

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Present:

Trustees: Steve Hatfield (via Zoom), Diane Lehouiller, Will Jennison, BJ Putvain, Ken Tourangeau

Others: Rosemary Audibert, Dan Copp, Troy Dolan, Ken Nolan, Brian Story, Melanie Riddle, Meredith Dolan (via Zoom), Kenneth St. Amour (via Zoom), Alex Nadeau (via Zoom), Liz Kaufman (via Zoom), Marla Emery, Doug Molde, Linda Molde, Scott Meyer, Michael Reese, two other community members

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Will called the meeting to order at 6:00.

2. Review of Agenda and Any Adjustments, Changes, Additions

Will added meeting scheduling.

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Trustee Meetings

BJ moved to approve the minutes of October 8, October 13 and October 20, 2021, Ken seconded and the motion was passed.

4. Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills and Warrants / Budget Status / Action Items

Rosemary said all that is left outstanding for general department revenue is state PILOT money, which should come sometime in November, and the last fire department installments for Belvidere and Waterville.

BJ moved to discharge the water and sewer lien for Richard Jewett's property at 112 River Road West, Diane seconded and the motion was passed.

BJ moved to discharge the water and sewer lien for Matt Hill's property at 264 Railroad Street, Diane seconded and the motion was passed.

Brandy Wheeler submitted an excess water usage request. She had a broken water pipe.

Rosemary said the water did not go down the sewer drain. **Ken moved to reduce Brandy Wheeler's water bill to three times the average water bill for the past 3 months and the sewer bill to the average of the last 3 months, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.**

5. Discussion of AMI Project

Meredith said she invited Ken St. Amour and Ken Nolan from VPPSA to talk more about the cost and benefits of the AMI project. We are going to be asked to make a decision but whether we want to participate in the project.

Ken St. Amour said VPPSA did readiness assessments and then went through a process to select a vendor. This year a consultant did a cost benefit and cash flow analysis. The contract between VPPSA and the smart meter vendor is being negotiated. It is currently in legal review.

Each electric meter would have to be replaced with a smart meters and water interface units would need to be attached to existing water meters or the village would have the option of replacing water meters as part of this project. The meters would be connected to data collection units. 6 data collection units would be needed for the Village of Johnson. (*Doug and Linda Molde arrived at 6:14.*)

Ken St. Amour reviewed what Johnson's AMI network would look like. Data would be hosted by the vendor on Microsoft Cloud.

Ken Nolan said all of the utilities in Vermont except the VPPSA municipalities put in smart meters in 2009. VPPSA decided not to at that time because it was too expensive and they were new technology. The cost hasn't come down since then but functionality has improved. And across the state and the nation most regulators assume these meters are in place now. New laws are premised on the idea that smart meters are in place. That is putting us at more and more of a disadvantage regarding what the state and federal government is asking us to do. Their expectations are difficult to meet unless we have these meters. With this technology the utility does not have to send a meter reader out every month or send someone out to disconnect power or turn it back on. Data is provided every 15 minutes, making it easier to identify losses and hot spots. It also lets the utility look at transformer loading. Every meter will send voltage information every 15 minutes. VPPSA has to do a load forecast for the system every day in order to purchase power. They currently use historical data and apply weather patterns. With the information from smart meters they will be able to do more accurate forecasting in order to buy the power the village needs for its system. That likely will lead to cost savings. The legislature is requiring every utility to develop time of use rates, particularly for electric vehicles. By the end of 2024, every utility will need to figure out how to do that. The software for smart meters makes it easy to do that.

Will asked, if we are not able to comply with that requirement, what are the ramifications? Ken said VPPSA is not sure yet. Right now none of the VPPSA members have smart meters. VPPSA is looking at alternative ways to meet the requirement without smart meters but they are not sure we can comply. The Public Utility Commission will have to decide what they want to do if utilities cannot comply.

Ken Nolan said the legislature passed a bill that carves out \$100 million in ARPA funds for utility investments. VPPSA has said they think a portion should be allocated to VPPSA members to get them to the same point other utilities got to using federal funding in 2009. The federal government paid for 50% of the cost of smart meters for those utilities. VPPSA is trying to figure out how to provide loans to members. VPPSA would carry the debt on its books and have a monthly charge for members.

Will asked how long a life other utilities have seen for smart meters. Ken Nolan said some did not see the expected 15-year life. Burlington is looking at redoing their software. GMP is looking at their overall system, trying to assess what to do. He is hearing they will renew their existing product but they have to refurbish their meters. After all meters have been converted, replacement is rolling. Unless a utility is going to change vendors, meters just need to be replaced as they fail.

Will asked, so 15 years from now we will need to spend \$430K to replace meters? Ken Nolan said \$430K is the cost to change everything in the system. In the future the utility can expect to spend about one 15th of that cost each year, starting around year 10.

Will asked what portion of the cost is for the meters themselves. Ken Nolan said \$306K is the cost of the meters. They assumed a cost of about \$50K for installation. If Johnson staff do it, it would be less.

The contract between the vendor and VPPSA is undergoing legal review now. There will be separate agreements between VPPSA and each utility. VPPSA will start asking for commitments to go forward around the end of this year or the start of next year. They are planning to move forward with conversion for four members per year. They expect Johnson would not convert until 2023.

Diane asked if we will have the financial details before we make a decision. Ken Nolan said yes. When VPPSA comes back the village will be able to see the contracts, the proposal for financing through VPPSA and the details of the design.

Will asked about changes in unit cost depending on how many utilities decide to move forward. Ken Nolan said about 1/3 of members need to move forward in order to meet the threshold. After that it is a fixed cost per unit. He cannot see not meeting the threshold.

Ken Tourangeau asked how many utilities have said yes. Ken Nolan said there have been no official commitments but Orleans, Northfield and Swanton are planning to move forward. Hardwick and Lyndonville are leaning toward it. The only utilities that have indicated caution are Enosburg and Ludlow. Utilities can delay this but legislation will force utilities down this path eventually. *(Ken Nolan left at 6:42.)*

6. Water/Wastewater Report and Action Items

Dan gave his report. The E-DMR and WR-43 were submitted to the state. A fuse was replaced on the UV system that was causing 3 racks of bulbs to stay shut off. A worn out solenoid on the sludge wasting pump was repaired using old parts from one on the shelf. We are trying to source one to have as a spare. All fire extinguishers for the wastewater, water and pump stations passed inspections. Luke assisted Wind River jetting and vactoring sewer lines throughout the village. Floats at the siphon were tested at the same time. Belt adjusters on the sludge belt press were removed and repaired.

Coliform results were negative. Luke assisted the village crew with hydrant flushing. Two butterfly valves failed on the filter system, causing water loss down the drain. The valves were replaced. Champlain installed the new Verizon communication radio at the water plant. There have been no communication issues since then. Champlain also installed a new radio at the siphon. We had to upgrade to a 5G compatible radio as the old radio would be out of service. In January 2022 AT&T is terminating 3G and 4G coverage. Water loss was 24% due to the failed valves and hydrant flushing.

7. Foreman Report and Action Items

Troy gave his report. On October 19 there was an outage affecting about half the village on the R1 circuit due to trees coming down and making contact with the 3-phase line on College Hill. The majority of people on the circuit experienced an outage of about 30 minutes. The outage for the customers on College Hill lasted about 2 hours. On November 3 a dead tree came down on the line on Plot Road, resulting in an outage that affected 20 customers. Power was restored in half an hour.

On November 3 we sent 2 of our lineworkers and our large bucket truck to assist Hyde Park with a mutual aid call that consisted of changing out a broken pole with multiple underground customers on it. The crew worked about 18 hours with Hyde Park. Troy is creating an invoice to submit to Hyde Park for staff time and truck usage.

The crew installed and energized 2 new services, worked with Gould Electric to install conduit for a new service at the Studio Center's Red Mill, continued right of way cutting and completed monthly meter reading, high/low checks and Dig Safes.

During the week of October 25, the village crew worked with H2O crew members to clean the sewer mains in the village and the Highland Heights pump station. All seasonal water meters in the village were removed in preparation for winter. The crew investigated a report of low water pressure at a mobile home. It was determined that the issue was on the property owner's end. Both Bobcats and equipment have been completely serviced in preparation for winter. All village furnaces were cleaned. Winter sand has been stockpiled. The crew replaced the water pump at the cold spring. All stormwater receivers were cleaned during the week of October 25.

The crew completed NEPPA's monthly safety class. This class covered distribution line breakers and sectionalizing equipment. Rubber gloves and sleeves were sent out for 3-month testing and insulating blankets were sent out for 6-month testing.

Troy continued working with the engineer from RSM Construction Group related to the EV chargers going in at the Jolley store. We should receive payment soon for that job. They are planning on beginning the prep work in December as we wait for delivery of the transformer. Troy has been working with Ken Harvey's electrician planning the installation of 3 new services on Park Street. He worked with Gould Electric's supervisor planning out the new service that will feed the Red Mill building. He worked with Local Properties to discuss the water/sewer service and permits for their property at 36 School St. He scheduled the site visit with Petersen Consulting. He will meet with their staff at the village garage on November 9.

Troy said after reading the minutes of the November 1 selectboard meeting he wanted to clarify what happened with the visit to the infrastructure on the Manchester property. It was suggested in the selectboard minutes that the town foreman had to handle the issue himself. Nate and Troy traveled to the site and Troy also arranged to go there with the town foreman. They agreed to meet at the village garage first and at that point the town foreman said that since both had independently visited the site previously and since they agreed that the

infrastructure had nothing to do with the village they did not need to visit again. The selectboard minutes do not accurately characterize Troy's participation.

8. Fire Department Report

Will said in the past month the fire department had 5 calls – 3 during the day and 2 at night. The average duration was 62 minutes. Four calls were automatic alarms and one was a CO alarm. An average of 11 firefighters responded. There were 11 total service hours. Annual service and inspections were done for two vehicles.

Diane asked if the fire department is still looking for volunteers. Will said they are looking all the time. His understanding is that they are always taking applications. Diane asked if they have had any. Will said yes, a new firefighter and a junior firefighter will be joining in the first part of next year.

9. Brownfield Report

Melanie Riddle from LCPC said she is here to answer any questions about the 2017 brownfield report. Will asked if Mr. Hoag and Mr. Manchester have been spoken to. Melanie said no, there is no update on communication with them. Will said he thinks we need to deal with the garage issue at the jointly owned town and village property. He would love to see a plan for that. Diane said she invited the Hoags and the Manchesters to come to tonight's meeting. The report indicates that the landowners need to be talked to before anything can be done. Ken said he spoke to Bob Hoag and he said there is no way the village is going to use his property. Diane said if that is what he thinks we can eliminate that possibility but we have two other sites we can potentially discuss. She would like to know what our first steps would be in moving forward. Will said he has heard the same thing from Mr. Hoag. He thinks we should reach out to Mr. Manchester to see if he is interested. Plans for the joint property require town and village discussion. Will asked if Melanie is in a position to reach out to Mr. Manchester or if the village should. Melanie said she works with the Brownfield Committee, which discusses different properties in Lamoille County and gives recommendations to the LCPC board and can get funding. The initial piece is reaching out to property owners. For the town/village property she would recommend that the town and village get into a liability program which will provide protection if something is discovered on the property. That would be something LCPC could facilitate.

Will asked if a brownfield project would only be relevant in the area where the mill was located. Melanie said we don't know without doing a Phase I assessment. Because of historical uses of the property there could be additional chemicals that leached or that we are not aware of on that property. Will asked, a quarter mile down the road from the old mill site on that property would not qualify as a brownfield? Melanie said nothing is technically qualified as a brownfield until a Phase 1 assessment is done. We can't see if any area does or does not qualify without looking at it further.

Ken said he would not like to see us alienate residents by coming up with a plan for their property without talking to them. Doug said when this report was written, Parker and Stearns was an operating entity. A project on that site might be beneficial to the current owner. There are some problems with the village building. There probably needs to be a tighter operational agreement between town and village. He would suggest engaging with the selectboard and getting their position on it. We have a significant asset at the end of Railroad Street and a

sick street. The rail trail looks like it could bring people in. He believes the street can change. Do the town and village have the capacity to pursue a project or is there capacity through volunteer and LCPC help? He would like someone to register “Johnson – Art Capital of Vermont” as a trade name with the state. (*Scott Meyer arrived at 7:05.*) He suggests having a joint village and town meeting to pick properties to investigate to see if a project would be beneficial.

Will asked about the nature of available funds and what they are for. Melanie said a Phase I assessment involves going through property records to figure out where testing needs to be done and where there is potential contamination. Then a Phase II assessment is done. Both phases can be paid for through available funding. The testing is actually done in Phase II. Will asked if there is a match. Melanie said she believes there might be some small amount.

Will ask, if we get funding for Phase I and Phase II assessments and find contaminants, then what? Melanie said the funding they have doesn't cover the next piece but doing Phase I and Phase II assessments opens up the possibility for other funding. The town and village can enter into a program that protects them from liability and get a certificate of compliance at the end. After Phase I and Phase II assessments are done a corrective action plan is developed. LCPC can help us apply for funding for that.

Doug asked Brian Story if he thinks the town would be a participant. Brian said yes, the town would be interested in having discussions about what could be done on that property.

BJ asked how long Phase I and Phase II usually take. Melanie said Phase I should take a month or so. She hasn't seen how long Phase II takes.

Will said he thinks the village should have a meeting with the town to explore whether we both agree on where to move forward. Brian said he thinks that would be great. BJ said he is available Wednesdays and Fridays. Will suggested that Brian talk to the selectboard and see if we can set something up for one of those days. He asked if Melanie and Doug could come to that meeting.

10. Village Garage Update – Potential USDA Grant Opportunity and Its Requirements

Meredith said she was made aware of a funding opportunity through USDA and she had a conference call about it. It is a grant opportunity through the USDA's Community Facilities Programs. Because of Johnson's economic makeup we are eligible for a 75% grant. The idea is that we would be rebuilding the village garage. The grant application is due in December. That doesn't give us time to figure out a new place for the garage. If we pursue that grant we are making a decision to put the garage back where it is. Meredith is trying to make sure that if we are going to rebuild it we can do it without reopening the ACT 250 permit or encountering environmental hurdles. If it is rebuilt in the exact same spot, maybe even on the same pad, we may have the ability to do that without many regulatory hurdles. If we move the building or need to do a lot of digging she feels environmental issues would need to be sorted out and that couldn't be done by mid-December. Is the board ready to move forward with trying to keep the garage where it is or do we want to hold off because we may have other plans for the site? Does the board want her to pursue the grant?

Will said if there is a grant with a December deadline, if the footprint of that garage would work for our equipment he thinks we should move forward with rehabilitating or rebuilding on that site. BJ asked if Troy feels that would work. Meredith said she thinks he is worried that water flowing under the slab may be causing the moisture problems. She doesn't think the location or size of the building is a limiting factor, just conditions at the site. If we get the opinion that we can rebuild there without the same problems occurring she thinks that is a viable option.

Diane asked if we know what caused the mold. Meredith said Troy is meeting with the consultant tomorrow. Mold is caused by moisture. There is moisture in the building. We know there is condensation and a leaky roof. But we need to understand if there is moisture coming up from the slab itself. The consultant will try to determine where the moisture is coming from.

Will asked, if we use the same footprint and the pad is the issue, if we were to vapor barrier the current pad that shouldn't impact Act 250 or bring up any environmental concerns, right? Scott Meyer agreed.

Diane asked, what if the boards decide to try to develop that whole area for some type of business? Will said he thinks where the structures are serves our town and village well. He is not in favor of moving the town and village buildings for a business. BJ said he thinks the cheapest thing is to keep the garage there and rebuild it rather than moving. Ken said there has been talk about using the Jewett property but it is not even Act 250 approved yet. His only concern is the bridge flooding and the garage being stuck on the other side, but it has been that way for a long time. Steve said it would be nice if we had the information from the inspection tomorrow to make our decision. He doesn't see why we can't develop recreation site along the river and keep the garages where they are. Ken asked, if we move forward with the grant process, we don't have to accept the grant funds? Meredith said she doesn't think they can force us to take the money.

Meredith said if the board authorizes her to pursue this grant she will keep reaching out to the ACT 250 and environmental people about what is allowable. We have to have a cost estimate for the building and she believes we will need to engage an architect. If the board wants her to pursue this she will keep on with it and if she runs into a barrier she will let the board know. Will said the consensus of the board seems to be to move forward.

Diane asked Brian if there could be a joint town-village meeting at the next selectboard meeting. Brian said the selectboard may be willing to do that. The agenda is determined by the board chair. He can offer that suggestion but not commit to it. Will asked Brian to reach out to the selectboard and let the trustees know.

11. Local Properties – Water and Sewer Permits for 36 School Street

Meredith said a change of use (from a yoga studio to a 2-bedroom apartment) is being requested, not an increased allocation. **Diane moved to give preliminary and final approval of the change in use permit for 36 School Street, Steve seconded and the motion was passed.** (Doug Molde, Linda Molde and Melanie Riddle left at 7:24.)

12. Nadeau Well Update

Meredith said she talked to the state about no longer having the Nadeau well as a backup. They told her that a backup well is not a requirement of the state. We have to notify the state if we no longer have a backup well but we are allowed to be without one. However, while there is not a requirement to have a backup well, she and Dan both feel it is very wise to have one. If we cancel the lease for the Nadeau well there are two options. We can have an emergency well which is not permitted and which is physically disconnected from our system. It would not be tested or monitored and if we needed to use it there would be a Do Not Drink order. That is probably the least burdensome option. Another option would be to get a construction permit for a fully functioning backup well that would be connected to the system and monitored. She and Dan both feel very strongly that we should have a backup well in place.

Will asked, if we use the Nadeau well as an emergency backup well, would that release some of the requirements that are currently in place? Meredith said she would need to clarify whether an emergency backup well still requires a source protection plan. Will said he thinks the next step is to find that out. If a source protection plan is not required then we should see what the requirements are for an emergency backup well. Will asked Alex Nadeau if using his well as an emergency backup well sounds like it would work for him. Alex said yes, if we make sure that there is no longer a source protection area required around it.

13. Sign Vermont Municipal Bond Bank Loan Agreement for River Road Ejector Station

The board signed the loan agreement and other documents necessary to borrow \$345,000 for the River Road ejector station project.

14. AARP Winter Space Making Grant

Diane asked the board to grant her permission to apply for an AARP Winter Space Making Grant. The application has to come from the village but she will write it with Kyle Nuse. She attended a Zoom meeting on this grant. We can apply for \$4K. What she and Kyle want to do is put lights on the pizza oven and bandstand and buy fire pits, benches and sleds for use during the time of year when the ice rink is on Legion Field. Will asked if the skate rink has been set up. Diane said Brian Raulinaitis takes care of it every year in conjunction with the fire department. Will said he knows in the past the fire department has taken care of flooding it. Have they been reached out to? Diane said no.

Will asked if the grant covers the cost of electricity for the lights or if that will be taken on by the town. Diane said she thinks it would be taken on by the town. Brian Story said that has not been discussed by the town. The town is also applying for a grant from the same funding source. Since this is a village-centered project it makes sense for the village to apply for grant funds for this while the town applies for a different project.

BJ asked, the grant is for the initial cost to purchase the items but the cost of electricity and everything else is to be covered by the town? Diane said in the past Brian Raulinaitis and the fire department have done the work. The grant will pay for putting up the lights, buying sleds, putting up benches and fire pits and getting wood. She hadn't thought about electricity but she doesn't think it would be that much.

Will asked if the sleds will be left there or if people will have to sign up to get them. Diane said she doesn't think it will be that regimented. Will said the sleds will last a couple of weeks then. He asked if the park benches will stay there throughout the entire year. Diane said perhaps they could be moved to the arboretum in the summer. The arboretum would like benches.

Ken moved to authorized Diane to apply for a \$4,000 AARP Winter Space Making Grant on behalf of the village, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.

15. Green Mountain Access TV – Equipment

Will said his understanding is that GMATV is loaning us equipment and wants us to be responsible for it. Michael Reese of GMATV said he has been trying to coordinate with Meredith to transfer the YouTube station over to GMATV. He thinks it would be easier to just create a new one and upload past videos to the new account. There hasn't been any formal contractual agreement with most towns they work with regarding equipment, but given that the meeting room is not locked they ask that if any equipment they install is damaged or stolen we coordinate a way to be able to replace it.

Brian said it is not that the meeting room is not locked and secure but the keys for this part of the office are under a very different protocol than the office and the vault downstairs.

Will and BJ asked how much equipment would be left here and would be vulnerable. Brian said we have talked about putting a secure lock box or cabinet in this room. The laptop and some other things have generally been left up here. We haven't had any issues. Will asked if Rosemary has any concerns about people taking things. Rosemary said no, but she thinks a secure storage container is a good idea. Will suggested that Brian and Rosemary work together on that.

Michael said part of the equipment GMATV would put in would have a lock box but it is fairly small and he is not sure if it will include everything in the room. He can meet with Rosemary and Brian to see if we should have a larger one. The cost of all the equipment they will provide is around \$5K. That includes another computer in case the one we have dies. He would walk people who need to use the equipment through formal training. The idea is to make it simple enough that anyone without tech experience could navigate it.

Will asked if Brian thinks the town will have any issue covering the cost if something happens to GMATV's property. Brian said the board hasn't discussed it but he does not think so. He doubts we will get a better price for equipment than a donation where we just have to replace any damaged or stolen items.

BJ moved to take on equipment loaned by GMATV and replace it if it is lost, stolen or damaged, Diane seconded and the motion was passed.

16. Meeting Scheduling

The board agreed to schedule a meeting for November 17 at 6:00 to interview for the village manager position and sign documents related to Transco equity.

17. Other Business

Diane asked if the contractor for the power house demolition did everything they said they were going to do. What is left at the site – were they supposed to take care of that? Meredith said there would have been an additional charge to remove the concrete that was left there and there is potential to use it as fill on the site so we decided to leave it there. There is nothing in the contract left undone.

Diane asked, nothing is contaminated in that pile? Meredith said she would have to look at her notes. She doesn't think there was any contamination concern since it can be used as fill.

Diane said on August 9 Seth from LCPC told us there was \$20K in stormwater grant money, she thinks for a project near the library, and if we didn't apply for it he was going to give it to someone else. Are we applying for that? Meredith said we moved forward on that. The Dufresne Group is working with LCPC on it.

Diane asked Meredith and Brian if they feel they have enough time in their workdays to write other grants. She is concerned that there is so much grant money out there that is not being applied for. She would like someone to help them with that. We have projects we should be applying for.

Ken asked, do we have the money to pay matches? Diane said we have leftover money from Meredith and some money from the lineman position. We can also budget for it.

Ken asked, don't we need a project proposal with a plan? Will said Meredith has done well getting grants. That is not something that is not being done. He knows Brian has gotten some. Diane said she is not saying anything negative about Brian and Meredith. She thinks they work very hard. In addition to what they are doing, she thinks we would benefit by having an economic development person who will know where the grants are for the projects we need to have done.

Ken asked if the town would get their own grant writer. Will said we could look at a joint position. We should look at that when we are developing the budget. He would like to defer it until then. He doesn't think we can move forward until we look at the finances. Right now we don't have the funds to bring anyone in.

Diane said in the meantime it might be nice to discuss it with the selectboard to see if they would be interested in hiring someone in conjunction with the village. Will asked if Brian can bring that to the selectboard to see if they are interested in a joint position. Brian suggested it could be on the joint meeting agenda.

Scott Meyer said he thinks it would be helpful to have a section in the village and town annual reports showing grants applied for and received. That way taxpayers have a good indication what we applied for and what the success rate was. Will asked how long it would take Meredith to put that together. Meredith said she could review what we applied for and got during the time she has been with the village. She is sure she could come up with a pretty good list of what we got.

Meredith said although there are reports about all the grant money available, a lot of those grants are still in the development phase and not ready for applications. She and Dan are trying to pay attention to everything they see from the state but she thinks it will be a little while before we can actually apply for many of them.

Diane asked if Meredith thinks it would benefit us to hire someone in addition to her. Meredith said having more assistance is great. She wouldn't want us to apply for more grants than we have the capacity to implement. Some smaller grants can be done with volunteers. Once we get grant money then there is a lot of internal work that has to be done. There have to be people to implement the projects.

Will said it is rare for a grant not to have co-pays.

BJ asked if Meredith thinks there is a lot of grant money out there she hasn't been able to get just because she is so busy. Is she pretty much on top of applying for grants or is there value in having a full-time position to do that? Meredith said there are some grants she didn't have time to deal with so she did not apply for them – some grants that would have been nice but not critical. She has focused on critical infrastructure. She thinks there is room for someone looking for grants to do smaller projects, like nice things on the village green or Legion Field. She tries to stay on top of key utility-focused grant opportunities and whoever takes the village manager position would have the capacity to stay on top of that. But she thinks another person could look at grants that are not so utility-focused. It is a little hard to keep track of all the opportunities. It can be hard to know where to look for the information. Having someone searching for that could be beneficial.

Ken asked if Brian also feels it is hard to get people to implement grants. Brian said it depends what is being done with the grant. Some grants are a good fit for volunteers. He agrees that we are getting information on grants related to our core focus, but that leaves a variety of other topics. There is almost certainly more grant assistance than we are getting but dealing with grants takes some administrative time.

18. Adjourn

BJ moved to adjourn at 8:00, Ken seconded and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths