

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016

Present:

Trustees: Gordon Smith, Walter Pomroy, David Goddette, Scott Meyer, Bob Sweetser

Others: Duncan Hastings (Manager), Rosemary Audibert (Clerk), Tom Elwood, Lea Kilvadyova, Todd Haun, Arjay West

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Gordy called the meeting to order at 6:03.

2. Changes, Additions to Proposed Agenda

Sandy added the VELCO proxy election form, a resolution from the Town of Rutland regarding local control over placement of commercial scale solar and wind installations, and lawn mowing quotes. David added discussion of economic development. Lea added permission for an electric vehicle charging station in the municipal lot.

3. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes

Walter moved to approve the minutes of January 27, 2016; February 1, 2016; February 3, 2016; February 8, 2016; February 22, 2016; and March 2, 2016, David seconded and the motion was passed.

4. WWTF Chief Operator Report and Action Items

Tom said the wastewater plant ran well last month. A sump pump for the sludge room broke down and he ordered a replacement at a cost of a little over \$400. Water from our wells was sampled in February for various things, including volatile organics. Our water sampling results are always available to the board. The VOC results looked really good. We also sampled for cyanide and heavy metals. All the results were good.

Gordy asked if testing results will be sent out with water bills. Tom said we need to send out a Consumer Confidence Report by July 1. It is usually in May bills. All customers will get it.

Tom completed the Phase II/V Waiver Renewal Application and has been approved by the state. This waiver means we do not have to monitor synthetic organic compounds in our water supply.

Walter said last month we talked about a mechanical backup controller and it was suggested that Tom come back with a recommendation. Tom said a vendor is going to keep a controller in stock for us so we don't need to purchase one now to make sure we have a backup. He is still doing research on a good location to place a mechanical backup. Placement is crucial.

Tom said he will check whether the JSC water meter is due to be replaced. There is a leaking curb stop at Cabin Cove at a place that is empty. He thinks the master meter at Harvey's has the same problem the Cabin Cove master meter had – the wrong size head. We are losing somewhere between 10-15 thousand gallons a day to leaks. As soon as conditions permit we will do leak surveys.

The Monthly Water System Operation Report for February has been completed and filed. *(Tom left at 6:24.)*

5. *Interim Village Manager Report and Action Items*

Lea said there is no resolution yet on Change Orders 3 and 4. After consulting with VTrans she denied them and reduced the amount we were willing to pay to a more reasonable amount. The contractor wrote a letter back with some supplemental information stating he feels they deserve the full payment. She has been working with VTrans to evaluate the supplemental information. It is important to find out what VTrans feels comfortable approving for payment. We are in standby mode until we get that information from VTrans.

Sandy asked, is it correct that we don't need to schedule an appeal at this point because they did not submit their claim properly? Lea said VTrans's take is that the process is not yet at the level of appeal to the trustees because the contractor did not follow proper procedures for submitting the claim. They feel the next step is for Lea to deny it because it was not submitted properly. They also would like to try to see if we can resolve this amicably rather than going to an appeal. She is also waiting for guidance from VTrans on the appeal.

Walter asked if anything amicable is in the works. Lea said we need to see if VTrans revises the amount recommended for reimbursement and then see if Desroches agrees to that. The contractor has been asked to send more information to VTrans.

We are scheduled to restart the School St./College Hill project on April 19. It may start earlier based on the weather. Scott asked how much notice we will give the school of the project start date. Lea said she thinks the school would appreciate at least a week's notice.

Our village center designation is up for renewal. The renewal application is due July 26. One benefit of the village center designation is priority consideration for various grants. We have been benefitting from this. Another benefit is that entities in the village center district get tax credits. One business that has benefitted is Marvin's. They did a project that cost about \$350K and they got tax credits of about \$50K toward it. They said if not for the designation they would have been hard pressed to renovate.

Scott asked if the Subway store jumped in on this. Lea said they have not asked about it.

David asked if we are notifying businesses of the opportunity. Lea said she has sent out a couple of messages about availability of tax credits. David asked if she thinks we need to promote it more. Lea said she thinks it wouldn't hurt. David asked what she feels would be the best way to get the word out. Lea said we have a couple of online methods that would work well for most businesses. If we decide to expand the district, direct letters would be helpful to people within the new boundary. The state has offered to come to the village and give a presentation. That could be done through Johnson Works. She thinks that would be good for spreading the message.

Gordy asked is if this designation is the same thing Morrisville is having trouble with. Lea said they have a higher level of designation with more stringent requirements, such as zoning, and access to more funding.

Lea said if the trustees decide to proceed with renewal, we will need to send a cover letter with authorization from the trustees and we will need to amend the village plan. Since our last application the rules have changed; the state now requires the designation map to be included in the village plan. Amending the village plan starts at the Planning Commission level. It would take 2 to 3 months because of all the public hearings required.

Walter asked about the status of the new plan being written now. Can the change be done as part of that? Lea said it can be. Her goal for the new common town/village plan would be to have it adopted by August. We can keep our current designation until July, then there is a grace period of 90 days during which the designation does not expire. We have the option of making the change now in the village plan or waiting until August.

Sandy said if we try to make the change at the same time we adopt the new plan and there is a hiccup at the end of the process we could be in bad shape. Lea said if by July there is a suspicion that the unified plan is not going to be adopted then she would recommend renewing our application with a change to the village plan. Sandy said July might still be a little tight. Lea said it would mean biting into the grace period. Sandy asked if we could decide in June whether to make the change in the village plan or in the new town/village plan. Lea said yes. Walter agreed that an update in June would be a good idea.

David asked how many hearings are required. Lea said the Planning Commission has to have one and the trustees have to have another.

Lea said if there is a wish to change the boundary of the district then our application will not be treated as a renewal but as a new application, which requires a site visit from the state and makes the process a little longer.

Scott asked where the boundary is now. Lea showed the board where it is. Walter said the boundary was originally drawn to include the Coop building. If we take that out because the property has gone residential, does that mean we have to go through the longer process? Lea said she wasn't thinking in terms of a reduction in district size. She was wondering if the board wanted to expand it. Sandy said if making the district smaller would trigger a new application process we might want to leave it as it is. There is no harm in including the Coop site. Scott said he thinks it is good to leave it in since it is a Brownfields site.

Walter said we had previously discussed stretching out the district in case anyone wanted to start a business in areas like lower 100C or Railroad St., but it was felt there would be pushback because the areas are largely residential now. Lea said things may have changed a little. There is still a statement that the designated district shouldn't stretch to areas that are primarily residential. She talked to a state rep who raised the question of whether there is a sidewalk. She thinks they would be willing to consider expansion if there is a feel that the whole area is compact and without interruptions. A site visit would be helpful. They could tell us before we apply if they are willing to consider it. Any income bearing properties, even rental housing, qualify for tax credits if they are in the designated area. We could make a case for including Railroad St. as there are a lot of rental properties there.

Scott said we have enough apartments on Railroad Street. We need single family homes. Sandy said this would encourage property owners to upgrade. Scott asked, with a lack of zoning, what is to prevent someone putting in a big box of apartments? Walter said the tax benefits would just allow them to remodel, not add new construction. If we can encourage upgrades to buildings, hopefully we can get upgrades to the tenants. David said he wants to try to convince property owners to take advantage of the tax benefits for improvements.

Lea said she doesn't think there are any threats or weaknesses with the designation. She only sees strengths. She would support looking at expanding the district. She thinks it would be a good idea if someone from the state came to give us an idea how much they would be willing to stretch the district. She doesn't see any downsides to expanding.

Scott said he would rather see more single family homes and fewer apartments. Lea said ultimately we will need stronger mechanisms than decisions about the village center designation to change that, and we may not be able to. Walter said by expanding at least we would be giving people the chance to improve their properties. David said he wants to provide as many economic opportunities as we can to the people of the village. Scott asked what the responsibility is of someone who gets a grant to maintain their building. Lea said she is not sure if the state does post-support monitoring of buildings they have supported. She would think that they would try to make sure prior to support that the property owners adhere to the requirements of the program.

Sandy asked how many businesses other than Marvin's took advantage of the credits. Lea said she doesn't think anyone else has. She knows the Studio Center considered it but she thinks they either didn't apply or weren't successful in getting their application approved.

Sandy said we don't have an overwhelming number of businesses. Has Lea thought about going door to door or calling business to market the benefits? That might be helpful. David agreed. Lea said the state is willing to come in, so maybe that is something we could set up and then we could knock on doors and let people know about it. (*Todd Haun arrived at 6:51.*) We could then make follow-up phone calls after dropping off information.

Scott asked how many businesses are leasing or renting space. Walter said most of them.

David said we need to do a better job of selling the concept. It will improve the perception of our community. To get families to move to town we have to make the village a fun place to raise a family. Sandy said the funds could convince a renter to buy the property they are currently renting. Scott said he just doesn't want to see public funds used for someone to get additional income and then let their building go into disrepair. Sandy said that could happen or there could be no improvement and the building could continue to deteriorate and then we would be worse off. Property improvements help grow the Grand List.

Scott said it might be good to have the chair of the Planning Commission come in and discuss with the board whether to expand the designated area. Sandy said that seems like a great idea. In the interest of time management he suggested that on a parallel track we have a state rep come and view the map. The board agreed to that. Sandy suggested that the state rep come in and give information to staff and then we could figure out whether it makes sense to have the state rep talk to the board. Walter said he would like to make the designated area as big as the state will allow.

Sandy said in his experience the rule of thumb with any special district is to make the district as big as possible. He said his sense of what the board wants is for the state to tell us the biggest boundary they will approve and then for the board to get a report and see if they have questions. Lea can set up a walkabout with the state, aiming for the maximum area. He would like to be involved. Then they can report back to the board.

Scott asked how hard it is to reapply vs. renewing. Lea said it is not hard. In either case, we need an authorization cover letter and a change to the plan.

Lea said she will try to set up a meeting with the state and report back to the board at the next meeting.

Lea asked if the board would like to increase the marketing effort with regard to benefits available to those within the district. Would the board like her to make one to one contact? David said yes. No one else disagreed.

Rosemary asked if the Maplefields project would be eligible. Lea said she is not sure. A lot of the funding is tied to historic properties.

Lea had sent out a memo about the solar project about a week previously. Walter asked if our RFP is out the door. Lea said no. Sandy asked when the board can get a draft. He said the original plan was for the board to see a draft of the RFP before it went out.

Lea said most RFP's identify a piece of land or a rooftop where the municipality is trying to site the project. Her approach has been to start with potential municipal properties. She has identified several. All have turned out to be in the river corridor, where solar arrays are prohibited. She is pursuing that further, questioning the state on whether it is absolutely impossible. So far she has gotten one clear determination with regard to the Osgood well site that they would not permit development on that site. The state said the only way they would permit it would be if there were already surrounding development. Two sites are still under evaluation by the state – the talc mill site and the river park adjacent to the skate park. As it stands now, other than rooftops we don't have a site to offer to developers for consideration. She would like to wait for the state's determination regarding the other two sites. If one is a possibility she would say we should include that as well as the one or two rooftops that are potential sites. There are RFP's that are open to siting on private property. If the board wants her to proceed with an RFP now, she would suggest one that allows the possibility of looking into both private lands and rooftops.

Sandy said she had mentioned that there is potential for 90 kW on rooftops alone. That is not insignificant. The way he recalls talking about the RFP, properties would be listed in an appendix. The RFP/Q could be drafted while we are deciding which properties to include.

Scott asked, with a private land option, how would people know the village was looking for a solar site? Sandy said we would have to start a public process. We have had inquiries from private property owners for more than the 350 kW needed to meet our 15% capacity. The private sector is already working on this. We may want to make sure we have something before someone gobbles up all the 15% capacity. Walter said after this year the 15% cap will be gone and anyone can come in and do net metering. Sandy said for the rest of 2016 people can get more favorable rates. Walter

said he thinks we should put out an RFP right away for our two roofs. We should grab that at the most favorable rates. Then we can consider more later. The rules will become more complicated after this year. Sandy said assuming the roofs can take it structurally, a rooftop site is the simplest type of installation. Gordy asked which roofs we would use. Sandy said the municipal building and the wastewater plant.

Gordy said there was a recent meeting with SunCommon with Lea, Troy and Duncan, but Sandy was not invited. He wants to see Sandy involved with these projects. Lea said she can do that.

Gordy said he agrees we should do the smaller projects first. As a little electric utility the only way we will survive is by looking into big solar more. Walter said the hard part is that there are new rules coming into play as of January 1 that will affect who retains renewable energy credits. Down the road, companies like SunCommon may not be the contractors. Some rich person in Canada may get the credits. Because of new net metering rules there will be a big shakeout in the solar industry. What will happen is up in the air now. When VPPSA brings their solar project to us the biggest benefits won't come to us until 5 years down the road. They will be selling all the credits for the first 5 years to be able to afford the project. He thinks we should get the amount we can get now and keep the other track moving.

Sandy said if we wait for the big grand slam we could wait for a long time and in the meantime we could have done the roof projects. We can always send out another RFP. If we wait for a determination from the state we could lose 2 or 3 months on the roof projects. We have already lost some time. Walter suggested having companies look at all our roofs, including the talc mill buildings and fire department. Sandy said if one company says they can do a particular building and others say they can't, we can use more than one company. We can write it in such a way that we can pick different proposals for different buildings. Each portion of the project can be awarded separately. It was agreed to send out an RFP/Q for all rooftops owned by the village or jointly owned by the village and town. Lea will invite the town to participate. It was agreed that Sandy will circulate the draft after Lea prepares it. Sandy asked when Lea can get a draft ready. Lea said she will make it a priority. She thinks she can have it done within a week.

Walter said Lea should not give up on the river corridors. Lea said she won't because to her a project on municipal land seems most cost beneficial.

6. *Electric Vehicle Charging Station*

Lea asked for permission for the town to locate an EV charging station in the municipal building parking lot. Gordy asked if the selectboard will provide maintenance of the unit. Lea said the selectboard would absorb ongoing costs.

Walter moved to allow the selectboard to put a electric vehicle charging station on co-owned town and village property, seconded by Scott. Sandy asked if this is the same concept the village considered previously – a Phase 2 dual charging station. Lea said yes. **The motion was passed with David opposed.**

7. *Economic Development*

David said he wants to make sure we keep the conversation going about economic development. He wants to make sure we look at every opportunity and make sure we are promoting them to the people of the village. We need to start having this conversation with the Planning Commission and

the school board and selectboard. He is curious to hear ideas from the rest of board about how we proceed and keep the conversation moving.

Sandy said the board has already created an ongoing forum for that by inviting Lea to trustee board meetings. LEDC is a place we can go for advice and resources if we continue as a member.

Gordy said the selectboard wants to proceed with this discussion. Walter said there are multiple topics accumulating for a joint meeting of the selectboard, trustees, and Planning Commission – the joint town/village plan, solar projects, and new net metering rules. The Planning Commission needs to look at the new rules because they will give Planning Commissions a lot of power to control where new projects are sited. Gordy said he talked to Eric and told him he thought it would be better to wait until after the annual meeting for a joint meeting. So right after that he and Eric are planning to get the boards together. Lea said with regard to the conversation about economic development as related to JES performance, she offered to Eric that she could facilitate the discussion if a facilitator is needed. *(Lea left at 7:27 and Arjay joined the meeting.)*

8. *Interim Village Manager Report and Action Items (continued)*

Sandy said we have received the Belvidere fire contract. All 3 towns have signed and returned contracts.

Arjay is requesting authorization to submit a grant application to PACIF which would provide 50% of the cost of a new thermal imaging camera estimated to cost \$9,999. Arjay explained the advantages of the new thermal imager the fire department has chosen. It would provide greater safety for firefighters.

Walter moved to authorize Sandy to execute the PACIF Equipment Grant application for 50% funding of a new thermal imager on behalf of the village, Scott seconded and the motion was passed. *(Arjay left at 7:35.)*

Vermont Studio Center representative Todd Haun joined the meeting to talk about VSC's preliminary application for increased water and wastewater allocation. They are increasing the number of bedrooms and need a proportionate increase in allocation. They are planning a larger water service already. Sandy said he told them he thinks they may need a larger sewer connection, too.

Gordy said they will be digging underneath our sidewalk. He would like to give them specs for the sub base so they would put in a sub base that would be appropriate for sidewalk. Sandy said he will include in the preliminary approval letter that anything they disturb must be restored to our specs. They are requesting additional water allocation of 144 gallons and additional wastewater allocation of 160 gallons. They have promised to put in water efficient appliances so they get a 10% credit on the water side. **Walter moved and David seconded to approve the preliminary water and sewer capacity applications from Vermont Studio Center and the motion was passed.** Sandy said he will send an approval letter to Jim MacDowell. *(Todd left at 7:39.)*

Sandy asked for authorization to post a 1st Class Lineworker vacancy to replace Cliff Hill on his retirement. Walter said he thinks the only question about posting the lineman position is the salary range, but he thinks that was covered in the budget meeting. The ad should reflect what was discussed then. Sandy said Cliff is thinking about retiring May 1, but would stick around until we

have a replacement for him. There was consensus to move forward with posting the lineman vacancy. Sandy said he told Cliff the board will want to get some staff input during the hiring process. Walter said for interviews maybe not all trustees need to be involved but at least 1 or 2 should be.

The LEDC is requesting membership renewal. We have been giving \$100 annually from the electric department. **Walter moved to renew our membership in LEDC for \$100 a year from the electric department, David seconded and the motion was passed.**

AOT is holding an informational meeting about replacement of Bridge 4 on Route 100C on March 21 at about 8:00 pm during the selectboard meeting. Gordy asked if Troy and Tom will be there. Sandy said he thinks this is more for public information. He would expect them to get involved when they get into more technical design planning. This is not one of the twin bridges. This one is about 3 miles east of Route 15. It's actually a 6-foot culvert rather than something that looks like a bridge.

Rosemary consulted with a VLCT attorney regarding tax exemptions and the Grand List. The attorney advised that the Village Charter indicates the Grand List as adopted by the town (as well as any exemptions) is the village's Grand List. So any exemption the town gives applies to the village. Rosemary pointed out that this is not true of tax stabilization agreements.

The Dept. of Taxation has requested an inventory of taxable property. It is required annually. Rose incorporates it on the Grand List. Troy has completed it as of today.

LCPC is inviting us to designate a representative to their Brownfields Steering Committee. Scott's name was suggested but he said he cannot do it because he works with the Brownfields Project and would have a conflict of interest. He said he thinks it would be beneficial to have a representative. Walter said he would like to hear what the selectboard does. The representative does not have to be a trustee. It could be a citizen, staff member or member of the Planning Commission. It was agreed to postpone action on this for now.

On February 17, 2016 the Public Service Board issued an Order Closing Docket regarding billing and allocation of local wheeling charges related to Standard Offer units. It was believed VEC was overcharging and, complicating matters, VEPPi allocated on the basis of permitted, rather than installed capacity. The MOU result in the PSB Order is the result of negotiations in which most munis will have to pay a "true up" based on the incorrect methodology used in the past. Johnson will owe \$621.89.

We have received the executed Blanket Agreement Implementing Section 4.104(E) of Rule 4.100.

Dan Benoit has requested a water and sewer bill adjustment. Our policy indicates an adjustment can be given only once in a 12-month period but his household got an adjustment in May 2015. **Walter moved and Bob seconded to deny Dan Benoit's request for an excess water and sewer usage adjustment because it was the second request within 12 months and to waive interest on the bill as long as a payment plan is made. The motion was passed.**

Copies of the Abridged Power Bill Summary for January were distributed. Also distributed was the Johnson 2016 Resource Report submitted to the PSB and Dept. of Public Service. This report is prepared on our behalf annually by VPPSA. It summarizes our electric utility's power supply need and acquisitions strategy. Johnson relies on VPPSA to interact with the ISO-NE and New England markets. Walter said we should keep in mind that our usage is trending down. We will be talking with VPPSA about what level we want to be at for the next round of purchased power. VPPSA has us going up.

Trudell Consulting Engineers has submitted a proposal for engineering review for the Loeffler sewer connection project. Scott said he doesn't think we should do this unless the industrial park is going to happen. He doesn't think we will make our money back on 4 houses. Sandy said we might. We need to get bids to see. We can't know from Loeffler's quote because he included private work. Trudell Consulting Engineers proposes to do the review for \$1000 plus reimbursable expenses. The \$1000 includes a \$400 retainer. Walter asked if ultimately we will own all the documents. Sandy said yes. He said he has gotten an inquiry about connecting another home in that area to our sewer line. David asked where we have the money to pay for this. Sandy looked it up and said we have \$6500 in contracted outside services. That is about \$1500-1600 more than actuals in 2015, which included Sandy's services. Scott asked if the engineers will redo the work if they find anything wrong. Sandy said no; we are not paying for that. We just want to make sure the engineers who created the plans followed our requirements. **David moved and Walter seconded to spend \$1000 plus reimbursable expenses for the Loeffler sewer connection engineering review by Trudell Consulting Engineers and the motion was passed.**

AOT contacted Sandy about the Master License Agreement which we had not executed. Duncan had expressed a number of concerns in 2014 that were not addressed by AOT. Sandy asked Eli Emerson of Primmer Piper to look at this issue. Emerson said we can do nothing and risk action by the state, try to work out a special arrangement, or execute the agreement as is. He concludes we have very little leeway here. We could try to negotiate a special exemption but Sandy thinks that would be a long, arduous, expensive process. Emerson said this is a low risk issue for us.

Walter said he disagrees. A Morrisville foreman said AOT is now coming after them for a significant amount of money, which no one has been asked to pay in the past. If they are coming after us for money for something that has existed he will say no. He will try to do an end-around with the legislature.

Scott asked where we are trespassing on AOT property. Walter said on the rail trail, where water lines go under it and electric lines go over it. Sandy said they want us to sign an agreement that allows us to stay there. There is a charge to us. They are changing rules that have been in existence for a long time and they are changing them for everyone.

David asked why they are charging. Are they doing this just to make money? Sandy said it is partly to get revenue but partly an attempt to modernize agreements that used to be by handshake or very simple. Everything has gotten more legalistic. Walter said if they only wanted to modernize the documents he wouldn't put up such a stink, but they want to take money from his ratepayers and he won't stand for that. He won't agree to change a relationship that has existed for almost 100 years if it costs us money. He said the Morrisville people were stunned by the numbers. He thinks other

utilities that have signed the agreement will all of a sudden be stunned that this was not routine as they had thought.

Scott asked what the comment is from VLCT. Sandy said he hasn't sought an opinion from them. He can. Walter said he would like to. He would like to get details from the state of what they are going to charge us. Sandy said he handed out that information last time and can send it out again. It was agreed to get feedback from VLCT. Sandy said we are already years behind in executing this. He knows AOT will contact him again tomorrow about it. They have been very aggressive in contacting him about it. **David moved to table action on the Master License Agreement with AOT until getting further information from VLCT and other sources, Scott seconded and the motion was passed.**

The library crosswalk should be on the agenda for the next joint trustee-selectboard meeting. Gordy said Eric felt that instead of putting money into a crosswalk, if the selectboard has to pay for it they would rather do a sidewalk. Gordy told him that the trustees expect to work together with the selectboard on a crosswalk.

The trustees decided at their February 7 budget meeting to move ahead with the repair of four catch basins on Pearl St. with town and village staff working together to make the repairs prior to paving work later this year.

The trustees also decided to include pole replacement on 100C in the 2016 electric budget. This includes upgrading that section from 4k to 12k.

The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department requested updated alarm contact information and it has been supplied to them.

Former Cyprus Minerals reimbursement requests of \$3,019.38 (for January) and 4500.75 (for February) have been received and signed by the town and village.

The existing Evaluation Policy in the Personnel Policies calls for annual evaluations and does not need to be amended. Due to work on the budget we have not progressed with the other policies.

There has been no change on the Diane Geoffrey-Porter claim since Brian Monaghan transmitted the relevant documents to Paul Gillies. We are still waiting to hear back from Mr. Gillies.

David asked if there is any update on the new emails. Sandy said we have determined that everyone is leaning toward using Comcast. We need new emails for some employees. We are also talking about email addresses for trustees. Now that both boards have approved the new email addresses from Comcast Rosemary can go ahead and ask Larry to set it up.

VELCO sent Sandy a request for a proxy for the annual meeting of shareholders on April 7. We can either give them the name of a proxy or go to the annual meeting. Walter said a lot of local munis agree together on a proxy to pick. The group probably hasn't decided yet who will be the proxy so he suggests tabling this until the munis figure out who it should be. Sandy said the name needs to be sent before the next trustee board meeting. **David moved to authorize Walter to**

coordinate with other municipal utilities to determine to whom to give the proxy on behalf of VOJ Water & Light, Bob seconded and the motion was passed.

The Town of Rutland has sent out a resolution asking the legislature to provide more local control over Section 248 siting processes for large commercial solar and wind power projects. Walter said the Public Service Board finally said no to a solar project because a municipal plan showed a municipality didn't want it. The new net metering standards call for looking at regional and local plans. Sentiment is changing to give more local control and take it away from the Public Service Board. He thinks agreeing to this resolution helps push the vote toward giving us more say. He is in favor of signing it.

Walter moved to authorize Gordy to sign on behalf of the Village of Johnson the Resolution to Increase the Input of Vermont Municipalities Regarding the Siting of Renewable Energy Projects in Certificate of Public Good Proceedings Before the Public Service Board, Bob seconded and the motion was passed.

Robert and Sons is agreeing to hold their price for mowing. They have given us the same price since 2010 - \$1420. The board agreed to continue to contract with Robert & Sons for mowing at that price.

Rosemary handed out the draft 2014 village audit for board members to review for the next meeting. A mistake has already been identified in it. They mistakenly say we are in the Unemployment Insurance Trust.

Walter asked if we still need to finish an internal control policy. Rosemary said yes. We might get lower insurance rates if we have such a policy.

Rosemary handed out the tax sale notice. Scott asked how someone reading the notice in the paper would know the addresses of the properties for sale. Sandy said they could come in and look at the tax map. Walter said the tax maps are online. Scott asked about the first one listed, a mobile home. The tax sale is on the mobile home and not the property underneath? Rosemary said that is because it is in a mobile home park. Scott asked if there is any legislation that could make the owner of a mobile home park responsible for taxes. Sandy and Rosemary said no. Scott asked if we could require a bond before hookup. Sandy said he doesn't think we can collect taxes in advance like that. Scott asked if lawmakers have looked at this. Sandy said every municipality has the same problem. No one has come up with a solution. Rosemary said the only thing is that if they move the trailer they have to pay the taxes in full. Walter said ultimately the trailer gets condemned and the trailer park owner or someone hauls it away. The trailer park owner would ask us to settle for 5 cents on the dollar and we would agree.

Rosemary said of the properties to be sold, the village has a lien on 4 of them. The board was not interested in paying the taxes in order to protect our liens because the tax amounts are greater than the lien amounts.

Rosemary said we have received the balance from the state on storm water. JSC has paid \$5K towards the community and economic development coordinator position. We are still awaiting the fire contract amount they are supposed to pay in March.

The note for the School St. project is due on April 13. Rosemary thinks we need to extend it for 6 months. Sandy suggested extending it for a year if it costs no more and there is no prepayment penalty. Rosemary said she will have documents to sign for that at the April 6 meeting.

Walter moved to authorize Gordy to sign the release of lien on the Vermont Mars LLC property at 201 Lower Main East, David seconded and the motion was passed.

Walter moved to enter executive session for discussion of a personnel matter the premature disclosure of which would put the village at a substantial disadvantage, inviting Rosemary and Sandy to remain, Scott seconded, the motion was passed and the board entered executive session at 8:50. Walter moved and David seconded to exit executive session at 9:42 and the motion was passed.

No action was taken following executive session.

9. *Adjourn*

Walter moved and David seconded to adjourn at 9:43 and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

UNAPPROVED