

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014

Present:

Trustees: Gordon Smith, Ellis O’Hear, George Pearlman, Walter Pomroy, Chris Parker

Others: Rosemary Audibert (Clerk), Steve Towne, Tom Elwood, a Vermont Studio Center representative

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Gordy called the meeting to order at 4:04.

2. Review and Approve Minutes

Walter moved to approve the minutes of February 10 with the changes suggested by Duncan, Chris seconded, and the motion was passed.

Walter moved to approve the minutes of February 18 with the changes suggested by Duncan, and with the day of the week corrected, Chris seconded, and the motion was passed.

3. Treasurer’s Report & Review and Approve Bills and Warrants

Chris moved to authorize Gordy to sign the discharge of mortgage for George and Andrea Pearlman, and the motion was seconded and passed.

Walter moved to authorize Gordy to sign the engagement letter with Gene Besaw & Associates for the audit, Chris seconded, and the motion was passed.

Rosemary said this year we will not have to have a single audit.

4. Wastewater Treatment Facility & Water System Operator’s Report

Tom said the wastewater plant is running well, but we are up to 23% for water loss. There is a leak at Katy-Win and we are trying to determine who owns the leaking pipe. There was a leak in a house whose owner had it winterized without calling us. The meter was pulled, but the curb stop was still on and it developed a leak that flooded the basement. Gordy said Friday night the fire department hauled water for a barn fire. That will appear in next month’s losses.

Walter asked if the customer with the pulled meter was still getting billed. Tom and Steve said he was charged the customer fee, but the leak was before the water meter. The leak is the customer’s responsibility, but there is no way to determine how much water leaked in order to charge him. (George arrived at 4:17.) Tom said we could give them a service charge for shutting off the water. Walter said he thinks we should charge them something. He would like Rosemary to review relevant ordinances. We should at least bill them for 3 months’ worth of water as called for in the policy. Tom and Steve said the customer tampered with the meter. Someone should have let us know they were taking the meter out of service and needed us to shut off the curb stop. Rosemary and Steve will look into the legal basis of charging the customer.

Tom said there was also a water main leak at the college that went through their meter. Steve mentioned a sewer pipe that froze solid on Railroad St. The frost is deep and we will have more issues as it thaws out. (Tom left at 4:23.)

5. *Public Works Superintendent Report*

Steve got a used pole trailer from BED for free. It will be reconditioned to get it ready to use. We will be setting poles now that FairPoint is re-working the IOP's with the village in our circuit conversions. We needed a better way of carrying poles than what has been done. He also ordered a hydraulic pole tamper, which cost over \$1K.

There was another power supply board failure on the R2 JSC breaker. Steve and Mike Sullivan will be having a conference call with ABB (the manufacturer) to discuss the breaker problems.

The skid steer was repaired for a little under \$3K. We will need to plan to replace it once the note on Cliff's truck is paid off. Steve thinks the skid steer will last 2 more years.

Jim Rose from Ross Environmental is updating the village's SPCC Plan (EPA required.) He has the final draft together and will be sending it to Steve to review this week.

The SCADA Control System is working well. Sensus Telemetric said the problem with the R5 unit was their fault and they didn't charge us anything for reprogramming it.

Duncan and Steve met with people from JSC about their planned solar array. Their CPG was approved for a 75 KW array, but the legislature is expected to raise the cap so Steve is re-quoting the estimate for their interconnection to allow them to pump 150 KW back into our system instead of 75 KW as they originally requested. The array will be in a field on Clay Hill. It will be a fixed array. We will lose revenue from JSC because it will be a group net metered system that will offset their costs from the meter in the substation.

Steve said he spoke with Ron Bushnell this morning and they are ready for the call to assist in the bypass pumping on the Pearl St. Bridge should we have an issue.

Steve had Troy Dolan attend VLCT flagger training and sent him to NEMS to renew his First Aid/CPR/AED certification. He might be needed Thursday when a storm is expected.

6. *Manager's Report*

Walter moved that the electric department pay \$300 for LEDC membership renewal, Chris seconded and the motion was passed.

Steve and Duncan met with Stonewall Hard, LLC, who put in the crosswalks. He feels the problems are due to the crosswalks not having been built according to the original specs. He blames Lamoureux and Dickinson. He feels the problem areas can be fixed. He is going to prepare a written report of what he believes the causes are and provide ideas for repairs. He is willing to attend a board meeting. He also offered to send Duncan email correspondence between him and Lamoureux and Dickinson that will provide helpful evidence.

Gordy said he doesn't feel we should waste his time and ours. We should just come up with another solution. Steve said it won't cost us anything for him to come up with a proposal. The rest of the board felt it would be worth hearing what he had to say.

Steve said he would also like to get a cost estimate for having the crosswalks removed. He thinks they will need to be removed before we can pave over them.

There was discussion about who is liable for any damage caused by the crosswalks. George said he thinks the liability would be the state highway department's, not ours. Gordy said he had asked Duncan about this and Duncan didn't know. Steve said he can find out.

Chris moved to direct Steve and Duncan to solicit bids on repair and/or replacement (with blacktop, stamped impregnated concrete, bricks, etc.) of the existing crosswalk infrastructure that was part of the Main Street project, up to and including all 5 crosswalks, starting with the worst first, with cost estimates based on night work or day work from each bidder. Ellis seconded and the motion was passed with Gordy opposed.

Steve said there is money in the budget to put in a drop invert by the puddle near Chris's property. He will have someone come and take some elevations to make sure all the water will go to it.

Duncan has an estimate of \$300 to install an under the sink filter in the kitchen sink. We are now paying for bottled water and that cost could be eliminated if we put in the filter. Rosemary said we pay \$60 a month for bottled water in three different buildings. Duncan wants to know if the board is willing to split the cost with the town. **Walter moved to authorize expenditure of half the cost of installing an under the sink filter in the kitchen sink of the municipal building, Chris seconded, and the motion was passed.** Steve said he should be able to install the filter.

Duncan, Gordy, and Eric attended a meeting with LCSD, Heather Hobart, and Greg Stefanski regarding a trial process for local ordinances and a reparative board style enforcement concept. There is a lot of interest in getting the ordinance work done, but Duncan does not have time. The selectboard is going to discuss using Lea to do this work and paying her some extra time. The trustees said they support whatever the selectboard's decision is on this.

Stacy Manosh of 66 Lower Main West had excess water usage due to a broken pipe and is requesting a billing adjustment. **George moved to adjust Stacy Manosh's water bill to 3 times the average water bill for the last 2 months, since one of the last 3 months (November) is unrepresentative, and to adjust her sewer bill to the highest monthly reading for the last 12 months (\$35.40.) Chris seconded and the motion was passed.**

7. *VSC Closeout Public Hearing*

George moved to open the public hearing on the Vermont Studio Center grant closeout, Walter seconded, the motion was passed and the hearing began at 5:09.

A representative from the Studio Center explained that this second public hearing had to be called because notices about the previous hearing did not include a phone number for the hearing impaired, in accordance with federal guidelines. As reported in December, the Studio Center successfully used a \$62K grant and wrapped up the grant-funded project in May. This hearing is for public comments or questions. There were none at the previous hearing in December.

Walter moved to close the public hearing, Chris seconded, the motion was passed and the hearing was closed at 5:10.

8. *Manager's Report (continued)*

Due to recent discussion on Front Porch Forum about the Cold Spring, Duncan asked if the board is comfortable with the current status of the spring. Board members agreed that they are.

Our CPG for the Morrisville Water & Light transmission purchase was approved.

We were approved for loan forgiveness for the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan, so we don't have to pay back the \$11K loan we received.

Steve distributed copies of the 2014 Resource Report for Village of Johnson Water & Light Department as prepared by VPPSA for submission to the PSB.

The DEC is in the final stages of issuing an enforcement action related to the failed septic system on the Wescom property at 620 Lower Main West.

9. Adjourn

Ellis moved and Chris seconded to adjourn at 5:16 and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths