

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

**Present:**

Selectboard Members: Kathy Black, Nat Kinney, Eric Osgood, Howard Romero

Others: Duncan Hastings (Manager), Steve Smith, Lois Frey, Bob Selby, two Historical Society members

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

**1. *Call to Order***

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:01.

**2. *Review of Agenda and Any Adjustments and Additions***

It was agreed to add an executive session for a personnel matter.

**3. *Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past***

**Howard moved to approve the minutes of August 18 with the edits suggested by Eric, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

**Nat moved to approve the minutes of September 10, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.**

**4. *Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills, Warrants, Licenses / Any Action Items***

Duncan distributed information provided by Rosemary.

**Howard moved to approve the liquor catering request from Sodexo for events at Johnson State College on September 19/20, 2014, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

**5. *Road Commissioner Report / Road Foreman Report***

Steve said 2.1 inches of rain had fallen since the last meeting. The mud abatement work on Clay Hill started on August 18 and finished September 2. He won't have a final cost until all the bills come in. Fifty yards of ledge had to be removed. The town delivered 4 truckloads of wood for the Wood Bank. The crew is now grading and sanding. Bruce Smith's last day was September 10. A culvert was installed on the rail trail.

Duncan said he was approached by a resident concerned about the depth of the ditch on one side of Clay Hill and the possibility that people might end up going into the ditch. The resident recommended putting up a marker to advise people to be cautious going around the bend. Steve said we could put up delineators.

**6. *Recreation Committee***

Nat said the committee still needs to talk to the possible new member.

Howard said he, Duncan, and Lois were all at the Journey's End dedication and Lois presented the selectboard with a bottle of Journey's End Ale.

7. ***Manager's Report and Any Action Items***

**Howard moved to give the Vermont Covered Bridge Society permission to post small identification/information patches at covered bridge sites in Johnson, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Steve, Duncan, and the board discussed Steve's hiring recommendation for the open highway department position. *(Bob Selby and two members of the Historical Society arrived at 7:28.)*

**Nat moved to hire Jason Whitehill for the open highway department position based on his qualifications, interview, and application and to authorize Duncan to make him an offer of \$1 less than the standard wage for a 6 month probationary period, to be raised to the standard wage after 6 months dependent on satisfactory performance, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Arjay West requests two loads of gravel at the site of the Willow Crossing dry hydrant to be installed with grant funds. He also requests trucking to deliver 1-2 loads of rip-rap, probably from Manosh, to the site. The target install date is October 11. **Howard moved to provide 2 loads of gravel and trucking for 1-2 loads of rip-rap as a match for the Willow Crossing dry hydrant grant, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Paving is planned for the first week in October, weather dependent. Duncan hopes the crosswalks will be done at the same time.

Duncan said the local FEMA representative has submitted to the regional office a recommendation that Coddington Hollow be declared eligible as a project. FEMA would pay for replacement of the structure that was there, not the structure we will be required to build under Stream Alteration Rules. FEMA will assign a dollar value, we will have to start the process of design, permitting, etc. and come up with an estimated construction cost, then go back to FEMA and ask for mitigation of the difference between the amount they have authorized and the actual cost to us. Duncan will prepare and submit an RFP for engineering services.

Rocky Road repairs have been completed. We will be reimbursed for the cost of putting back what we lost. An engineer FEMA uses for mitigation programs has requested some information about Rocky Road, such as past costs for repairs, that will take some digging on our part. He thinks the site is a good candidate for mitigation but it has to pass the FEMA cost-benefit analysis.

At some point we will have to backfill and provide sure-pack for the trailhead building.

8. ***Planning Commission Report***

Bob said last month the Planning Commission opted to take no action with respect to recommendations for grant applications. They thought they would leave it up to the selectboard. Then they had a conversation with Lea, who feels it is important to try to find funding to make a town/village plan work. The LCPC director came to speak to the Planning Commission about this. She will work with Lea on a grant application.

The Planning Commission has primarily been focused on getting the form-based zoning steering committee underway. The committee has had two meetings. No one was willing to take notes at the meetings, so Rosemary has been asked to look into purchasing a recording device they could share.

Duncan showed the board a resolution forwarded by Lea about the municipal planning grant. The total budget for updating the town/village plan would be \$18,610, and the town's share would be \$3,501, some of which would be Lea's time.

**Howard moved to sign the resolution to apply for a Municipal Planning Grant for FY2105, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Wayne Stearns requested a noise ordinance waiver for a wedding on September 15. Because the event was before this meeting, Eric approved the waiver.

Duncan has not yet had a chance to look at the Drop-Off Center Operation and Maintenance Agreement between Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District and the Town of Johnson since it was forwarded to him by the district. He can copy it and send it out to the board for review.

**Howard moved to appoint Eric as voting delegate for the VLCT Annual Business Meeting, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

**Nat moved to approve the noise ordinance waiver requested by William Bradley for a wedding on September 27, 2014 from 1:00 pm to midnight, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Dean and Tom of the Historical Society have solicited a proposal from Gilles Lehouillier for work on the Holcomb House property. Duncan reviewed what work is included in the proposal and what is not included. The total is \$71,372. Rosemary prepared a spreadsheet showing the Holcomb House fund balance. There is \$96,877 available.

**Nat moved to accept the \$71,372 proposal from Gilles Lehouillier for work on the Holcomb House and to authorize the Holcomb House Building Committee to spend the remaining Holcomb House funds up to the \$96,877 total to do other necessary work, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Bob Ross provided a plan and cost proposal for additional testing at the landfill and submitted it for review to ANR. They have basically agreed with the approach. **Howard moved to authorize Duncan to sign the cost proposal for \$2,465 from Ross Environmental for additional landfill monitoring and to submit it to ANR, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Duncan said that in the event Gilles Lehouillier is not available to do the Holcomb House work (which could be the case, as he also submitted a bid on another project), he suggests hiring someone to coordinate the process of developing an RFP and putting it out to local

contractors. He suggests Steve Pitkin, who is interested. **Howard moved that if Gilles Lehouillier is unavailable to do the work on the Holcomb House, Steve Pitkin should be asked to prepare a proposal to provide services to the Holcomb House Building Committee in drafting an RFP, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Duncan said the foreman for SD Ireland recommended to Steve that rather than grinding or milling some sections of Clay Hill and pulverizing others, we pulverize the entire road segment. Steve discussed with him all the concerns that have been raised and was assured that it could be done in such a way that the finished elevation would match the existing elevation. And the foreman said we could save money by doing it that way. The only thing Duncan is not sure about is what the finished thickness of the pavement would be. He has requested that in writing from SD Ireland, along with pricing.

Nat said the contractor working on the trailhead building will have trouble parking there on October 4 before 1:00 because there will be a soccer tournament at Old Mill Park. Howard said he will let the contractor know.

Duncan said the LCSD monthly report for August shows the detective position assisted both Morrisville and Stowe on our time. Eric said he thinks it would be good if the report showed how many times we are assisted by other departments, not just how many we assist. He will suggest that. *(The Historical Society members left at 8:25.)*

Duncan asked the board again about getting a quote for architects grade asphalt shingle for the Municipal Building roof. It should be quite a bit less expensive. At least two trustees have expressed concerns about snow dumping off the roof onto cars and the AC and heating units. When he talked to Steve Pitkin, his immediate question was about snow coming off the roof. Duncan thinks it is a legitimate issue. Eric said he has no problem with shingles. He thinks there are grades that are meant to last 30, 40, or 50 years. Gilles Lehouillier had commented that it would be difficult to put a steel roof on the building with the vents we have. Nat and Howard agreed getting a quote for shingles would be fine.

Duncan said Ron Rodjenski, Hyde Park's Town Administrator, has offered his services to help the town while Duncan is out. We would have to compensate him. Duncan thinks he wants \$25/hour. Eric suggested the Coddington Hollow work might be one thing Ron could assist with. Duncan said he could come up with a few items. Howard suggested the roof. Board members agreed to use Ron Rodjenski if needed to assist with work Duncan would normally do. Duncan suggested Ron might be able to help with some of Lea's work as well.

Eric asked if there is anything pressing now that needs to get done. Duncan said the RFP for the roof would be one thing. Steve Pitkin would be ideal for that. *(Kathy arrived at 8:36.)*  
**Nat moved to authorize Duncan to hire Steve Pitkin to develop an RFP for replacement of the Municipal Building roof, Howard seconded, and the motion was passed.**

**Howard moved to authorize Duncan to hire Ron Rodjenski to assist with work as needed, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.** Duncan said he would confer with Eric before hiring Ron.

Duncan showed a plaque the village electric department received for 100 years of service. The village has actually been providing electricity for 120 years.

**9. *Executive Session - Personnel***

**Howard moved to enter executive session to discuss Lea's health situation and work ability, with Duncan remaining, Nat seconded, the motion was passed, and the board entered executive session at 8:40.** The board came out of executive session at 9:20.

**Kathy moved to direct enroll in Blue Cross/Blue Shield and to make all health plans available to employees, seconded by Howard, and the motion was passed.** The town contribution to the plans will be decided later when increases are known.

**10. *Adjourn***

**Howard moved to adjourn at 9:21, Nat seconded, and the motion was passed.**

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*