

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022

Present: Selectboard members: Beth Foy, Duncan Hastings, Eric Osgood, Eben Patch, Mark Woodward (via Zoom)

Others present in person: Brian Story, Rosemary Audibert, Jason Whitehill, Tasha Wallis, Jessica Bickford, Jeff Bickford, Jasmine Yuris, Diane Lehouiller

Others present via Zoom: Lois Frey, Mike Dunham

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Beth called the meeting to order at 6:31.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda / Selectboard Issues & Concerns

No changes to the agenda were needed.

3. Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past

Eric moved to approve the minutes of October 3, 2022 as presented, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.

4. Selectboard Issues/Concerns

Selectboard members had no issues or concerns to bring up.

5. Public Works Supervisor/Highway Foreman Report

Jason said the grant work on Lendway Lane is almost completed. The work on Ober Hill Road and Fox Lot Road is completed except for hydroseeding. The crew finished mowing the roadsides for a second time. All the sand is hauled. The new grader is supposed to be put on a ship Tuesday and should still arrive when we were previously told to expect it. Two of the four trucks are all ready for winter. (*Rosemary arrived at 6:34.*)

The salt truck was having issues with the body not going up all the way and a broken weld on the hoist. The dealer is saying the work is not covered under warranty because of lack of use. Jason got quotes for the cost to fix the issues. Another option is for the public works crew to fix it in our shop. The truck is 10 months old. The salesman and the previous road foreman specced this truck out knowing that it would have a v-box sander on it. We can't lift it all the way up without taking the sander off. (*Jeff and Jessica Bickford arrived at 6:35.*) When he picked it up it was not stated that we had to use the body a certain number of times but now they are saying lack of use keeps it from being covered under the warranty.

Beth asked if we have a copy of the warranty. Jason said he does not have it with him. Beth said if all the circumstances fall under the provisions of the warranty and the warranty doesn't explicitly say a certain amount of use is required we should definitely fight this. She feels we should push back anyway. Other board members and Brian agreed. Jason said there is a known problem where if you don't use it constantly grease does not get all the way around the tube. Brian said that sounds like a design problem. The board agreed. Beth said someone needs to read the warranty in detail and understand what is and isn't specified. Jason said we may want to look elsewhere for a hoist that doesn't have these problems. They state that this is a known problem with this hoist. He is a little frustrated because he wasn't involved with

specping this truck and he would have gone with a different hoist more like ones we have had before. Duncan asked how important it is to have the hoist. Jason said this time of year it is not important. One option is just to bolt it down for the winter. Brian said he and Jason will review the warranty and push back.

Duncan asked if the truck is usable now. Jason said yes. Brian said we also purchased a salt spreader for the foreman's truck. It does not do chloride but we have some capacity even without the salt truck.

Eben asked if Jason and Brian have sent out a letter to people with things in the town right of way. Brian said not yet. Eben suggested they should send letters to people they know are problematic.

6. Review Invoices and Orders

The board reviewed and discussed invoices and orders.

7. Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills, Warrants, Licenses and Action Items

Rosemary said we got the preliminary school tax information. To date taxes are at 99.7%. We got half our state aid. We should get current use money by the end of the month. Brian asked how we can be at that percentage for taxes. Rosemary said that is the percentage billed, not collected. Expenditures are 24.17% of budget. Beth asked if there is anything Rosemary is worried about. Rosemary said not yet. It is hard to tell because we have not gone through winter or done paving yet.

Duncan asked if we can assume Pike is not coming this year. Brian said they are not. They are coming in the spring. They are holding our prices level.

Duncan mentioned some potholes on Clay Hill. Jason said the crew can put some material in them.

Rosemary said the town has received a request for a board of abatement hearing. It was agreed to schedule a board of abatement hearing for 7:00 on Tuesday November 1st.

Rosemary said current year taxes are 41.42% collected, slightly higher than the past couple of years.

Duncan asked if Brian and Rosemary are going to come back to the board with revised recommendations on how to deal with the surplus. They said yes. Duncan said he feels we should possibly be prepared with a legal opinion regarding the issues Walter Pomroy raised at the last meeting. He thinks what we are doing meets the statutory requirements but he expects Walter will object at town meeting. Beth said Rosemary and Brian were going to follow up on that. That still needs to be done. Eric said we have previously gotten a legal opinion on this and our attorney thought it was well within our authority. We put it in a budget that is approved by the voters. Beth said she thinks we need to look up previous articles like the one Walter brought up at the last meeting. Duncan said the one Walter referred to was the article that created the reserve fund. Walter's argument is that we can only put surplus in the reserve fund through a line item in the budget. Duncan does not agree with him on that. He believes the selectboard has the legal authority to deal with surpluses as long

as the voters approve our proposed budget. If we got a legal opinion already it would be nice to know what that is. Brian said he will prepare a report for the board that includes that.

(Jasmine Yuris arrived at 7:05.)

8. *Review Planned Purchases*

Brian said there are no purchases of over \$1,000 planned before the next meeting. The Indeed bill came in higher than estimated. The estimated cost was under \$1000 but all the charges totaled over \$1000.

9. *Racial Justice and Social Equity Committee Resignation*

Eric moved to accept Adelle MacDowell's resignation from the Racial Justice and Social Equity committee, Eben seconded and the motion was passed.

Duncan asked if there is any recommendation from the committee to replace her or if the vacancy has been posted. Brian said we already had a vacancy posted and in the last couple of days we have had two people express interest in serving. But appointment to the committee was not warned for tonight. Eben said the notice of the vacancy should be on Front Porch Forum and the town Facebook page and we should take this up at the next meeting.

10. *Library Maintenance Report and MOU Update*

Brian said he, Mark Woodward, Jeanne Engel and Jasmine Yuris did the annual maintenance assessment at the library. The building is generally in good condition It needs regular maintenance and some updates. There are some current problem areas. There is a report in the packet with some suggestions and timelines for work.

Jasmine said the library trustees will take care of most of the issues but they are seeking financial help from the town with replacement of basement windows. They would get bids, find a contractor and manage the replacement but they are requesting financial assistance. This harkens back to when engineers came to the library to give the library a plan for flood mitigation. Replacing the windows is an important task but also expensive. They will start doing RFPs in 2023 and hope to do the work in FY 23-24. Jessica Bickford said they can use some money that is in the current year's budget for capital improvements along with some from next year.

Beth asked if the library board has looked into grant funding for historic buildings or energy efficiency projects. Jasmine said no. Duncan said insulation of the attic in particular might be eligible for grant funds. Mark said he thinks Efficiency Vermont has money for windows. Jasmine said they tried going through Efficiency Vermont but it was challenging. You have to use their registered contractors. It was difficult to find contractors.

Tasha Wallis said Act 172, passed by the legislature last year, provides funding for municipalities to do energy assessments and provides funding for energy improvements. LCPC will be sending out information on the program. Community service grants provide capital funding for community structures. She can also send out information on that.

Mark said he thinks the library ought to have a Nest thermostat. That might save money on fuel. Beth said a Nest is a wi-fi thermostat that can be purchased through Efficiency Vermont

but any programmable thermostat could be used. It doesn't need to use wi-fi. She feels we should have programmable thermostats in all our buildings.

Eben said the budget for 2023-24 will already be built before we even get numbers to know how much assistance the library needs. Beth said the selectboard will be building a budget beginning in November and will need to have it finalized in early January.

Duncan said he wonders if the window replacement might be something we can consider using our emergency fund for if it will mitigate a flood disaster at the library. He asked if the library ever came up with a solution for the basement door. Jasmine said yes. A channel was chiseled to the sump pump. They haven't had a big flood since then but it seems to work. Duncan asked if a flood door was installed. Jasmine said there is a door with bars and they added another bar and got blow-up barriers. A flood door was never installed but they think the current door with the added bar will be good. Jessica said the engineer had concerns about putting in a strong door. The fear was that it could lead to water damaging the foundation due to hydrostatic lift.

Beth said a general understanding of what the cost could be would be helpful for budgeting. Eric said he supports the window replacement project. Eben said it is hard for him to fully support it financially without knowing the cost. Beth said she has the same hesitation, not knowing the number, but she is generally supportive in principal. Mark said he is supportive of it and encourages the library board to look at grant funding. He thinks it will be out there.

Duncan moved to accept the Johnson Public Library Annual Maintenance Assessment & Five Year Plan with final approval contingent on budget figures, Eric seconded and the motion was passed.

Jasmine said the MOU between the town and the library now says that there will be an annual walk-through and building assessment. But the library board is now thinking that it would be sufficient to do that every 3 years. That would be more realistic given the time and energy it takes to prepare the report and report to the board. Brian had suggested when it is time to renew the MOU in the spring we could approve an updated version instead of renewing the current one. Brian said he and Beth have talked about inspecting more buildings. Maybe if each building is inspected less often it would be easier to inspect more buildings. Beth said there will be a new board in the spring so this board can make no promises but she thinks that proposal makes sense.

11. Review Board Priorities

Beth said the top three board priorities previously identified were the light industrial park, the ATV ordinance and economic development and branding and marketing. Those are followed by decarbonization, ARPA funds and NVU. The highest priority identified was the light industrial park. We have talked about that in conjunction with ARPA funds. We have a deadline for ARPA funds so although that item is not first it cannot be stagnant. What do we need to do to keep the light industrial park moving forward? Eric said he thinks the light industrial park, ARPA and economic development are all tied together. Duncan said he thinks one specific thing we should do is review where we are with the plan for the light industrial park that was done around 2013. We never got an Act 250 permit. We got letters

from parties who might have opinions on specific aspects of the project but those all could have changed and costs are out of date now. He thinks we need to update some of the basic information we have. Brian said we know some areas of the current plan are not going to serve anymore. Stormwater regulations have changed. Our previous applications have included a final engineering component that would update the plan. But we could separate a current engineering study from construction.

Beth asked if we need our economic development coordinator to be here before we kick things off. Eben said he doesn't necessarily think we need to wait for an employee to start moving that along. Beth asked Eben who he thinks would be doing that work. Duncan said currently it is in Brian's job description. Beth said we have given Brian some priorities. Eric said this will take time.

Beth asked the board to consider what is the smallest lift with the most value for the industrial park. Brian said he thinks updating the engineering study would provide significant lift and make us the most competitive. Beth said she is thinking of things with a light lift and a big value. That is not a light lift. Eben suggested we could potentially approach a couple of developers and see if they would be interested in the site if the town were to get an Act 250 permit. Beth said she likes the idea of seeing if there is appetite out there. How would we do that? Duncan suggested we should get in touch with the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation. Brian said tomorrow he is meeting with Pat Ripley about the light industrial park and how it fits in with LEDC's plans. He could ask about setting up meetings with developers. Beth asked what he means by that. Brian said in the past John Mandeville had assisted with providing introductions and setting up meetings. He went to developers and asked if they wanted to assist us with the project. Beth said that would not be the request. We would not be creating a pitch. We would be saying, this is available; are you interested? If they say yes, that lets us know there is demand. Duncan said the developer will want some assurance that they will be able to get permits for it. Beth said she just wants to know if they would be interested if something were available. Eric said in the past we have approached developers and they were not interested but that doesn't mean there might not be one interested now.

Mark asked if we have secured water and sewer for that site. Eric said the village has done infrastructure improvements with the idea in mind that the industrial park might happen. Mark asked, they have capacity? Rosemary and Eric said yes. Eric said the site has some nice infrastructure features: three-phase power and municipal water and sewer and transportation access on Route 15. Beth said she assumes there is high speed internet access. Duncan said Vermont Electric Coop has fiber. Mark said he doesn't know if the fiber at Vermont Electric Coop is usable for anyone outside the coop. Brian said he wouldn't expect so. There are not any utilities on the site now other than three-phase power. The big message we got from people we spoke to before was that they wanted us to complete infrastructure upgrades to provide water, sewer, internet, etc. to the site not just to Route 15.

Beth asked what the lift would be for Act 250. Brian said it would be pretty big and we would want to engage an engineering firm to do that for us. He does not believe we could do it in-house. Duncan suggested we could solicit RFPs from engineering firms to do a plan

ready to submit to Act 250. Beth said that sounds like a light lift since we could reuse the previous RFP. She asked if Brian agrees. Brian said he doesn't think it would be a big lift. We will have to find the existing RFP. Duncan said he thinks the RFP should be to have an engineer review the existing engineering plan and update it. Brian said he doesn't know how useful the original RFP will be, but writing a new RFP for an update to an engineering plan is not a heavy lift.

Greg Tatro said he thinks the first thing the town needs to do is figure out what it wants to do with the property. Sell it? Put in infrastructure and parcel it out? He thinks he is hearing different directions. Usually when you are going to develop a property you start with your permits. And you have to decide whether to bring utilities to the curb or put the first part of the road in so people can drive in and see what is there. He would guess an Act 250 permit with all the fees would cost close to \$100,000. Once the town had that, we could take the existing plans and go out to contractors and ask them to estimate a budget. Then the board could decide if the project is worth it. To him a light lift would be to send out the prints the town already has and ask contractors to update the numbers. Brian said we know our current plans wouldn't be permitted now, at least not the stormwater. Greg suggested bringing utilities to the curb or up 200 feet. Then maybe a developer would take over the rest and handle the stormwater. The town needs to figure out how much it would be getting for those lots.

Duncan said Ruggiano Engineering did get some contractor estimates. His opinion is that we should at least get a cost estimate from Ruggiano on what it would take to update the plans. Anyone who wants to buy will want to know what the impact of dealing with stormwater management will be. Another issue with that plan was mitigation of agricultural and forest soils. We came up with a plan that had semi buy-in from state agencies of setting aside the Prindle and/or Gomo lots as mitigation. He doesn't know if that would still fly. Probably a couple of phone calls would answer that.

Beth said she thinks we need to do small things to keep this moving until we get our economic development person in place. She suggested we should ask for a quote on the cost to update the plan and also send the plan out to a few contractors to get cost estimates. Both are light lifts that give valuable information back.

Duncan moved and Eben seconded to get an estimate from Ruggiano Engineering of the cost to update the light industrial park plans and to send the existing plans out to some contractors to get cost estimates.

Greg suggested that town might be able to do some work, like putting in a 200 ft. road, without an Act 250 permit. Then we could let someone else deal with the permitting. But with the economic downturn and higher interest rates, that will be a hard sell.

Eben suggested the town revolving loan fund could possibly be helpful.

The motion was passed.

Regarding the ATV ordinance, Beth said the one thing we hear about everywhere is law enforcement. To her that is the big issue. Regarding road use, she thinks there are different opinions on the board. Those are the two sticking points. Eben said the only reason to have an ATV ordinance would be to allow ATV use of roads or town property. Beth said another reason is to have anything that differs from state statute. Eben said it only applies on town rights of way or property. On private property the town has no purview.

Eben said the current ATV ordinance is in effect and gives a certain amount of access to certain places. His understanding is that the state gave ATVs permission to drive on Route 15. So someone could theoretically trailer an ATV to Route 15 and ride. But the town never gave residents on one side of town a way to connect to the other side. He thinks that is important.

Beth asked if board members think we should have a dedicated meeting to discuss the ATV ordinance, incorporate it into meetings every couple of weeks or every month, or let it lie. Mark said he is for letting that lie. We have not succeeded at all with any kind of enforcement. If we have no enforcement, who cares if we have an ordinance? Eben said he thinks we should have another dedicated meeting. Eric said he thinks we have to take it up and do something. Duncan agreed. He said he thinks we should have at least one dedicated meeting. He suggested that board members all be prepared with some specific ideas at that meeting. Beth said she will set up a dedicated meeting. She will send out a survey about dates.

Beth said we have the economic development position out there. She thinks we will discuss at least one of the top three priorities at least once a month, if not more often. ARPA also has to stay in front of us. The board will not focus on the lower priorities. Brian noted that economic development, decarbonization and ARPA were all tied as priorities. Beth said they are still lower than the top three priorities. We need to focus on those and on things with a specific deadline.

Brian said at the conference he went to last week he got interesting information and suggestions about energy upgrades we might be eligible for in this building and the town garage. (*Diane Lehouiller arrived at 8:04.*)

12. Update on Economic Development

Brian said he put out the economic development RFP again. He will be making connections with state planning and LCPC. He made some contacts at the conference that he is hoping to follow up on. There is someone who is interested in talking to us about a project directed by someone with experience using interns for support. (*Greg Tatro left at 8:07.*)

13. Review Board Priorities (continued)

Duncan said he thinks one thing we should consider moving up on the priority list is discussion about the clerk/treasurer position. He would like to hear Rosemary's thoughts about that. Rosemary said she didn't realize that the transition to an appointed position could happen so fast once the voters voted for it. Duncan said he thinks the timeline could be adjusted. Beth agreed that we should bump this up. She suggested maybe this is something to task Susan with. Duncan said this could involve things like talking about having a finance

position, especially on the village side. The board agreed to move this higher on the priority list.

14. Holmes Meadow Grant and Project Management Ideas

Brian said we need a formal agreement to engage with LCPC on the Holmes Meadow project so they can get paid for their work. They need to go out for an assessor to get a fair price on the property. Eben asked about the cost breakdown in the documents included in the packet. Tasha Wallis explained that the \$189,871.50 grant includes \$6K for an appraisal, \$102K for acquisition, \$55K for final engineering, \$11K for permitting for historic preservation, \$6K for the construction bid process and \$9K for LCPC. There is no town match required. The purchase cost for the land will be based on the appraisal.

Duncan noted that in the Agreement for Administrative Services we need to change “Town of Wolcott” to “Town of Johnson.”

Eric moved and Duncan seconded to authorize the chair to sign the Holmes Meadow Buyout and Floodplain Restoration Agreement for Administrative Services by and between Lamoille County Planning Commission and Town Of Johnson. Beth proposed a friendly amendment, which was accepted, to correct “Town of Wolcott” to “Town of Johnson” in the agreement. (Jessica and Jeff Bickford left at 8:15.)

Mike Dunham said an appraisal could be done for \$500. He thinks \$6,000 for that is ridiculous. It looks like a padded bill to him. If he were still on the selectboard he would never enter into this agreement. The property is worthless. It is in a floodplain. For tax purposes it is assessed at \$79,600, which he thinks is too high. How is the \$102K broken down? The town could buy the property for less than that. Is the whole project going to cost \$189K?

Tasha said LCPC worked with the community to apply for this grant. The amounts in the grant award are all estimates. The total award is \$189K. If it turns out that based on the appraisal the property is worth far less than \$102K then the town will pay less than \$102K. Vermont Emergency Management is required to do these cost breakdowns as part of the process with the federal government. They often just come up with best estimates. All these elements will be conducted with full transparency. The public will know the cost of each element. Mike said he thinks \$6K for an appraisal is ridiculous.

Eric asked for clarification. These are estimates? Tasha said that is correct. Eric asked, the costs are not to exceed these numbers and if the actual cost is less we will pay less? Tasha said yes. Whatever the appraisal is, that is what we will pay. These are estimates and maximum numbers.

Mark asked if someone could explain how Holmes Meadow got chosen for this project since that happened before his time on the board. Brian said the state is making an effort to preserve some land for flood abatement. Johnson was a good candidate for getting a grant for purchasing land to be dedicated for flooding, the idea being that if we preserve some land and do not develop it then other areas in town will have a lighter impact and hopefully will not have increased impact in the future. We worked with LCPC to select a likely property.

This one was chosen because it is not developable. We should be able to acquire it relatively cheaply and there is nothing on it now.

Eben said Seth Jensen presented plans for the property that included cutting 3 or 5 feet of gravel out of it. This grant does not include the cost of that does it? Brian said not in this phase. Eben asked if there is any promise of money for that. Tasha said she understands that phase two will be awarded on completion of phase one. Beth asked, all phases require no match, right? Tasha said that is right. She said this property was also identified based on modeling of the river and its behavior. Through modeling this site was identified as one that could be helpful in reducing ice jamming and flooding. Eben asked if there have been any of these projects where phase one was completed and the state ran out of money for phase two. Tasha said she doesn't believe so. This is all federal money that is being provided to the state for this purpose. She is not aware of any situations where these projects have not been completed.

Mike said he feels bad that the taxpayers are going to be paying this much for a property that is worth less. He feels the whole system is broken. Beth said the federal government will pay a lot more if houses with significant property damage have to be replaced.

The motion was passed.

Eric moved to enter into the State of Vermont Standard Subrecipient Agreement with Vermont Emergency Management, authorizing Brian to sign the agreement, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.

15. Update on Property and Casualty Insurance Options

Brian said he has been in contact with PACIF and with Hickok & Boardman Insurance Group. Hickok & Boardman is going to give us quotes from Travelers and another company. They are described as the two most competitive services for municipalities. Beth said the company she works for is owned by Travelers so she will not be part of the discussion.

Eric asked what drove this discussion. He would be very hesitant not to go with PACIF. It is a non-profit. It is member-owned. He would question why we would not go with them. Beth said she was behind this. There is no reason not to get quotes to understand the options. Eben said he feels we owe it to the taxpayers to do our research. Eric said we are with PACIF because they are a non-profit owned by the municipalities. He thinks every town in Vermont is part of VLCT and all but three are part of PACIF. The PACIF members are self-insured. If there is a year when they collect more money than they need they will give money back. We are not likely to get that from a private insurance company. He would be really careful about this decision and would caution against going with anyone but PACIF.

Brian said he has been cautioned that we should pay attention to flood insurance in the quotes. Flood insurance coverage is more difficult for private insurance to provide. He will have a report for the board for next time. PACIF has asked to come and present to the board. He doesn't know if the other insurers will want to. Duncan said he thinks it is important for us to understand the things PACIF provides that a typical insurer does not.

16. Adoption of Evergreen Ledge Cemetery Plot Map

Eben moved to adopt the Evergreen Ledge Cemetery Plot Map as presented, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.

Duncan said currently Brian comes to the board for approval for each lot sold. Now that we have the map, do we feel Brian can issue deeds without needing board approval? Eric said he thinks it can be delegated. Beth agreed. (*Tasha left at 8:35.*)

Duncan moved to authorize Brian to issue deeds for the portion of Evergreen Ledge Cemetery where there are plots assigned, Eben seconded and the motion was passed.

17. AARP Winter Placemaking Grant Opportunity

Brian said last year Diane Lehouiller applied for an AARP Winter Placemaking Grant for improvements at the ice rink on Legion Field. The grant program is available again and she is interested in applying again. He asked if this year Diane is asking for the town to be the applicant. Diane said no; she got permission from the trustees to put the village on the application. Brian said it is town property and Diane has asked for a letter of support from the town. Beth suggested repurposing last year's letter of support. **Eben moved to give permission to do work funded by an AARP Winter Placemaking Grant on Legion Field and to direct Brian to send a letter of support for the grant application, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.**

Diane said one thing she wants to do with grant funding is level the area of the field that the ice rink gets put on. There is currently a difference of 9 inches from one end to the other. She asked Greg Tatro if he can do that kind of work. He is considering it but she doesn't know if he can. If he can do that before the ground freezes, is it is that okay? Brian said there have been some other requests about leveling. We need to make sure everyone is asking for the same thing. The oven committee and the Tuesday Night Live committee have also made requests. Diane said all the groups using Legion Field have talked about it. It would save water and time and create better ice if the field were leveled. Brian said we will talk more about that in the future. But he will send a letter of support.

18. Broken Window at Old Mill House

Beth said there is a broken window at the old mill house that we were contacted about in the summer. Jason and his crew put something up to prevent animals and rain from getting in. Brian said we have money in our regular maintenance fund to fix it. His suggestion it is that we do that and figure out cost sharing with the village later. Beth questioned whether we need a window. Windows are expensive. If the area is not being used, should we just board the window up and put in insulation?

Diane said it is the witch window upstairs facing the garages. She thinks it is just one pane that is broken and that we do not need to replace the whole window. All the heat goes upstairs because there is no door. She thinks we can put a quilted curtain in the doorway to prevent heat from going up the stairs. Jason said two panes are missing. The glazing around them is cracked so panes can be knocked out when there is a storm. His crew put an old stop sign over the broken area. Eben said whatever we do we will need approval from the trustees. Jason said the pieces of glass fell out but are not broken. Someone could reglaze the window and put them back in. Beth asked if we even have to talk to the village about this. Brian said

he thinks we at least need their approval but we could pay for it ourselves. Eric asked Jason if his crew could do it. Jason said they can but they need a way to get up there. Brian suggested telling the village that we will replace it if we can use their bucket truck. Jason said he doesn't think they can lift town employees with their truck. The board agreed that the town should fix the window. Brian and Jason agreed to talk to the village about it. Diane said she will take the lead on this from the village side.

19. Health Officer Reappointment

Brian said he heard that the health officer (Tracy Myers) and deputy health officers (Dean Locke and BJ Putvain) are all interested in continuing to serve. Beth asked how many of the calls each person has been responding to. Brian said he doesn't have exact statistics but he thinks Dean has been the most regular responder. BJ has responded to quite a few calls. Brian is also a deputy health officer and he has responded to one. Beth asked, Tracy has responded to fewer calls than the others? Brian said yes. Beth asked if she has responsibilities beyond the others. Brian said he doesn't believe so. Beth asked if being the main health officer gives her additional pay. Brian said yes, she gets a slightly higher stipend. Eben suggested maybe in the future we should talk about paying per call rather than giving a fixed stipend.

Brian and Rosemary said the positions that are up for renewal now are Brian's and Tracy's. Brian said he inquired with the state whether it would be possible to get them all on the same schedule so he would appreciate if the board could approve reappointing all the health officers now. If the state does not make a change he believes the others will be up for reappointment this time next year.

Eben moved to reappoint Tracy Myers and Brian Story to their current health officer positions and, if the state grants Brian's request to give all the health officers the same term, to also reappoint BJ Putvain and Dean Locke. Eric seconded.

Duncan asked why we have three deputies and one health officer. Brian said he would be happy to give up his position as a deputy health officer with the coverage we currently have. He was only serving as a backup and he only had to do it once in the past year. Duncan asked if Brian assists in the process of drafting a health order. Brian said he does and he doesn't see why that would change depending on whether he was or wasn't a health officer. In either case he would make sure the health order complies with statutory requirements. Duncan said if Brian is continues to be a health officer then if someone else can't issue a health order for some reason he would be able to sign it.

The motion was passed.

Beth said she thinks we should swap roles based on the effort the health officers have put in. Whoever is pulling the most weight should be in the main health officer role. Eric suggested we could also change the pay structure to per call pay. Eben said he thinks we should do that. Beth said in the meantime we should swap roles. Duncan said the motion just passed reappointed Tracy as health officer. Brian said we can change someone's role at any time.

Eric moved to make Dean Locke the health officer and Tracy Myers a deputy health officer, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.

20. Executive Session to Discuss Fifth Public Works Employee Position

Duncan move to find that premature disclosure of part of the board's deliberation on the option of a fifth public works employee may substantially disadvantage the town, Eben seconded and the motion was passed.

Duncan moved to enter executive session for discussion on having a fifth public works employee as allowed by 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1) inviting Brian, Rosemary and Jason to remain, Eric seconded and the motion was passed at 8:58. The board came out of executive session at 9:49.

21. Continued Fifth Public Works Employee Discussion

Eric moved to post a public works employee job opening, Beth seconded and the motion was passed in a roll call vote with Eben, Mark and Beth in favor and Eric and Duncan opposed.

22. Executive Session to Update Selectboard on Union Contract Negotiations

Eben moved to find that premature disclosure of the update on union contract negotiations may substantially disadvantage the town, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.

Eben move to enter executive session to discuss communications regarding contract negotiations as allowed by 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1), inviting Brian, Rosemary and Jason to remain, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed at 9:51. The board consented out of executive session at 10:10.

23. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths