

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY, MARCH 30TH, 2015

**Present:**

Trustees: Gordon Smith, Ellis O’Hear, Walter Pomroy, Chris Parker, David Goddette

Others: Duncan Hastings (Manager)

***Call to Order***

Gordy called the meeting to order at 6:05 and asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. Dave said he would like to discuss Maplefields. Gordy said he would like to have Troy Dolan invited to the Annual Meeting and would like to work with Troy on an equipment replacement plan. Duncan said he had wage and salary data requested by Gordy that he could hand out.

Gordy asked if there were any questions about Village Meeting or issues the board needed to be prepared for. The Warning was reviewed and Gordy verified the budget numbers and estimated amounts to be raised by taxes. Gordy asked Duncan if Eric was available for the meeting and Duncan answered yes Eric was aware. The board agreed that Troy should be invited and that Troy and Gordy should work on equipment replacement plan. Duncan stated that he probably had a lot of the data collected already.

The board asked David to elaborate on his Maplefields concern. David stated that he felt the trustees should take a more proactive approach and send a letter to Skip Vallee welcoming him to town and supporting his project. He felt there were a lot of negative attitudes in the community which he did not agree with. We should be focusing on getting business into town and not on trying to adopt regulations, which he felt would serve as a disincentive to businesses locating here. Walter stated that while he had a lot of concerns over traditional zoning he felt the form based code concept could actually provide some needed certainty to developers and business people and encourage development. If having no zoning was a factor in business development, why don’t we have tons of businesses here? We have had no zoning all along so we should have a lot of business, yet we don’t.

A lot of discussion ensued including board member concerns that the town should not dictate regulations to the village, the potential costs of having a code, why the trustees had not taken a more proactive role with Vallee and other issues. Active discussion took place with all members participating.

Duncan stated that early on in the process the Trustees and Selectboard had agreed that the Planning Commission should take the lead role and meet with Vallee to discuss how community concerns might be incorporated in Vallee’s plans for re-development of the site. He stated that both Boards had approved their Chairs to sign and send a letter to Vallee offering support for the project and encouraging him to meet with the PC to help address community concerns. As a result of those meetings Vallee had agreed in concept to try to address many of the community concerns, but there were issues he could not agree to, so he felt it had been a good process.

At the end of discussion the consensus of the board was to have David Goddette draft a letter to Vallee indicating a willingness to work with Vallee toward the re-development of the site. David would circulate his draft for information purposes and it would be reviewed by the full Board at their

next meeting. The final draft letter would then be sent to the Selectboard and Planning Commission with the hope it could be approved and signed by the chairs of each.

Next on the agenda was discussion of draft contract from MW&L for outside services for electric department. Walter moved that this was a contract discussion and premature disclosure of the language and contents might put the parties at a disadvantage, seconded by Chris. Gordy, Chris Walter and David in favor and Ellis no. Walter then moved to conduct the contract discussions in executive session, seconded by Chris. Walter, Chris, Gordy, and David in favor, and Ellis no. The board entered executive session at 6:50. During the course of the executive session Ellis left the meeting.

Chris moved to come out of executive session at 7:45, seconded by David. Chris, Walter, David and Gordy in favor.

Duncan handed out wage and salary data requested by Gordy followed by a very brief discussion. No further action was taken by the board.

Chris moved to adjourn, seconded by David, Chris, Walter, David and Gordy in favor. 7:47 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Duncan Hastings*