said he thinks we should have Brian K. shoot some grades and get some information first. He doesn't think we need a consultant.

5. *Review Requested Transfer of Right of Way on 276 School Street*

The board reviewed the document drawn up by Bob Sweetser's lawyer to transfer the right of way and right of first sale the town has on pieces of his property. Dave Barra reviewed it and said it does what it is supposed to do.

Doug asked if we asked Dave Barra whether we have to post a notice that we are doing this transfer. Eric said he is not sure whether the Conveyer of Real Estate needs to be involved. Brian said he understands that the board has to take action on the transfer at a publicly warned meeting, then post a notice about it afterwards for public review.

Eric asked that action on this be deferred until the next meeting after Brian has confirmed that the board can sign the transfer before posting and found out whether we need our agent to transfer property involved.

6. *Review the Status of Water Pipes in the Holcomb House*

Brian said pipes under the house froze this last week during an especially cold spell. They were thawed and antifreeze was put in them. He is not sure what damage was done, if any. We will have a plumber do an assessment.

7. *Form Based Code Agenda Item for Next Meeting*

It was agreed to add an item relating to form based code to the agenda for the next regular meeting. The board reiterated the position that they want to hear the will of voters at Town Meeting before voting on form based code.

8. Review Proposed 2018-2019 Budget

The board started by reviewing the reserve fund. They discussed the replacement schedule. There was discussion about whether we should we change the number of single axle and tandem trucks. In winter the single axle is a good fit for pavement and the tandem for the gravel roads. Tandems are helpful for staying ahead of the buses. The biggest challenge is in the summer. The heavier trucks are a good pair for the excavator to maintain the workflow in the summer.

The board discussed PILOT payments, highway grant lines, and library budget changes. There was discussion about whether the board wants to apply a January 1st estimated pay increase.

The board discussed adding a fifth highway employee. Brian K. said we have enough equipment to cover the additional coverage. Overtime may change. There could be a change to two shifts in the winter. Could new employees have new overtime rules? Brian K. feels that would be problematic. For overtime we could create a target without changing the limit. Increased safety and quality of life may help offset the cost and reduced employee revenue. We're farther along with MRGP compliance than many other communities, but we are still likely to struggle with meeting deadlines. Steep roads are the first target area. The board would like a better understanding of how much we will save and spend for a 5th employee.

Brian increased the amount budgeted for gravel/stone to support the transition to purchase of gravel and extend the life of the gravel pit. This lines up with our current use. The safety line item will be changed to reflect safety rated boots.

Time will be scheduled to talk with Steve Engel about the clock tower before town meeting.

The board discussed who to dedicate the annual report to.

It was agreed to keep the fifth highway employee in the next budget draft.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths