

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022

**Present:**

Trustees: Steve Hatfield, Lynda Hill, Diane Lehouiller, BJ Putvain, Ken Tourangeau,

Others: Rosemary Audibert, Dan Copp (remote), George Pearlman, Beth Foy, Walter Pomroy, Will Jennison, Shayne Spence, Scott Meyer, Michael Mahnke (remote), Jackie Stanton (remote), Nadeau (remote)

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

**1. Call to Order**

Steve called the meeting to order at 4:30.

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

No changes to the agenda were made.

**3. Executive Session to Interview Candidate for Employment for Village Manager**

**It was moved and seconded to enter executive session to interview a candidate for employment and the motion was passed.** The board came out of executive session at 6:02. The

meeting was recessed until 6:17

**4. Review and Approve Minutes of Trustee Meetings**

Ken moved to approve the minutes of July 11, 2022, Lynda seconded and the motion was passed.

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

Rosemary said tax bills will be due August 16. She asked Susan to send out a letter to NVU asking about their fire payment donation. Electric sales were 55% of budget for 7 months and purchased power cost was 50% of budget for 5 months. Water sales were 60% of budget for 7 months and sewer sales were 59.57% of budget.

The village received an excess water usage billing adjustment application from Jodi Raymond.

There was an issue with an outside spigot. She got a new spigot and fixed the problem. Marla

recommends an \$82 credit for the sewer bill because the water did not go down the sewer. **Ken**

**moved to give an \$82 sewer bill credit to Jodi Raymond at 72 Park Street, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.**

**6. George Pearlman – Setting Ladders on Neighbor's Property**

George Pearlman said he previously talked to the board about trying to get his home painted. Will Jennison volunteered to talk to his neighbor, but he is back in the same position again. He knows other towns have ordinances that allow construction people to go on to others' property for repairs, etc. He has full insurance. Richard Whittemore went onto Mark Woodward's property to paint without asking permission but he told George that George's painter could not go onto his property. George called VLCT to see if they can be of any help but they really just want towns to have zoning. He was wondering if form based zoning could deal with this. VLCT suggested maybe the town plan could deal with it. He is here to ask for assistance in getting his building painted. When Will talked to Richard previously, he said it would be okay for the painter to go onto his property but this year he said no and he also said no to Will. George doesn't want to be in the same position next year.

Ken said he talked to Richard Whittemore about the situation and Richard said that he has made George an offer to be able to go on to his property by signing a paper. George said Richard has not

approached him at all. Ken said the paper would release Richard from liability. George said he is willing to sign the paper. The painter has insurance. Ken said the agreement would give George 4 days to paint. The trustees do not have the ability to force anyone to allow to someone to go onto their land.

George said he is asking the village to consider doing something with the charter that would allow anyone to go onto a neighbor's property for construction, etc. With properties so close together in the village this could happen again.

Ken said there is no way this board can force anyone to do anything. There is no zoning. Zoning will not pass in this town. George said there is form based zoning. Ken said that doesn't have anything to do with going onto anyone's property.

Steve asked if Diane had spoken to attorney Brian Monaghan about this. She said she did. She said Brian Monaghan said that if we address this in an ordinance it would violate Article 5 and possibly Article 14 of the U.S. Constitution and that it is a civil private issue. The Constitution says no state will take one person's property without due process and compensation. To do an ordinance would be costly.

Steve said if the village's attorney can't deal with this issue then this board is not the place to come for help. George said there are other properties in this town, a lot of them in the village, that have no setbacks. How does the village deal with that? Ken said we don't. Good neighbors talk to each other. George asked, but can you depend on good neighbors? Ken said it is not this board's issue to take up. We have no authority to tell a property owner to let someone on his property. George said he just can't believe the village can allow someone to control what goes on like that. If everyone did that nothing would happen in this town. He will offer to sign the paper and see what happens.

**7. Discussion of Mural on Town Garage**

Beth Foy said she understands there was concern about the selectboard vote to put a mural on the town garage. She is here to represent the selectboard. The Beautification Committee is a committee that reports to the town. The selectboard's angle was that there was a previous handshake agreement about shared properties – that if one entity primarily operates a property then voting on things that affect that building is done by that entity. A good example of that is the discussion at past joint meetings about the village garage. There are actions concerning the garage on the trustee agenda tonight. The town would like to hear updates on that project because it is a joint property but there is not an expectation that the trustees will come to the selectboard for the selectboard to make a decision on what is done. That was where the selectboard was coming from when they approved the mural on the town garage.

BJ said he thinks there is a difference between maintenance on a building and displaying artwork on a building. The agreement was for maintenance on buildings. Ken said it was for interior maintenance. Beth said we are further defining it at this point. The selectboard could say the same to the village. Ken said the village has only done a study so far on its garage. Beth said there has been work done in the past on the village building when raccoons got in and there was not a joint vote on that. The bottom line is that the selectboard's view of the agreement was that it covered anything about operating that particular structure.

Ken said his biggest concern is having someone who is not a village or town employee working with a lift on the side of the building. Who will make sure they follow VOSHA rules and whose

insurance will cover them? Beth said they are not working on the side of the building; they are working on the ground and installation of the mural will be done by the town. Ken asked if they will be working at the site. Lynda said the mural is being painted off-site on removable panels.

BJ said he likes the idea of a mural showing the town but he feels this mural is not representing the town. He heard that it was showing inclusivity but it leaves out Native Americans. He would like a mural showing something about Johnson, not just something that also could represent a hundred other towns.

Lynda said she doesn't know a lot about the mural but she thinks Brian Story was the one who said it represented Johnson. She doesn't think that was the original intent. BJ said it would be nice to have someone explaining it to the board.

Ken said the selectboard is already continuing with plans to install the mural. They felt they did not need the trustees' permission, so he is not sure why this is even on our agenda.

Steve said the town should proceed with the mural. Beth asked, is the town getting consent from the trustees? Steve said the town has his consent. Will said it seems like the trustees decided the mural was not their business. Or are the trustees saying they give consent?

Diane said she thinks going forward we need to finish the memorandum of understanding we started with the town and make it clear who is in charge of each jointly owned building. BJ said it is pretty clear that the memorandum of understanding just says maintenance. Diane said we need to make it more clear so that when the town says they want to do something on their property they can. Ken said he thinks anyone who wants to continue this process before the village has a manager has an agenda. Steve asked how a manager coming in from outside would be able to help. BJ said no one here knows exactly what the agreement is.

Shayne Spence asked about the utility of maintaining control. Is there any purpose for either board to want to have control over the buildings the other entity is primarily responsible for? Are the trustees thinking about a situation where the selectboard might want to exert that kind of control over a village building?

Will said he would like to hear whether the trustees think the town garage is not the village's responsibility or whether the trustees are okay with the mural. Steve said he feels it is not the trustees' business. Lynda agreed. Steve said he would not want the town having a say in what the village does in the village garage. Ken said the selectboard told the village that it was none of our business and that they were moving forward. *(Beth left at 6:44.)*

#### **8. *Walter Pomroy – Crosswalks***

Walter Pomroy said the crosswalks across Route 15 cannot be painted by the village crew because that is a state highway. When they are unpainted that is a dangerous situation for pedestrians. The trustee board previously discussed implementing dyed pavement on the crosswalks to better delineate them. Next summer the state will probably be paving that section of Route 15. This is a perfect opportunity if the board chooses to undertake this project while the state is putting out bids. This is the time to engage with the state and let them know what we want to do. They will be requesting bids for the work in the fall.

Diane asked if Walter knows of other places that have used dyed pavement for crosswalks. Walter said Montpelier has crosswalks that were dyed and then imprinted with brick texture, which wears away. He is not really advocating for the texture but he is advocating for the dye.

BJ asked if the state would do the work or if a subcontractor would do it. Walter said a subcontractor will do the paving. While the equipment is here we may be able to piggyback on the contract with our funds or maybe the state would even pay for it. He noted that the Main Street project had six crosswalks planned and the state only let us build three. People sometimes ask for crosswalks in other locations. Perhaps the village could bring that up with the state as well.

Lynda asked about the type of pavement in the crosswalks. Walter said it is regular pavement. They just dye it. There are some colors the state doesn't allow.

Ken said he knows last fall we had a request for a crosswalk by the fire station. He doesn't know what happened with that. We were going to have a new count done. Will said as far as he knows the state denied it because not enough people were using it. He thinks Walter's idea of dyed pavement crosswalks is great but he agrees that the village needs to start moving on it now. The village needs to reach out as soon as possible and will have to reach out repeatedly. Walter said the village may need to contact a legislator and ask them to shepherd the project too. This is the best chance to have the work done at the cheapest cost.

Ken said he can talk to Ernie Patnoe and see if he can point us in the right direction. Lynda said she will talk to Rich Westman. Diane said she will talk to the person who is giving out grants through the DOT.

#### **9. *Progress Pride Flag Requests***

Shayne Spence said he is here to represent the Racial Justice and Social Equity Committee. The committee is requesting to fly a Progress Pride flag on the village green for Vermont Pride Month. He thinks that flag is still currently flying from when the committee requested to fly it in June. So he guesses the request is to continue flying it through September.

**Ken moved to continue to let the Progress Pride flag fly at the village green, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.**

Shayne said the committee is also asking to fly the same flag for the month of September on or adjacent to the municipal building. He noted that the vote to make this request was not unanimous, though the vote to ask to fly the flag on the village green was. The selectboard has considered this request and did not make a decision on it. They decided to consult with their attorney.

Lynda asked for clarification about the request. Shayne said the committee vote was to ask the town and village boards to figure out a way to display the flag on or adjacent to the building. In an attempt to recognize specific concerns about the flagpoles out front they wanted to leave it open to the boards to figure out another way of displaying the flag.

Ken said if it is not on a flagpole it is considered a banner, correct? Lynda said if it is hanging. Ken said we have a policy against that. Lynda said they are not talking about hanging it.

Steve said he does not think the board has enough information yet to make a decision.

**Diane moved to display the Progress Pride flag on a sandwich board positioned in the same vicinity as the sandwich board customarily used to give information about tax payments for the month of September for Pride Month.**

BJ said we have to stay neutral.

Diane said she agrees that we should work on a flag policy. But in the meantime she feels we can do this. If there is opposition to it she wants people to come to trustee board or RJSE Committee meetings to discuss it. She thinks this is valuable for our village. It is important that people know they are welcome here and that is what she wants as a trustee. This tells people they are welcome here.

**Lynda seconded.**

Ken said he is extremely disappointed that Shayne is here with this request. The past two boards have denied this action with numerous statements on it and then the Supreme Court of the United States backed the decision of prior selectboard and trustee boards. The City of Boston would not allow a Christian group to fly a flag and the group sued and according to the Supreme Court ruling if you fly any flag on municipal property you have to allow every flag or banner besides political flags. The Supreme Court said that if someone wants to fly a Confederate flag or a Betsy Ross flag or a right to bear arms flag, that is not political. We have the RJSE Committee coming to the selectboard and the trustee board asking over and over again to fly a flag. There is a simple solution and they do not want to do it. They can petition the town and village to have that flag fly but they don't want to because it won't pass. The board would not be doing what constituents want if this motion passes. Ken said the Progress Pride flag incorporates the Black Lives Matter flag. Steve and Diane disagreed. Ken said the RJSE committee needs to consider that boards have previously said no to this. If they want the flag to be on municipal properties they need to petition to do it. Then the boards will not have a choice.

BJ said the board just voted unanimously to hang the Progress Pride flag on property the village owns. There are places flags should be and places they should not be. At the municipal building there should just be the US and state flags. The board is not against having this flag in certain places.

Lynda asked, don't other towns fly this flag? Doesn't Burlington have it right on their City Hall? Diane said that RJSE committee is asking us to do this. The trustees and the selectboard made that committee because the boards could not decide whether or not to fly the flag. That is how the committee started. We assigned them to look at that. They are asking us to do something. If a group like the RJSE Committee ask us to do something, we should do it. If the committee comes and asks us to display this at our municipal building, we should because they are studying it and trying to educate people as part of their mission. If someone asks them to fly a Confederate flag they will know that that is not okay because it does not benefit the town, but this does.

BJ said doing what the committee asks is putting five people's opinion over everyone else's. Diane said the committee was assigned to make recommendations. Ken said the trustees gave up this committee. BJ said the committee was created for a purpose but it wasn't to do whatever they said. Diane said the committee has done the thinking about this. BJ said if they did thinking, they would

know that putting the Progress Pride flag on this building would cause a lot of controversy. We have to step in and say whether ideas are good or bad.

Will Jennison said the Supreme Court has said if you fly anything on a municipal building then anything else can fly on a municipal building as long as it is not political. He doesn't think it matters if it is on a pole or a sandwich board. He thinks it behooves the board not to consider their personal beliefs about this particular flag but to think about what could happen in the future. The board has typically run on precedent setting. If you set a precedent you have to live with it. He thinks the board strongly needs to consider what the constituents will say when they see a flag flying on that sandwich board because there will be petitions to fly other flags and the board will have no position to say no to other requests if they allowed one non-political flag. He urges the board to say no. Previous boards have given a place on the village green for this. That was the compromise. The board should stand behind the compromise that has been made.

Ken said he motioned for the Progress Pride flag to go on the village green. He is for it in the proper location – a non-controversial location. Everyone pretended to be pleased with that location. Let's keep it there and not cause more turmoil in this town.

Scott said a comment was made that the RJSE Committee was formed for the sake of determining where the flag should be flown. That is not totally accurate. The previous trustee board had long conversations on this. The compromise was for the flag to go on the village green. The chairs of the selectboard and the trustee board wanted this municipal office building to be neutral and to include everyone. He was worried about creating a more divided community. He is still a firm believer that this municipal building should be neutral. He thinks it would be a misstep to start putting political or non-political flags at the municipal building. The board should remain neutral about religious or political ideology.

Lynda said the town is divided. She doesn't know that this will make a difference one way or another. Diane said it will welcome the pride people and let them know we have their backs. She thinks that is what we should be doing. Ken said the red, white and blue flag that is already flying here says we have everyone's back. BJ said a flag like a Black Lives Matter flag puts a target on the backs of people it represents. It inaccurately tells people that we support it.

**The motion failed with Lynda and Diane voting in favor and Ken, BJ and Steve opposed.**

#### ***10. Water/Wastewater Report and Action Items***

The E-DMR and Wr-43 were submitted to the state. All the belt press parts should be here within a few weeks. Staff will begin the rehabbing next month. So far the parts have come in well under budget. We have all the parts for chaining off the headworks as part of the PACIF Grant. As soon as the parts are paid for Dan will submit for reimbursement. There was an issue with our alarm dial out system. Hallam Controls had to come to the plant and resolve it. Google had changed their security settings and we needed to update the software in our SCADA. The River Road pump station is almost complete. The pump station is up and running properly. There are a few final bugs to fix and some site work left to do and then the station will be complete. Staff received training from Champlain Associates on the controls for the new pump station.

Coliform samples were negative. We ran into an issue with Ship Sevin hooking their house and garage into the village water system. One of the conditions to avoid needing to upgrade the pumps and tanks was not changing the flow or capacity. If we hook Ship Seven in we are changing flow.

We also have to give the state a letter confirming that we can supply Ship Sevin with adequate water. We are already under what the state recommends for flow and Dan cannot give that guarantee. So we have two choices. We can force Ship Sevin to remove their pump and pressure tank. Dan feels this will come down to legal action. Or we can have them sign a waiver that we are not responsible for any damages to their equipment while it is housed in our building and that they are responsible for any damage to our equipment or building due to any failure of their equipment. This should involve a lawyer and a legal document. He would recommend that option. He talked to them and they are willing to sign a waiver. Steve asked if Dan can send an email to our attorney explaining what he thinks the document should say. Dan agreed to do that. The board agreed that is the best option.

Dan said we have come to a consensus with Arjay West on where to disconnect the Nadeau well from village water. There is a flushing hydrant below the Nadeau well. The hydrant after the Nadeau well would be abandoned. We can disconnect the pipe and cap both ends there. That still provides village water up to that point should any development happen on that side of Route 15. It also meets the state's requirement of physical disconnection from the system. Nate said the village crew should be able to do the work before frost. We can disconnect in the wellhouse immediately and do this work later in the fall. Ken asked if we have to continue with testing before the disconnection is done. Dan said our testing is done for the year.

Dan said when the final hookup was being done at the River Road pump station it was discovered that engineering missed a line that comes into the pump station and serves one house. A new service line had to be put into meet the new grade. We got a temporary easement from the landowners to do that work. The state has said they will not reimburse us for anything that happened out of the town right of way in the temporary easement. We have two options. We can make that a permanent easement and own that service line forever and then the state will reimburse 40% of the cost or we can pay the entire cost ourselves with no reimbursement. The state is currently reconsidering their position on reimbursement so the board does not need to make a decision now. About 2/3 of the expense for that new line was probably for work done in the town right of way. He does not have the final cost figures. He suggests that we do not take over that line. That is a precedent. The amount that we will not get reimbursed for may be \$3000 to \$4000.

Dan said he wants to make the board aware of how much time he is spending on things that would normally be handled by the village manager. He saw on the agenda that Steve is asking for compensation for time he is spending on things the village manager would normally do.

#### ***11. Electric/General Report and Action Items***

Steve read Troy's report.

The crew completed the following electric department tasks:

Removed an overhead secondary service from 38 Lower Main West.

Worked with the contract tree crew to remove a large maple danger tree on Gillen Ave.

Replaced a primary overhead pole near 184 Sinclair Road.

Completed right-of-way cutting at the substation.

Installed a 200 amp secondary service to serve the new sewer pump station on River Road West.

Finished installing the secondary service for the trailhead building.

Assisted a property owner with removing several large trees near the line on Provoncha Lane. This required an outage that lasted approximately 3 hours.

Continued right of way cutting on Clay Hill.

Replaced a guy wire at 111 Hoag Road.

Installed protective cover up at 953 Route 100C.

Continued working at Jolley's on the EV charging station project.

Began working on the primary underground line extension on Plot Road.

The contract crew removed multiple danger trees from the intersection of Rocky Road to the end of Sinclair Road

The crew also completed monthly meter reading, high/low checks, substation checks and Dig Safes.

The crew worked with the contractor at the River Road West sewer pump station to locate the main water shut-off and repaired a manhole cover on River Road West near the sewer pump station. The crew performed routine maintenance on all summer sidewalk equipment. The crew attended the July NEPPA safety training. The topic of the training was a review of the APPA 16th edition safety manual section 1 and 2.

Troy completed the following administrative tasks:

Worked with the utility pole manufacturer to expedite delivery of the village's pole order. The order was delivered during the week of August 1.

Had a meeting with the electrical contractor for the Jolley EV project and Nate to discuss the next steps of the project and how best to proceed.

Had a phone conference with Lion Electric related to the electric bucket truck. At this point it appears all Vermont utilities who received grants for the electric bucket trucks have agreed to standardize the truck specs to speed up delivery times. Delivery is now expected in May 2023.

Corresponded with the State of Vermont staff member who is overseeing the electric bucket truck grants, provided her with an update and started discussing required grant deliverables. The village will need to adopt an idling reduction policy as part of the bucket truck grant compliance. Troy has attached two draft policies that the village could use as a starting point. He recommends the village begin working on adopting this policy within the next few months so it could be completed before the bucket truck arrives in 2023. He also submitted a copy of



the village's purchasing policy because compliance with our internal policy is a grant requirement and will need to be attested to when the village seeks reimbursement for the bucket truck. It appears the policy includes a clause allowing for trustee discretion when the grant does not include specific procurement criteria and also includes flexibility in sole source situations.

Worked with the electrical contractor on the new electric service at the River Road West sewer pump station.

Met with a property owner on Clay Hill who is interested in installing a 450-ft primary underground line extension.

Continued working with the contractor who was installing the vaults and conduit for the 1500 primary underground line extension on Plot Road.

Emailed Engineering Ventures and Steve Hatfield to attempt to schedule a conference/Zoom call to discuss next steps with the village garage project and potential USDA grant application. As of the writing of this report Troy has not received a response from Engineering Ventures.

Worked with Dan to outline the permit process for the house and garage at Katy Win that is interested in being connected to the village's water system.

Completed a true-up for the new 600 amp electric service that was installed at 38 Lower Main West.

Completed a true-up for the new 200 amp electric service that was installed at 120 Sinclair Road.

Completed the monthly invoice coding.

Lynda asked what true-up means. Steve said Troy provides an estimate for a job and the job may use less or more of a certain material than what was estimated so the true-up reconciles the actual cost with the estimated cost.

Lynda asked about the status of the EV charging station at Jolley's that comes up on Troy's report every month. Steve said they have been working on it piecemeal. They had to install a big apparatus on a pole to hold a new transformer. The other day our crew put a wire across Route 15. They are waiting for the Jolley company to get the charger part but they want to be ready to hook it up. Lynda asked if Jolley pays for this. Ken and Steve said yes.

## **12. Fire Department Report**

Steve read the fire department report. From June 30 to July 28, 2022, the fire department responded to 5 calls, all during the daytime. The average duration was 127 minutes. There was one automatic alarm, one carbon monoxide alarm, one vehicle crash, one wilderness rescue and one mutual aid (station coverage.) The average number of firefighters that responded was 10. Total hours of service was 112.

The fire department experienced a breakdown on a body support on Tanker 1. It is believed to be due to rough road conditions. Desorcie Emergency Products (the company the truck was purchased from) came to the station, picked up the truck for repairs and returned it without billing. They

consistently stand behind their products. This service is another example of why the fire department has purchased several fire trucks from them.

The fire department has taken delivery of the replacement helmets and are very satisfied. They were put into service the evening of July 28. This project is completed.

**13. *Right of Way Easement for Alex and Lisa Nadeau on Village Green***

**Ken moved to sign the warranty deed for the easement for Alex and Lisa Nadeau's right of way on the village green, Lynda seconded and the motion was passed.**

**Ken moved to authorize signing the Resolution of Consent of the Johnson Village Board of Trustees regarding the agreement established with the Nadeau family for the right of way easement on the village green.** Rosemary said we received no petitions asking us not to sign this. **Lynda seconded and the motion was passed.**

**14. *Compensation for the Chair for Managerial Duties While Village Has No Manager***

Steve asked BJ to take charge of the meeting for this discussion. Steve stepped away and did not participate. BJ said he talked to the village's lawyer about how to handle compensation to the chair for managerial duties he is taking on while we have no village manager. The lawyer said to be legal there should be a motion to appoint a member of the board to do administrative work until the village manager position is filled with a rate of compensation to be determined by the board. The board first needs to agree that we need a person from the board to do this and agree on the amount of compensation, then a specific person to do it can be nominated.

**BJ moved that, given the additional work needed in the village while the village is without a village manager, a member of the board should be appointed to do administrative work until the manager position is filled at a compensation rate of \$200 per week. Lynda seconded.**

Ken said he feels this is a bad idea. There have been many past chairs who did the same thing when the village didn't have a manager.

Lynda said Steve goes above and beyond. He has his hands full.

Scott Meyer said he wonders about Vermont labor laws. Is this person seen as an employee or a board member? BJ said he assumes they would not be seen as a board member. The lawyer said a trustee board member cannot be a manager or assistant manager because that conflicts with the duties of being a trustee. It has to be worded as taking on extra work. Scott said he is wondering if this is an employee position or an added duty for a board member who is being paid as a board member. Ken said he believes it is an employee position and we have to advertise it. BJ said he thinks it has to be a board member that is taking on extra duties. Linda said it is like an extra duty contract for a teacher at a school. Scott said he wants to make sure we don't get into trouble with the Department of Labor if we don't do all the deductions that would go along with being an employee. BJ said he assumes Steve would have a 1099 and would be compensated as a trustee.

Ken said the board is not allowed to set trustee pay. BJ said we are not doing that. Ken said he feels that Steve is a trustee and we are setting his pay, which is not allowed. BJ said the lawyer said if we word it this way it just has to be voted on by the board and does not have to be advertised. The second thing we need to do is to nominate one of us to do the work.

Ken said no past chair has been paid for this. Steve accepted the chair position. BJ said just because no one has done it in the past, that doesn't mean no one should now or in the future. This will be a precedent that in the future if a board member takes on extra duties they can receive compensation. Lynda said it could keep us from ending up in a situation where no one wants to be the board chair. Ken said he doesn't think this is something we should be doing. We are not in this position to be compensated.

**The motion was passed with Diane, Lynda and BJ voting in favor and Ken opposed.**

**BJ moved to nominate Steve Hatfield to the position of interim administrator until a manager is hired at a rate of \$200 per week. Lynda seconded.** Scott said the wording of the motion referring to a position of interim administrator sets this up as a job. He suggested there should be different wording. **BJ and Lynda agreed to amend the motion to read “to nominate Steve Hatfield to do the extra administrative duties necessary until a village manager is hired at the rate of \$200 per week.” The motion was passed with Diane, Lynda and BJ voting in favor and Ken opposed.**

Rosemary asked when the compensation starts. BJ said immediately.

Ken pointed out that Steve could have resigned and did not need to stay on as chair.

**15. Heating Fuel and Diesel Fuel Request for Proposals**

Rosemary said Brian Story had sent out to board members a request for proposals for fuel. It includes village properties. It hasn't gone out yet. **Lynda moved to join the town in requesting proposals to purchase propane, oil and diesel fuel for the Town and Village of Johnson, Diane seconded and the motion was passed.**

**16. Village Garage**

Steve said Troy recommends that the trustees discuss how to provide a safe work environment for the crew this winter. The crew will need a safe place to perform equipment maintenance. We have talked about getting a big dehumidifier. BJ said an air scrubber is what we need. We need to get specs on it and get bids.

Diane asked if we can use the other heated building we share with the town. Rosemary said that building is full. Steve said he doesn't think that would be practical because all the tools are in the village garage. BJ said he thinks there is equipment already in the other building. Steve said he will ask Nate about this idea. Ken said the answer in the past about whether that building could be used was no. Diane said that was for permanent use. Ken said Troy has said in the past that that building can't be used because it is shared with the town and in winter they need to work on their equipment all the time.

Steve asked if anyone has other suggestions other than installing an air scrubber. BJ asked if we know what the layout of the building will be after the renovations are done so if we get an air scrubber now it can stay. Ken asked if the air scrubber can be used with the heat system we already have. Steve said he will talk to Troy and Nate about it.

Steve said the current delivery date for the electric bucket truck is May 2023. The village garage is not likely to be done at that point. The truck and its charging equipment will need to be stored in a dry area free of excessive moisture. The board needs to decide where it will be kept. Steve said he

thinks we could consider using the lower garage but he doesn't know how to plug it in. We could also talk about delaying delivery.

Steve said it sounds like we could get reimbursed for a lot more through a USDA grant than he was told previously. He will get information from the woman who administers the USDA small communities grant and see if we can handle the application ourselves or if we need to contact someone like the grant writer Greg Tatro used. Lynda said Engineering Ventures can possibly help with the grant application.

Steve said there are several different grants we could possibly apply for and there's the possibility of using ARPA funds. Ken said if we don't have a meeting about using ARPA funds we will have to pay back the ARPA funds. We are already late. Diane said she doesn't think the selectboard has decided how to spend the town's ARPA funds yet. Rosemary said it has to be decided by 2024.

Lynda asked if a lawyer needs to look at the idling policy. Ken said a lawyer has to look at any policy.

**17. Adjourn**

**Lynda moved and Diane seconded to adjourn at 8:10 and the motion was passed.**

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*