

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD-VILLAGE TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018

Present:

Selectboard Members: Mike Dunham, Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood
Trustees: David Goddette, Scott Meyer, Walter Pomroy, Gordy Smith, Bob Sweetser (by phone)
Others: Brian Story, Meredith Birkett, Brad Carrier (Supervisor, NEMS), Arjay West, Tom Elwood, Emily Harris (Vermont Emergency Management), Brian Story, Troy Dolan, Meredith Birkett, Nathan Wolfe (LCSD), Kristen Binau (Regional Disaster Officer, Vermont/New Hampshire American Red Cross – by phone), Jim MacDowell, George Pearlman, Peter Moynihan, Jeanne Engel, Jane Draper, about 10 other members of the public

1. *Call to Order*

The meeting began at 12:00

2. *Adjustments to Agenda*

Eric said first there will be a working meeting with department heads and agency representatives, then the selectboard and trustee board will come to order and board members will be able to ask questions, then the general public will be able to ask questions.

3. *Working Meeting with Department Heads and Agency Representatives*

Eric said last weekend was very warm. Temperatures reached 60 degrees in some areas. And an inch or two of rain fell, causing flooding issues. What Eric learned is that with horizontal ice in a river, for every foot of ice it takes a rise of about 2-3 feet in the river to break it up and start it moving. Once an ice jam forms and the ice becomes vertical, you don't know what will happen. The saving grace for the weekend was that the temperatures rapidly dropped, helping to decrease the water level. But because of the rapid temperature drop, water froze between the chunks of ice, fortifying the ice jams and making them stronger. Gradual warming with warm days and cool nights is best for getting rid of ice.

The town had a drone fly over the ice jams, showing problem spots. There is an ice jam on the Lamoille from Ithiel falls to the falls below Dog's Head, with certain areas worse than others. On the Gihon there is an ice jam from where the Gihon meets the Lamoille to the Pearl Street bridge. Water in the rivers is down to a summer water level, less than the 3 ft. mark, but it looks higher in spots because of some ice damming. Some water blockage is happening now on the Gihon due to the restrictions. Water is over the banks of the Gihon near the sewer plant. It is a mixed blessing because as the water comes up it is helping to melt the ice. Another factor helping is that a little snow has fallen on the ice, insulating it so the ice level doesn't increase as temperatures cool in the evening. Water underneath is having a melting effect on the ice.

Temperatures around 40 degrees are forecast for the weekend. That is good. The slow rise in temperature will continue to work away at the ice. We have been in constant contact with the National Weather Service. They indicate that if we have any problems it would be next Tuesday or Wednesday. The changeover to rain is expected on Monday. An ice jam is a much different situation than what the town is familiar with. We have had flooding due to spring rains and runoff. That gives us hours to prepare. Flooding due to an ice jam is different. It happens very quickly. We have minutes to react. It is very unpredictable.

Eric said he would like Gordy to go over the command structure so everyone is aware how we are operating. We haven't officially shut down incident command yet, but we have scaled it back. If anyone is unable to get hold of Eric, the Emergency Management Director, Gordy is second in command. He is the Emergency Management Coordinator. Brian Story is going to become our Public Information Officer. We got feedback that communication was an area where we were lacking. Things were happening so fast our focus was not on getting information out to the public as we should have been. We will put a lot more focus on communication going forward.

Gordy showed a chart of the incident command structure. He explained that these are standard operating guidelines, which means we don't have to follow them exactly. Eric is the Emergency Management Director, and Gordy as Emergency Management Coordinator reports to him. Brian Story is the Public Information Officer. He reports directly to Eric. Finance is handled by Rosemary Audibert and the office staff are under her supervision. Arjay West is Emergency Operations Director. Under him are Brian Story for the town, Meredith Birkett for the village, NEMS and fire. Underneath Brian Story is the highway department, headed by Brian Krause. Underneath Meredith is Electric/Public Works, headed by Troy Dolan, and Water/Sewer, headed by Tom Elwood. Under fire service is safety officer Gary Underwood. At times Brian Story and Meredith Birkett will work directly with Eric and Gordy.

The system that works best is a unified command system in which there are a number of people who all have equal say and equal command – the police, the Emergency Operations Coordinator, the Emergency Management Director, the Emergency Management Coordinator, Brian Story and Meredith Birkett. When the first call comes in, the fire chief gets it and he puts everything in motion. As others get involved they form a unified command. Each supervisor should manage no more than about 4 people below them. If there are more than that, supervision should be broken down with subdivisions.

There was a question about how those in command communicate with each other. Gordy said mostly by two-way radio, but everyone also has an iPhone. Some things should not be discussed on the radio, such as confidential/personal information or information about criminal activity.

Eric reviewed problem spots identified in the drone video. At the west end of the village near Ithiel Falls there is some amount of ice jamming right at the mouth of the falls. A lot of the river going up towards Lendway Lane looks like reformed horizontal ice. That is not as big an issue. As you go further there is a fortified ice jam and as you get to the 90 degree turn before Jolley that is a real problem area with a significant ice jam that caused a lot of problems last weekend, backing water into people's basements and affecting the Gihon. There is a continuing ice jam that goes from there past the Railroad Street bridge and Manchester Lumber until around Dog's Head Falls. Where the Gihon comes into the Lamoille there is some restriction due to ice. There is ice jamming on the Gihon about to the Pearl St. bridge. Some of the ice jam is not a big concern because water could go around it

across a meadow. The backup at the mouth of the Gihon is somewhat concerning but water is getting to the ice and starting to melt it.

The town and village are asking the public to keep eyes on the ice. Anyone who notices anything changing should not hesitate to call. During the daytime people can call the municipal office. At night people should call 911. There are some areas the town is asking the sheriff's department to keep eyes on at night during their patrols. There is an alarm at the sewer plant that goes off if water comes up about to the level of the road. Tom has been asked to immediately call 911 if that happens.

Eric asked the heads of each department to discuss plans, issues and needs. Kristen Binau, Regional Disaster Officer with Vermont/New Hampshire American Red Cross, had joined the meeting by phone. She said the Red Cross has volunteer teams in the area and they can set up emergency shelters as needed. They generally advise first setting up an evacuation center. Shelters take a little more time to set up. An evacuation center is what was set up last weekend at the college. If they need to transition to a shelter they do. Sometimes it takes additional time for crews to get in, depending on road flooding.

Eric asked if Kristen has had any conversations with Sheriff Roger Marcoux. She said she has not. Eric said Roger had suggested that if the Red Cross could provide a trailer with extra cots he could stage it on his property and call out a deputy to staff it. Response time would be quicker then. The Red Cross sometimes has issues getting here because of how flooding affects other areas.

Kristen said that is something the Red Cross can potentially look at. Right now all their trailers are stationed. In the first 6 hours, cots are not really needed. What is needed is a safe building that can take people in that won't flood. *(Kristen left the meeting.)*

Brad Carrier said NEMS is stocked pretty well. There are 3 ambulances at the Johnson base. If he needs more he can call Newport and get 2 more. NEMS could also count on mutual aid from Morrisville or Cambridge. During the day they always have two crews on. One might be out on a transport. At night they have one 24-hour crew and an on-call crew. Usually it takes around half an hour for the on-call people to get to the building. He has some local people he could page if he needed extra crews.

Arjay West said the fire department is on ready mode. They had no damage to equipment. In the initial emergency response they identified a broken down component of a community warning system. They have parts ordered and with luck it will be back in service early next week. Their safety gear and apparatus is all in service. During the day on a weekday is the hardest time to get crews in here because they have to come from their jobs. Saturday morning the fire department was running 24-25 firefighters plus support staff. On a Tuesday or Wednesday morning it would take longer to get crews in place and break out assignments. If we decide there is some imminent threat, many people can make arrangements with their jobs and make a commitment ahead of time. Our mutual aid as far as water rescue would be Stowe Hazardous Terrain and Colchester Technical. Sometimes, like this past weekend, they might be deployed to other communities.

Tom Elwood said the wastewater plant fared fairly well in the ice jams. They did have some damage. They didn't have any discharges. The flood gates are set. Water has come over the banks and they are keeping an eye on it. They have been honing their standard operating procedures. For instance, the morning of the flood, he was called out early. The water was in the parking lot. His first call was to Arjay. In hindsight he probably should have called 911. The water has been in the parking lot tens or twenties of times over the years. He has gone through 3 floods. We learn a little more from each flood. This is an abnormal event. He has watched ice jams on this river for 16 years. Usually they come up fast and go down fast. This one isn't going down fast. He assumes with this warm weather it will block up again and then drain out. He won't be available on Monday but the water and wastewater department is fully staffed. He will be here Tuesday.

Eric said now if alarms go off at night, Tom will immediately call 911. Tom said that is right. That is part of the protocol being honed.

Tom said it seems like flooding is happening more often. There have been 3 floods in the 16 years he has been here. Donnie was here 45 years and it happened once. They are continuing to make the plant flood resilient. This time the plant ran the whole time and never went down. We ought to be proud of that. We have put a lot of money into that plant to make that possible. The flood gates will remain in place until the flood threat is over. That could be late this spring.

Emily Harris said Vermont Emergency Management always has a watch officer on 24/7. People can call the 1-800 number to get state level resources. She also contacted the National Weather Service, who said the same thing Eric heard – that if anything happens it should be minor and should be on Tuesday/Wednesday.

Brian Story said one piece of feedback received was about communication. A lot of people didn't feel they received updates when they would have liked to receive them. We are trying to improve on that for the future. He is taking on the responsibility of being Public Information Officer. He is identifying outlets where we will have regular communication and outlets with less frequent communication. He will be happy to take input about that. The Vermont Emergency Alert System will be an essential mechanism for us to reach people, especially those with cell phones. We don't have a good outreach mechanism for cell phones apart from that network. That will be the primary way we disseminate early warnings and news on major developments. For more frequent updates we will use things like Facebook and Twitter. We have a town Twitter account that hasn't seen a lot of use. We will use it for frequent updates during an emergency. The town website and news media will have less frequent major event updates.

Emily said she had brought brochures about Vermont Alert with information about how to sign up and some family preparedness books.

Troy Dolan said on Saturday there were no problems related to the electric department. The Water & Light Department will be well staffed next week if needed. We also can reach out to

other municipal utilities if we run into a big problem. A few catch basins backed up on Railroad Street. His crew worked with the town crew to take care of that. Currently we are in good shape.

Meredith Birkett said village staff were primarily focused on essential services – water, wastewater and electric. Secondly they were watching our own infrastructure such as the wastewater plant and cold storage area.

Brian Krause said the highway department is ready to respond with equipment and manpower.

Nathan Wolfe said the sheriff's department has returned to normal operations. They are keeping their eyes on the rivers and on Sterling Market, where there is a lot of unattended merchandise. If anyone from the public sees anything out of place with the river, the grocery store, or any other affected buildings, they should call the dispatch line.

Gordy said he, Eric, Meredith and Brian have been meeting Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They have been reaching out to their department heads and other people. Eric has been working closely with the Weather Service out of Burlington. They are trying to be proactive.

Brian Story said they have talked to other municipalities that have faced similar challenges and to Chris Brunelle and Rebecca Pfeiffer from the state Watershed Management Division. One strategy for dealing with ice jams is using a long arm excavator or similar device to try to break up the ice jam. We wouldn't need a permit for that because we would not be adding or removing any material other than water from the river. The issue is that there is not a lot of access to the river, especially in the most problematic areas. We don't think we would see great improvement. The ice would go a short distance down the river and jam again. We have been told that the best location to try to break up ice would be at the confluence of the Gihon and the Lamoille, which is also one of the most difficult areas to access. The Gihon is spread out widely there and the wetlands are all saturated. We couldn't get our equipment close enough. At this time we are leaning away from a mechanical solution. We don't think it would be effective but would just be putting men and equipment in danger to little effect.

Meredith said at some point we will convene a meeting to review how things went during this incident. Emily said she sometimes comes to towns and facilitates debrief meetings like that.

Arjay asked Eric how important it is to keep track of and document expenses. Eric said as of now this has not been declared a FEMA event, but they are asking us for all expenses we incur. If this were declared a national disaster it would be from whatever Swanton is experiencing. We would have to hit the million dollar mark and we are nowhere close to that.

Brian Story said the town will need to collect reports on building damage expenses. If a building in a flood zone experiences what the Watershed Division calls "substantial damage" there are regulations relating to repair and rebuilding. We will be reaching out to

homeowners and businesses that have experienced damage to try to keep track of the level of flood damage to the structure.

Eric asked Arjay if he has a rough number for fire department expenses. Arjay said expenses for last weekend, not counting manpower hours, were roughly \$400.

Emily said overtime hours would be counted for FEMA calculations. But statewide we are not looking even close.

4. *Questions and Comments from Board Members*

Eric called the selectboard meeting to order and Gordy called the trustee meeting to order at 12:43. Eric invited questions and comments from board members.

Walter Pomroy said he lives on Main Street just outside the flood zone and he didn't know anything was happening until he heard something on public radio. He thinks we need to be cognizant of getting the word out to property owners. For example, the Merchants Bank basement flooded because as part of the flooding situation snow was pushed up against their sump pump so it froze and could not pump water out of the basement. No one at the bank really knew what was going on so there was no one there to monitor the situation and notice that their basement was flooding because the sump pump was backed up. We need to be cognizant of notifying business owners.

Walter said he knows from living in a different property in a flood zone that people in a flood zone worry about things like who to notify and where they can put their car so they don't have to worry about it if flooding starts happening. He thinks these are basic things that property owners in the area need to know. He thinks we need to reach out to all the local property owners and give them a telephone number to call and address their basic concerns. And as soon as we realize something is happening we should have a list of properties whose owners need to be called so they can be monitoring their properties.

He realizes this all happened very fast. How do we monitor better in the future? We thought we had some plans but they didn't work. At the sewer plant, do we put the flood gates in every night when no one is around? How do we do something different so we can minimize damage, knowing that this could happen in 5, 10, 15, or 20 minutes?

Brian Story said we recognize we need to do a better job with communication than we did last time. That will be one of his main contributions. He has a few things identified. Building a list of people to contact is not a bad idea. He can look at that and see how long of a list it is. He is not sure if it will be practical to contact everyone on the list or not. We should at least have a list and know who is in danger. In terms of how to reach out, people should call 911 in an emergency. Nathan Wolfe said the police dispatch number is 888-3502. Brian said in a non-emergency situation people can call the town offices at 635-2611. If there is an event people will be at the town offices and answering the phones. If someone needs evacuation they should not call the town offices. They should call sheriff's department dispatch.

Meredith said maybe we should take some Vermont Alert flyers to property owners. She thinks it would be more efficient to have them use Vermont Alert than to have a separate

contact list. Flood gates will be up constantly at the wastewater treatment plant as long as there is ice jam danger.

Bob Sweetser said he worked for Morrisville Water & Light for about 10 years. He has a question about whether they are letting water out of Green Mountain Reservoir. If water is let out of the bottom of the reservoir it opens the Lamoille River and keeps its depth down, and the Gihon can get rid of its ice and prevent the flooding. But if they aren't letting that warm water out it will keep causing the problem. He has seen it work to release water from the reservoir. He doesn't know how much water they are letting out. Eric said that is a good thing to follow up on. Meredith said she will reach out to Morrisville Water & Light. Bob said if the reservoir had been opened up when we knew this storm was coming, he thinks it would have done a lot of good.

Doug said it might be good to have an alternative number to reach Brian Story. Brian said his cell phone number is 793-8480. That is a reliable way to get hold of him directly during incidents or any other time, but that is not an emergency number. People should call 911 for all emergencies.

Gordy said he wants to make sure people know that if the flood gates had been put in at Sterling Market there would still have been damage because the water level was 2 or 3 inches higher than the gates. He asked Arjay to describe what happened the morning of the flood.

Arjay said about 6:00 in the morning he went down and took a look at Sterling Market. The employees were starting to come in. At about 6:20 he was in the store speaking to the manager. They had no issues at that time. He offered for the fire department to come down and put the flood gates in place because he was aware of Tom's situation. The manager initially said she didn't think they needed that but he talked to her for about 10 minutes and showed her a little rise in the river and she finally decided the flood gates should be put in place. He was leaving the store when the first 911 call for flooding on Lower Main Street West came in. Firefighters came to the station and he split them into halves. Fifteen minutes later they arrived at Sterling Market and they had to make entry into the post office to evacuate the clerk. There was about a 3 foot rise in a 15 or 20 minute period. If it hadn't been such a rapid event we would have had the opportunity to put some more safety measures in place. He was standing in the store and 20 minutes later the water was over the height of the flood gates.

Walter said he was not trying to cast blame. He heard that it happened very fast. He was asking how we do things differently in case an ice jam situation arises again, because it can happen so fast. We have to rethink how we approach this because obviously the plan we had failed.

Arjay said he doesn't know how rapidly the ice formed. If we had checked it at midnight would there have been some warning signs? He doesn't know.

Doug asked if we are taking any steps like sandbagging to prevent damage. Eric said we are monitoring the situation and trying to assess what might happen. If anything changes it might

affect what we do. We have been in contact with Montpelier and state and federal agencies. What we have been told is that there are relatively few things we can do. Montpelier sometimes releases water from their wastewater plant into the river. If you can increase the water temperature by 1 or 2 degrees it starts the melting process quicker. The Montpelier town manager told us it has a minimal effect. Their facility is much larger than ours and can make a much larger release. The amount we could release into the Gihon would probably have little temperature effect by the time it made it to the Lamoille. Montpelier has ways of redirecting the release to different parts of the river where they have experienced problems. They have tried to spray materials like leaves, bark and sand onto the river so the dark color will absorb heat from the sun. That hasn't made much difference. They have a huge crane on an area where there is a known restricted area so they can get access to it but it has a very limited effect. Everyone is telling us there isn't much we can do. It is mostly up to Mother Nature. We are monitoring it. We will be looking at where the Gihon enters the Lamoille and trying to see if there is any way to get some equipment close to it.

Nat Kinney said the dam control suggestion Bob had seems worth looking into. Eric agreed. We will look into that.

Kyle Nuse said this is the first time she is seeing this chain of command chart. As a board member she became a point person for communication to the public when this happened and she felt as uninformed as the general public. She is wondering how the board can communicate better and get more information to board members so board members can help Brian get communication to the public. She is president of Johnson Works. They have a Facebook page and every time they posted something on that page during the flooding it would immediately get over 100 shares. The more she can get information for that page the better. Also maybe department heads could write Front Porch Forum posts about what their roles are and what the protocol is should something happen again. The more information we can get out there the less panic will happen.

Doug Molde said it is his understanding that if Eric had a heart attack, he would need to step in. Gordy said if something happened to Eric or he was out of town and something also happened to Gordy, his suggestion would be that Arjay would be the most qualified to move up to be the Emergency Management Director. Others agreed.

Emily said in a couple of months Vermont Emergency Management is coming up with a new local emergency operations plan template. Part of that is her coming in and hosting a workshop to review the process. The town can give her a call to schedule this workshop.

Doug said when he was asking what we can do he was thinking more about what we can do on the land, not in the river. Is there anything that can be done to protect assets like the post office and grocery store?

Eric said Sterling Market is taking precautions over the weekend and into early next week. They are going to have the flood gates up during hours they are closed. They have reached out to Arjay to get sandbags.

5. *Questions and Comments from the Public*

Postmaster Jane Draper said Arjay had said that Friday night he had an idea it could go either way. Could we have been contacted at that point? Because she would have sat down there in her truck and watched it if the fire department couldn't have. The last time there was a flood the grocery store was ruined but the post office had sandbags around the doors and essentially no water got inside, though the water was 3 feet high. This time they didn't have sandbags in place and water came in. The sandbags did a tremendous amount to stop that water. She would have put them out Friday night if she had thought this would happen.

Eric said it's a balance. If we were always going out publicly and saying we have an emergency coming and warning people to take measures people would start ignoring our calls. One reason we are very engaged right now is that we don't want the public to get complacent. We want them to stay vigilant and keep eyes on the river. We are not out of the woods. The ice jam is still there. We feel pretty confident that this weekend and early next week will not be an event like last weekend, but we don't know for sure where it will rise to or how much impact there will be. Maybe we were too complacent last weekend. When he got up Saturday morning and saw it was 15 degrees he thought we were safe because under normal conditions temperature like that immediately stop melting from increasing the river depth and the river starts going down.

George Pearlman asked about the sewer pipes on the bridges. Is that something we're keeping an eye on? He doesn't know if there was any damage to the lines on the Pearl Street and Main Street bridges. Tom said we have a water line under the girders on the Main Street bridge. As soon as the ice goes down he will be inspecting that.

George asked, how about the Pearl Street bridge sewer line. Is there any way to shut off the sewer? Tom said no, there isn't. Water on Pearl Street can be shut off by valves on either side. If someone sees a break they should not assume we know about it but should call it in.

George asked if the Railroad Street bridge has a pipe too. Tom said yes, but it is up high.

George asked, if there was a break in the sewer line and the water line was shut off, then nothing would be coming down the sewer line? Tom said eventually but we need to remember that there is a 300,000 gallon tank at the college. We would sandbag the uphill side of that and begin trucking around and bypass pumping. But there would be a release right away if that line broke that would continue until we could mitigate it. A break has to be reported within 24 hours online. If someone has questions and can't get hold of anybody in the town they can go on the website for the ANR and report a break. Meredith said anyone who sees something should call Tom, her or 911.

Peter Moynihan said he has a landline telephone and on the morning of the flooding he got a robo call. He appreciates that someone is notifying us. But it didn't say where the flooding was or where to go. He lives on the corner of School Street and has never been flooded there. He looked out and saw traffic going both ways on Main Street. He didn't think too much of it. He got a phone call a few minutes later from a friend who lives on Lower Main West asking him to go and rescue some of their property because they had been evacuated. If the

robo call could say where the flooding is it might be helpful. Maybe more importantly, it should say where to go. It could give the location where an emergency shelter will be even if it's not open yet. He thinks some people who were contacted may not have needed to be.

Peter also noticed when he came downtown around 10:00 in the morning there was a Road Closed sign just this side of Gould Hill. He only noticed it the last of several times he went by there. The sign was off to the side of the road with no cones and nothing blocking the way and all the traffic was going right by the Road Closed sign and driving down to where the road actually was closed by VTrans. Every car would pull up and talk to the VTrans employee and have to back into someone's driveway to turn around. A detour sign with an arrow directing people onto Gould Hill would have been better. Or a firefighter or police officer directing people up Gould Hill.

Peter turned on the radio to WLVB and they were talking about the road closed in Johnson. He appreciated that. Not everyone is online. It should not be taken for granted that people will get communications on Facebook, Front Porch Forum, etc.

Eric said communications is an area we have identified for improvement. The robo call came out of Vermont Emergency Management, with our input. Emily said it was part of the Vermont Alert system. They did an override allowing the call to go out even to people who hadn't signed up. They just identified an area on a map and did a reverse 911. Eric said basically it went to the whole town of Johnson, which did include people who weren't affected. But we also found that not everyone got the call. If you had a cell phone you did not get the call and some with landlines did not get it. He was told that the new system is so powerful it can send out 300,000 calls at a time. It comes into a small town like this and the system can't handle it. That's why some calls got missed. Emily's office is going to look at ways to throttle it back.

Jane said she talked to Roland on WLVB just to communicate to him what was going on. She let him know about the road closure. He is more than willing to share information. Eric said that is someone we should have reached out to.

A community member said he owns property behind the library and behind Sterling Market. For the future is there someone he could talk to about mitigation strategies to get expert advice? He did get water in his basement. He dealt with it with a small sump pump. Is there equipment that the town could provide to assist, like a pump that can move water quickly out of a basement? Or is he on his own?

Eric said for mitigation he is not even sure who to bring in. Emily said most towns have a hazard mitigation plan prepared by knowledgeable people in town. Brian Story said ours was put together by LCPC. They provide the expertise for us. We don't have it locally.

The property owner said water mostly came in through his basement windows. Is there someone he should contact to get information about sandbagging, berming, etc.?

Howard Romero said he would be the person to contact. He is the Flood Zone Administrator. Two weeks ago he had a substantial meeting with Rebecca Pfeiffer, his contact with the state. We don't have mitigation brochures that he is aware of. But as part of the flood zone regulation system there are strategies for flood hardening a building or property that are designed to help with the permitting process for buildings in the flood zone. He will get some information on that to Brian. It is probably incomplete but it will be a start.

The property owner said his property also has a drainage pipe running through it. If the town needs to inspect it they should feel free to cross his property to do so.

Mike Dunham said Tom Elwood should be commended on being proactive in getting submersible pumps and bringing up the electrical infrastructure to the 1000 year flood plain. And the trustees should be commended for allowing him to do it. That really helped the village and town. It's a blight on the town if we discharge sewage into the river.

Tom said moving the transformer was Troy's doing. Mike thanked all who were involved in being proactive at the wastewater treatment plant.

Tom said there is more to do and we plan on trying to do some more mitigation so that we don't run into any more issues in the future. He thinks we have good strategies in mind, such as SOP's that will help with early warning systems. Maybe an additional alarm that will give us more time. He is also looking at improving flood resiliency of components that will help with secondary operations. The trustee board has been very proactive in helping him to be proactive.

Kyle asked if anyone had an update on Sterling Market. Eric said yes, they are hoping to open tomorrow morning. Gordy asked if Johnson Works could put out the word to people once there is a firm date for its reopening, encouraging people to go back and shop locally. Kyle said yes.

Peter Moynihan asked about putting a levee wall from the Main Street bridge south for about 100 yards on both sides of the river. Eric said we wouldn't get approval from the state for that. Water would go around it and come right back up. Gordy said at one point there was a berm put in near the gas station by the grocery store and some state agency made the people who put it in remove it because it was going to move the water somewhere else.

6. *Adjourn*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:24.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths