JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021

Present:
Selectboard Members: Mike Dunham, Beth Foy, Nat Kinney, Eric Osgood, Eben Patch
Others: Brian Story, Rosemary Audibert, Hugh Albright, Lisa Crews, Eric Hutchins, Richard Cross, Sophia Berard, Howard Romero

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. ***Call to Order***
   Eric called the meeting to order at 7:00.
2. ***Additions, Changes to Agenda***
   Brian added the lease for the Holcombe House apartment and the NEMS contract. Nat added a COVID item. Eben added a discussion of a coffee machine purchased by an employee. Beth added scheduling for a planning session to discuss projects. Brian added discussion of meeting scheduling.
3. ***Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past***
   Beth moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2021, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.
4. ***Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills, Warrants, Licenses / Any Action Items***
   Rosemary said to date expenses are at 77.34% of budget. That does not include the orders the board will sign tonight. Revenue is at 98% of budget. The amount still owed on last year's taxes is $104,191.

   Rosemary has received two requests for waivers of interest and penalties on taxes. The owner of the Dollar General store did not get his bill in August because he was in France and he would like the town to waive penalties and interest. He paid quickly as soon as he found out about it. He has been in France since early last year because of COVID. Eric said he believes last year we did waive penalties and interest because of COVID but typically we have not waived them because the due date for taxes is well publicized. Nat said in the past the board has not been very lenient about this. Rosemary said the other person requesting a waiver of penalties and interest claims he mailed his checks on May 4 but we never received them. The board decline to grant the waiver requests.
5. ***Meeting Scheduling***
   Rosemary suggested a short meeting to set the tax rate on July 6. Eric said typically the board tries to limit the number of meetings in July and does not have a work session meeting. He suggested skipping the July 5 meeting as July 5 is a holiday, having a short meeting to set the tax rate on July 6, having a BCA meeting on July 13 for assessment appeals and having a regular meeting on July 19. The board agreed to that
6. ***Racial Justice Committee Report***
   Eric Hutchins said the Racial Justice Committee is having a writing contest. They got $200 from the town for prizes and $200 from the Lamoille Restorative Center. They have publicized the contest through the homeschool network and the schools. The deadline for entries is August 1. It seems to have been well received.

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The RJC would like to again urge the board to update the website, town documents, flyers and messaging with the inclusivity and anti-racism statements. Brian said both should appear on the website. He will check with the website administrator to make sure they are there.

Eric Hutchins said there are PDFs on the website for tourists and people who are interested in starting businesses. The inclusivity and anti-racism statements seem not to be front and center on the internet. If someone is thinking about visiting, moving here or starting a business here they will go to the internet first. Information about what we stand for is not easily accessible when people search Johnson, Vermont. We need to be better at marketing what our town stands for. Some other towns seem to have a better online presence. Our inclusivity and anti-racism statements should be easy to find on the internet. That might help home sales and tourism.

Eric read a motion made at the last trustee board meeting: *BJ moved and Ken seconded to allow the Racial Justice Committee to become a town committee rather than a joint town-village committee, pending the town's acceptance.* The trustees didn't want to fund the writing contest because they felt it was double taxation. Everyone in town is represented by the selectboard. The committee has already lost four members, three from the village. He feels the RJC should be a town committee. If there are issues pertaining to the village the committee will contact the village and make recommendations but making it a town only committee seems like it would make things easier in a lot of ways.

Eric Osgood said when the Racial Justice Committee was formed it was a joint effort between town and village for good reasons. It was felt that a lot of things the committee would do would be more village-centered. But he can see where there are problems with a joint committee. What is being proposed is not unprecedented. The Planning Commission is a town planning commission but the village adopts it. The town manages it and appoints members.

Nat moved to make the Racial Justice Committee a town committee rather than a joint town-village committee and to continue village appointee Raven Pfaff as a member. The motion was seconded.

Mike asked if the committee has a percentage of village representation it wants. Eric H. said he thinks anyone in town who wants to be on it should be eligible. Even if someone is not on it they can join meetings. He feels not limiting membership seems like a good thing. Sophia Berard said there wasn't really consensus about that when the committee talked about it. She doesn't know if the board wants to give the committee a chance to talk it over or just make a decision tonight. Eric O. said he would just as soon decide tonight. *(Howard Romero arrived at 7:22.)*

Sophia asked what Eric O. meant when he said the Planning Commission was adopted by the village. Eric said by statute the village has to have a planning commission so they adopted the town planning commission as their planning commission. Beth said the Planning Commission does work for both boards but the selectboard is its governing board.

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The motion was passed.

Eric H. said at the last meeting he spoke about wanting to find things the Racial Justice Committee can do that everyone can get behind. He and Sophia were quoted in a News & Citizen article last week. He hopes that is helping change the tone. Selectboard members are leaders and he hopes that no matter their political persuasion selectboard members realize that the committee is a good thing and that they will take a leadership role. He is trying to encourage everyone to get behind the committee's work as a local thing and try to tamp down the outrage machine which is not talking about what is happening here.

Nat said he has been looking at meeting minutes and he sees that committee members have been making a point to change direction. He read a statement from the Hardwick Equity Committees meeting minutes about the committee's intention to provide space to share without threat of retribution. He would like to see a similar discussion happen with RJC members. He thinks Portia did a good job at the last meeting of making the point that the committee can't attempt to force things on people because that pushes them further away. He would like to see the committee have discussion about roles and responsibilities before he would vote on future appointees.

Eric said Sophia is doing a great job as chair, making sure comments are directed to the chair and are not personal. Committee members have a responsibility to be accepting and welcoming of all viewpoints.

Beth said she thinks we should make sure people understand the charge of the committee before they are appointed to it. She heard something on the radio this weekend that she loved. It talked about how to really make a difference in racial justice, work has to be manageable, winnable and actionable. She thinks those things are important.

Sophia said at the last meeting the committee talked about its mission and vision statements. She thinks revisiting the statements will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. ***Curbside Alcohol Sales***
Eric said there was a special provision in the governor's emergency order that allowed curbside alcohol sales. The emergency order has expired but he believes the selectboard has the authority to extend curbside alcohol sales or allow them from now on. Nat said the board allowed it until the state of emergency ended. Eric said Downtown Pizzeria and Moog's Joint are the only ones that are doing curbside alcohol sales. We should let them know that the ability to do that expired and if they still want to do it they would need an okay from this board.

8. ***Office Coffee Machine***
Eben said he learned that a coffee machine at the office was purchased by an individual employee. Rosemary said every department has always purchased their own coffee machines. **Eben moved and Nat seconded to provide a coffee maker at the town office and to other town departments.**

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Mike said we have never provided coffee machines in the past. Someone could say that the motion didn't limit the price and get a very expensive one. If someone wants coffee they can bring in their own machine. There is even a liability issue. If we furnish a coffee maker and someone burns their mouth the town could be liable.

The motion was passed with Mike opposed.

9. Public Works Supervisor/Highway Foreman Report

Hugh said his crew began the month working on Upper French Hill – ditching, grading and replacing several culverts. They did it with no one complaining about road closures. They gave away a lot of fill. They have been grading pretty much every day. The roads are in good shape now. They changed how they apply chloride this year. They graded, then laid down a lot of chloride. That seems to harden the roads well. Hopefully they won't need to apply much more this year. He hasn't received any complaints about road conditions. His crew also graded the town dump driveway. He had been getting more complaints about that than any of the other roads so since it was about a 20-minute job they took care of it. The new pickup came.

A large hole recently opened up by Manchester Lumber on River Road. It was caused by drainage from the old sawmill and a rotted culvert. The crew spent two or three days and probably $15,000 for materials to fix the issue but there are three or four more crossings just like it that will merit investigation. At some point we will need to delve into the issue of who owns that infrastructure. The town? The village? The Manchesters?

The public works crew replaced culverts on Swamp Road and started mowing. They mowed the rail trail once. They are mowing 7 days a week now. A part-timer does 20 hours on weekends. They have been working on preparations for the welcome center. They put garbage cans back at Old Mill Park. One new truck should be coming next month and the salt truck will be coming in August.

Eric said there was always an understanding between the town and village that the town owns culverts that run from light to light and the village owns storm drains. He understands that the village does not recognize that they own the old infrastructure near the Manchesters. The Manchesters probably put the culvert in on their own. How that will get resolved is a big question. Normally when water is going into a catch basin it would be a village responsibility.

Hugh said what he understands from village employees is that if it doesn't empty into their storm water system but daylights into the river it is a town issue. He feels it is a Manchester issue. The Manchesters are happy to discuss dealing with it. The public works crew separated the new catch basin they put in from the other system. The other similar culverts at minimum need to be inspected.

Eric cautioned Hugh to be careful what his crew does for the solid waste district. There is a contract with them and they are responsible for maintaining the yard at their facility. Hugh said he thinks the townspeople appreciated the grading he did there. He got he got a lot of phone calls about it. Eric said those calls should have been directed to the solid waste district.

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Nat asked how many hours it took to mow the rail trail. Hugh said 16. Our mower is too large to fit over bridges so that adds an extra day to the work because of the travel needed to loop around the bridges.

Nat asked if Hugh thinks he is using more chloride or dispersing it differently than in the past. Hugh said dispersing it differently. He noted that it looks like in the past we have been robbing from the next fiscal year to pay for chloride. It costs $36-38K per year and the line item for it for this year was $28K.

10. Recreation Coordinator Report

Lisa Crews said the recreation department had baseball this year. They worked with Lamoille County Little League and were able to get all kids who wanted to play onto teams. Heather wrote a grant before she left to rebuild the softball fields and they were rebuilt in the spring. Now Johnson has some kids on the all-star baseball team. She has been working with Howard and Casey to learn about the skate park and bike park. Casey has been generous in helping Lisa learn her process for writing grants. Recreation has submitted several grant applications. They got money for Lisa to take a playground inspector's course. They have been working with Eddie Gale on Lea's playground. Lisa listed the activities the recreation department has planned for this summer. They are working with the library and fire station to have more one-time community events. There will be a three-week summer camp at Old Mill Park this year. The Recreation Committee decided to have a big yard sale at Old Mill Park to raise money for recreation. The Recreation Committee is working with the Conservation Commission on the hillside just below the pavilion, which is losing grass due to lack of rain. The plan is to return it to a meadow with walking paths, which will be better for the environment and more stable.

Beth asked about expenses for programs that did not happen this year. If there were no programs, what were the expenses? Lisa said she ordered some balls and uniform pieces in advance of next season. In reviewing the budget she noticed a few things that were in the wrong spot. She and Rosemary will move them as appropriate.

Lisa said it seems that some of the projections for enrollment income are not in line with the number of actual enrollments we get. The committee is going to average past numbers and see if projections need to be adjusted. *(Eric H. and Sophia left at 7:55.)*

11. Update on Rocky Road FEMA Mitigation Request

Brian said after Rocky Road by Scribner Bridge washed out the last time we asked FEMA if they would review our project for mitigation and if we would be eligible for funds not just to restore it but to improve it with the specific suggestions from the report we got in 2013 recommending mitigation work. They said maybe. Due to the pandemic they weren't conducting site inspections for a long time and then they had a big backlog. Recently Brian got an update from them. They want an improved engineering report. They feel the report we have loosely describes the project but they want more detail. It is a reimbursable cost but we would have to pay for the report in order to receive approval for funds and it is possible that we would not receive approval. Today Brian talked to a representative from FEMA in a different part of the office who was very interested in revisiting the existing report and the budget estimate G.W. Tatro had provided. Brian reiterated to that person that we think we

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have enough information that we are ready to commit to the project. They said they will take it back to mitigation for review again. So we may be able to get around mitigation's current request that we provide a more detailed engineering report. Another option is to forget about mitigation and just restore the road to our road and bridge standards. That work is eligible for reimbursement. We could wait a little and see if today's appeal to FEMA works. We could do the engineering study. Or we could just restore the road to our road and bridge standards. Eric said another option is just to shut down the road and no longer maintain it.

Mike said he thinks we should just repair the road and open it.

Howard asked if we have a cost estimate. Brian said we have an estimate of $105,000 from G.W. Tatro. That is from 2018. They are not committed to that price. We would have to go through a bid process. They thought they had enough detail that they could do the project. Brian pushed back with FEMA, telling them that we have a contractor who thinks the existing information is enough.

Nat suggested giving it a few months to see if we can get money for mitigation and if not do the repairs. Mike said he would agree but he feels we should not spend any more money on engineering. Nat agreed that we should not unless FEMA gives us an assurance that they will pay us back.

Mike moved to repair Rocky Road to its previous condition and open Scribner Bridge back up. The motion was not seconded.

Eben asked if Brian has an estimate of how much an updated survey would cost. Brian said no. He thinks it would be reasonable to do it for $10K or less but he would have thought $15-20K would have been enough for the bridge study and the estimates we got for that were $20-30K.

Nat suggested pursuing mitigation and coming back to this in September. The board agreed to that. Brian suggested planning on an update at the July meeting.

12. Discussion of Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Mowing

Brian said Greg Fatigate, who has done some work with the town on the skate park and other recreation related activities, has offered to mow the rail trail for $520 each time. He thinks he can get it done in a day because his mower can go through all the choke points where ours doesn't fit. It would be up to us how many times we have him do it.

Lisa said the rail trail has asked us to mow it every 4 to 6 weeks. Their concern is ticks. Howard Romero said the skate park has had great success with Greg. Brian said we did not put out an RFP. Greg just submitted a proposal. Another person was interested but Brian never got insurance information from him. We can't hire someone if they don't have insurance. The board could take up Greg's offer, put it out to bid or continue to have the public works department to the mowing.

Nat said he feels this is the rail trail's responsibility and it is being pushed onto the towns. Lisa said Ken Brown, our rail trail contact, is looking into funding to help us contract out for

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mowing. Up until now all towns have just agreed to help with mowing but they said if it is posing a problem for us they will look into getting funding for us. Nat said it is important that the trail gets mowed but he would rather put money into improving accessibility between the business center and the rail trail. If we can work with the rail trail to get them to pick up some of the cost that would be useful.

Brian said historically we have always provided mowing and so have the other towns. When he started a few years ago we were mowing once a year. Eric said that was the original request. Some towns on their own have taken to mowing it more frequently but that is added expense and time for our crew.

Nat said he thinks if we are going to do it we should contract it out. Hugh agreed. He said he thinks it would look a lot better, too.

Lisa said she just got an email from Ken Brown indicating that VAST might split the cost of mowing with us.

Eben said he thinks we should mow it once a year. If it takes 16 hours, doing it 4 times adds up. Brian said the current practice is to do it twice a year. Evan said we could leave it at twice.

Eben moved not to contract out mowing the rail trail and to do it twice a year. He agreed to the friendly amendment suggested by Beth specifying that it would be done once in June and once in August. Eric said he is not sure we need a motion if we are currently doing it twice a year.

Nat said it seems like Greg Fatigate can do it more cheaply if it takes him 8 hours versus 16 for our crew.

Brian said he thinks if we can work something out with the rail trail so we do it four times a year but only do the sections that are easy for us, that would make a big difference. Maybe we would only have to do sections we can easily reach and they can pay someone to do the other parts. Then the crew could spend the same amount of time they currently spend. Hugh said that town's mower cannot go over any bridge. Beth said bridges are all over on the rail trail. Hugh said Hyde Park mows some of the Johnson part of the trail for us. Brian said Cambridge mows some of ours also. Brian said we will talk to the rail trail and see if we can come up with an arrangement that will mean the public works crew spends no more hours than they are currently spending.

13. Discussion of Status and Outlook for Ted Alexander Welcome Center

Howard said the prices he was getting for materials were 200-800% of our original estimates. He met with Nat, Brian, and Doug Molde to discuss the situation. After that meeting he talked with Mike Patch, who said he has the needed materials in his shed and would sell them at a manageable price. Howard got a bid of $11,800 dollars for the small amount of concrete work needed but Mike Patch arranged for another contractor to come in who gave an estimate of $3,500. This morning the public works crew dug the footings and the concrete contractor may have already started or may come tomorrow. Howard has done a couple of

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minor revisions to the design that make the building a little cheaper. Brian Raulinaitis is going to act as general contractor and do the carpentry. We have him for 2 weeks. It is up to Howard to get all the materials prior to him coming. Howard doesn't have all the prices yet. He hasn't looked for an electrician yet.

Beth asked how much we have spent so far. Howard said we have purchased very little at this point. He purchased five 8x8s and the concrete work cost $3,500. That may be all we have spent.

Beth said we are definitely over budget on labor and we haven't found an electrician yet. She suggested that we probably need to make sure we are not spending money on anything in the project that could be optional. Howard agreed.

Eben asked, we are talking about taking money out of the town account to finish the project? Brian said to finish the project the town would need to contribute money. The estimates have overrun what the Alexanders are providing.

Howard asked about the possibility of money from Bernie Sanders' or Patrick Leahy's office. Brian said one of them is interested but there is no commitment yet.

Beth said her opinion is that this project is great for the community, not just the Alexander family. But scope matters. This is not something we planned to spend money on. We don't have extra money right now. She would like to make sure we are not committing to giving extra money at this point and that we have a better understanding of the financials before making decisions to spend.

Eric asked if it is the desire of the board to hold the project within budget and when as much as possible has been done within that budget for Howard to come back to the board. Beth said yes. Eben said he would want the design to be scaled back rather than for it to come back to the board. Howard said a scaled back design is not what was approved by the funder. He is not sure how that would go. Brian suggested we could let the funders know that the way costs are we can't afford to complete the project as scoped and let them know what we are able to do. Eric asked if any of those conversations have been started. Howard said Doug and Brian felt they should wait to update the funders until after this conversation with the board. The plan is to update them tomorrow.

Brian and Howard agreed that the project will cost more than the original estimate.

Howard asked if we have any sense about federal money that will be coming in. Eric said we have a sense of the amount but not the rules for spending it. Brian said we have preliminary rules but they are under appeal. Beth said that is assuming that we would want to use the money on the welcome center. We haven't discussed priorities.

Brian said he thinks we can request the next segment of funding from the Alexanders now that the concrete work has started because the agreement was that we would get that money when construction started. But we need to decide if we are changing the scope of the project

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or offering to make up the difference. Nat said he thinks we have to talk to the Alexanders and ask them if they are okay with delaying the project for a year since prices may come down. Do we get to a certain point this year so they can have their dedication and finish it in the future? Or do they want to say they will not send more money and may even want us to return the money they sent?

Beth said if we find they do want to move forward our next meeting is not until July 19, only a month before the planned completion date. Nat said he thinks the reality is that we are not completing the project this year. He thinks we will be telling the Alexanders that the original plan is off the table. Brian said as he understands it the direction is to talk to them about their comfort level with changing the scope of the project before we request the next segment of money. If they are comfortable, then we can get the next segment and proceed with construction of a truncated segment of the welcome center. Beth said we can't commit to using the second chunk of money until we know the cost of materials. Brian said we will get final numbers from Mike Patch.

14. Lamoille Sheriff's Contract

Brian said we have received proposed annual contracts from the sheriff's department for communications and patrol. Eric said the amounts are as approved in our budget. *(Howard left at 8:42.)*

Nat moved to approve the communications contract with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department, Beth seconded and the motion was passed.

Mike moved and Beth seconded to approve the patrol contract with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department.

Nat said he and Beth have been meeting with Susan Bartlett of the Hyde Park selectboard and Linda Martin of the Wolcott selectboard to discuss options on moving forward. This contract hasn't been looked over or updated in a long time. The group would like to spend time this summer looking over the contract and making it more relevant and specific and then send it out for review. In the meantime he is happy to recommend signing this contract with one suggested change. Wolcott wants to include language stating that each contract town will receive patrol hours in proportion to the money they spend on the contract. So Johnson, which pays 42% of the contract, would get 42% of the hours. Nat hasn't gotten the specific language yet. Roger Marcoux thought the idea sounded fine. Since the selectboard will not have another meeting before the current contract runs out the board should sign this contract as is, knowing that it may be updated in a few weeks with Wolcott's suggested language.

The motion was passed.

15. NEMS Contract

Brian said we have received the NEMS contract for ambulance service for the amount we budgeted. **Nat moved to approve the NEMS contract for ambulance service, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.**

16. Update on Future for Listers/Assessors

Brian said our contract with NEMRC is expiring and they have declined to renew it. We are searching for a replacement. He has been working with the listers in Morrisville to partner

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with other towns to create a full-time position with hours shared between towns. That has not borne fruit yet. He currently does not have anything for the board to take action on.

Beth asked what happens if we don't find someone. Eric said we wouldn't be the only ones in that situation. We could put out an RFP and see what proposals we get.

Nat asked if Robin might be interested in doing it if we provided someone to do site visits with her. Brian said he thinks if we could provide that it would be more likely that she would be interested. Probably work conditions should not be discussed in open session.

Eric said NEMRC will handle appeals to the BCA. Brian said it looks like we might have to pay for additional expertise they might like to bring to the appeals.

Brian said he would like the board's permission to write an RFP based on ones other towns have used and to put it out when it is done. **Mike moved to authorize Brian to put out an RFP for assessors, Eben seconded and the motion was passed.**

17. ***NEMS Contract (continued)***
Nat moved to authorize the chair to sign the contract with NEMS, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.
18. ***Discussion and Authorization for Request to Receive American Rescue Plan Act Funds***
Brian said we can now submit requests for disbursement of the first part of the ARPA funds. **Beth moved to authorize Brian to submit a request for disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act funds, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.**
19. ***Fireworks Permit Application***
Brian said we have received a fireworks permit application for July 3 for a location on Route 100C outside of the village. The applicants have informed their neighbors and completed everything on the permit application. Eben asked if this is the same person who applied last year. Brian said he believes so. **Eben moved to approve the fireworks permit for July 3 with the stipulation that the applicant must check weather conditions on the day of the event, and to authorize the chair to sign it, Mike seconded and the motion was passed with Nat opposed.**
20. ***First Review of Updated Speed Limit Ordinance***
Brian said he had sent out the existing speed limit ordinance, which is one page, along with the draft of a new one. The existing one isn't in the format the state currently wants. To change speed limits we have to have supporting data to back up the change. For Sinclair Road between 100C and Rocky Road we have data to support a speed limit change. A speed study suggests the speed limit could be lowered from 35 mph to 25 mph. Brian wants to run that by the sheriff to make sure he is comfortable with it. Hogback Road does not have any speed limit signs on it within the Town of Johnson. Brian doesn't think we meant for it to be a 50 mph road. He suggests doing a speed study on it. With board permission he will ask LCPC to do that and then we can update the policy with the recommended speed limit for the road. There is a missing speed limit sign on River Road East, which we will replace.

Eric asked what the speed limit is on the Cambridge part of Hogback Road. Brian said it is 40. The standard is that the 85th percentile for traffic on the road is the recommended speed limit. LCPC provides speed studies at no charge. Eric said he would hope the speed study

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would allow us to set the same speed limit as Cambridge. Brian said we will probably set up a couple of different sample points along the road. The parts of the road before and after the falls feel different.

Brian said we have also talked about updating other traffic control ordinances like the one on stop signs and yield signs. The modern suggestion is to have a single traffic control ordinance that covers all aspects of traffic control and parking. Developing an ordinance like that would delay the speed limit ordinance update. If we keep separate ordinances the speed limit one can be adopted relatively soon.

Eric said he thinks Roger Marcoux will encourage Hyde Park and Wolcott to adopt the same ordinance as Johnson to make it easy for deputies. Brian said he hasn't looked at theirs yet but he has looked at some other local ordinances and they are pretty similar.

Beth recommended trying to format it so it fits on two pages.

21. COVID-19 Reopening Information

Brian said the town offices have reopened. The recommendation is for anyone who is not vaccinated to wear a mask. As he understands it, we will continue to do land record searches by appointment. Rosemary said yes, because of the small space.

Brian said we paid for Zoom out of our emergency fund. Going forward he thinks it is worth maintaining a Zoom subscription because it is easier to use than a conference call. He thinks we should share the cost with the village. He would recommend dropping the additional users we added as we only needed that many a couple of times and is quite expensive. Now that most people will be coming in person he thinks a maximum of 50 will not be a hardship.

Eric said his recommendation for meetings is that Zoom be broadcast only and that people not be able to participate by Zoom unless there are special circumstances. Brian said we got advice from VLCT. They think we are not in good order if we don't allow comment by Zoom at our meetings. Brian thinks that is either a misinterpretation or an overly cautious interpretation but he thinks it is worth bringing up to our town attorney to make sure our interpretation is fair. Eric said if the town attorney agrees with VLCT the board will need to decide whether to stop broadcasting on Zoom or allow participation by Zoom.

Eric said the COVID team held its last meeting today. They revoked all town restrictions.

Nat said the state is planning on having a vaccination clinic at Tuesday Night Live on July 6.

22. Selectboard Issues/Concerns

Eric said the top of boxelder tree on his property fell down today in the wind and landed on one of the trees at the arboretum. It collapsed a fence but the tree looks like it will be okay. He called Sue Lovering to let her know about it.

23. Holcomb House Apartment Lease

Brian said the current lease on the Holcomb House apartment has a provision that allows us to end it at any time with 30 days notice, so no changes to the lease are needed. **Mike moved and Eben seconded to authorize Brian to sign a renewed lease on the Holcomb House apartment.** Nat asked if we decided to increase the rent. Brian said no. Mike asked what the

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rent is. Rosemary said she thinks it is $1100 a month. Brian said he thinks that is a little on the low side. Beth said her daughter is paying about the same for a bigger apartment. **The motion was passed.**

24. Planning Session for Project Prioritization

Beth said she is hoping the board could schedule a planning session to prioritize projects. Eric suggested using the work session in August for that. We also need to revisit the capital equipment plan. Possibly we could do both in one meeting if we do not add anything else.

Beth said if there is any information we need from a committee or commission about projects on our list it would be helpful to reach out to them for feedback in advance of the meeting. Brian said he will try to circulate our list. If board members can send him questions he can start gathering documents.

25. Discuss Evaluation of Personnel

Nat moved to go into executive session to discuss evaluation of personnel as allowed by 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3), inviting Brian and Rosemary to remain, with Hugh possibly to be invited in during the executive session, Beth seconded, the motion was passed and the board entered executive session at 9:23. The board came out of executive session at 10:03.

26. Discuss Complaint and Possible Disciplinary Action

It was moved and seconded to go into executive session to discuss a complaint and possible disciplinary action as allowed by 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(4), the motion was passed and the board entered executive session at 10:04. The board came out of executive session at 10:24.

27. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

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