

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2023

Present: Selectboard members: Beth Foy, Duncan Hastings, Eben Patch, Shayne Spence, Mark Woodward
Others: Brian Story, Rosemary Audibert, Charlotte Reber, Paul Warden, Diana Osborn, Sue Lovering, Kim Dunkley, Crystal Earle, GiGi Beach

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Beth called the meeting to order at 6:34.

2. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda

Brian said the Tree Board item should be expanded to include a Tree Board grant application.

3. Review and Approve Minutes

Eben moved to approve the minutes of March 6 and March 7, 2023, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed with Shayne abstaining as those meetings took place before he was on the board.

Eben moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2023 and the motion was seconded and passed.

4. Selectboard Issues/Concerns

Mark again brought up the idea of moving ARPA money to a higher interest account. Eben suggested that Mark work with Rosemary on this and talk to the board again at the next meeting. Rosemary said several banks are offering CDs with an interest rate of around 4%. The money is earning less than 1% now. Mark said he will talk to Rosemary about it.

Duncan said he and Mark attended a meeting on ARPA funds this morning. They came away with interesting information, including funding opportunities for libraries and for municipal building energy improvements. The biggest takeaway for him was something he had never heard before – that we can use ARPA funds to pay for operational expenses in the current year's or next year's budget and take the money we save by doing that and put it in a separate account, which would not be subject to the same time constraints on spending. That information came from the Deputy Secretary of Administration. He has a call in to Katie Buckley at VLCT to get confirmation on this. His suggestion is that if it is possible, we should do it.

Duncan said he would really like to see an agenda item soon discussing what direction we want to go with the \$50,000 the voters approved for community and economic development. Beth said she thinks we need to discuss board priorities at the first meeting in April. Hopefully that can lead to discussion between the selectboard and Planning Commission over the next few months about things like ARPA, the light industrial park and the town plan. Duncan said he personally thinks we should hire someone for economic development.

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

Rosemary said we have received our reappraisal money in the amount of \$11,883. Should she put that in the reserve fund now? Duncan said he thought we planned to put money from surplus in the reserve fund and use this money toward the operational budget. Beth said we should make sure before Rosemary does anything. She would like to check her notes.

Rosemary said we have spent 57% of budget to date. Current taxes collected to date are at 79.112%, slightly above the previous two years.

Rosemary said we received a request for first class and third class liquor licenses including an outside consumption permit, from Breadbox LLC (Moog's Joint.) All fees have been paid. Duncan asked if in past years we have had conditions on outside consumption. Rosemary said she doesn't remember. Beth said she has heard complaints about noise from Moog's. She told the person complaining that if the noise lasted past the time allowed in the noise ordinance they should call the sheriff's department. **Eben moved to approve the liquor licenses requested by Breadbox LLC with the stipulation that no outside alcohol consumption may take place after 12:00 a.m., Shayne seconded and in the motion was passed.**

6. ***Public Works Supervisor/Highway Foreman Report***

Jason reviewed recent expenditures for repairs to Truck 19 and Truck 20. The work being done on the backhoe is about 35% completed. Jacob and David have an OSHA training class coming up and David is doing his flagger training tomorrow.

Mark asked if we are doing well with our sand and salt use. Jason said we are doing really well with salt and average on sand. (*Charlotte Reber arrived at 6:51.*) We usually use 400 tons of salt and we are at 238 tons.

Jason said he is working with Dean on a safety grant from PACIF to pay for an AED and a 50-inch TV screen for trainings in the shop. The crew has been borrowing a TV from the library. Having a large TV screen there would allow people from other towns to come to Johnson for trainings.

Duncan asked about the status of MSHA trainings for all employees. Jason said they will be due in May. He will reach out in the beginning of April to the company in Montpelier that provides the training. They will let him know what times trainings are available and he will pick a time. That is one reason he is hoping to get a TV soon. If they get a big enough screen they will be able to do the training virtually.

7. ***Review Planned Purchases***

Jason explained what pins and bushings for the backhoe are covered by the quotes included in the board packet (\$4,010.79 and \$1,046.75.). He said the village is okay with paying 20% of the total cost of the backhoe repairs. The total will be around \$7,000. Beth asked if the place that provided the quotes is the only place we can order these parts. Jason said no, but it is the only place we can get OEM parts and they typically perform better than aftermarket parts.

Eben asked if it would be reasonable to keep this backhoe for this summer. Jason said no matter what we are keeping it for this summer because if we order a backhoe it will take it a year to get it.

Eben moved to approve planned purchases as presented, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.

8. ***Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Working Group Update***

Beth said we have a list of people who have expressed interest in serving on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Working Group. Duncan said he would move to appoint them all. **Duncan moved to appoint Johnson Works, Casey Romero, Allison Kratzat, Jan Gearhart, BJ Putvain, Kyle Nuse, Adrienne Stevson, Doug Molde and Peggy Williams to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Working Group, Eben seconded and the motion was passed.**

Beth said she feels like we should be clear about what we are asking from the group. Do we want them to bring all decisions to us? Only decisions about money? We could ask them to present to us what they think their objective is. Eben said he would be okay with that. Shayne said his only real vision for this

group is that they should come up with ideas, be proactive and creative and look for ways to fund things other than coming to the selectboard for money. He thinks we should give them leeway and have them come to us when they need help. He would like there to be communication but he doesn't think we need to have much oversight over them. Mark said he thinks it would be nice for them to meet a couple of times then give us an update. It seems like we should get a report from them at least quarterly. Duncan agreed with Mark. He said it should be made clear that they don't have independent authority to apply for grants on behalf of the town. The board agreed that the committee should be asked to provide quarterly reports. Beth asked Brian to reach out to them and she said she will also send an email.

9. Request for Water Service at Johnson Arboretum

Duncan asked if there is a request for public works to do digging as part of the arboretum project. Beth said there has been a suggestion that the Tree Board may need help from public works. Eben said their specific request was that public works might have to pick up brush. He asked if Jason has any reservations about that. Jason said no, but he pointed out that if the proposed new water line goes over the stream a permit will be required.

10. Lamoille FiberNet Update

Paul Warden gave a presentation. The CUD has received money to fund engineering and design work. They pre-bought 150 miles of fiber so they could get a good price and avoid supply chain issues. Executive director Val Davis resigned. The CUD is fortunate to have Lisa Birmingham on board. She has a lot of relevant experience. (*Sue Lovering arrived at 7:06.*) They released an RFP for an internet service provider and network operations and maintenance contractor and got some strong responses. They are currently in negotiations with the top ranked responder. If all goes as planned, building will start in 2024.

He showed a map and a pie chart representing the areas that are served, underserved and unserved in the Town of Johnson. Only 2% of Johnson residents have download/upload speeds of 100/100 or more. Beth asked who has speeds that high. Paul said probably Vermont Electric Coop, possibly the college.

Diana Osborn asked if the map is accurate. Paul said it should be fairly accurate. Based on groundwork, the CUD was able to challenge accuracy of some of the FCC's mapping and now they have more addresses they can spend grant money on. Beth asked if satellite is represented here. Paul said he thinks satellite is considered underserved.

Paul said the Vermont Community Broadband Board has a pot of money and they have established a matching program. They will match dollar for dollar any ARPA money the town contributes. The portion of the money that comes from the VCBB has to be spent in ways that comply with Act 171 (helping to serve unserved and underserved residents.) With our portion we could do other things like rewire the municipal building. This is a statewide program and VLCT and others are encouraging towns to consider it. A number of towns have already decided to participate. He thinks it is a really good opportunity. He is asking the town to contribute \$50,000 of its ARPA funds so the CUD will get \$100,000 to spend in our town. One way the money could be spent would be to help cover the cost of long drops. The ISP will pay for a certain distance connection and if someone's driveway is longer than that they have an additional cost they have to pay. That is a barrier for a lot of people. The money would be held by the CUD and the CUD would work with the town to decide on the best projects to meet town goals and comply with Act 171.

Beth asked if we know how many total feet those uncovered drops are. Paul said no. Beth asked if there is any plan to do that type of analysis. Paul said yes. (*Kim Dunkley arrived at 7:23.*)

Eben said he wouldn't support this unless the money were to be spent only to provide service to underserved and unserved residents.

Beth asked the rationale behind the \$50,000 figure. Paul said the idea is for the CUD to get as much as they can without being too greedy. They felt they wouldn't get much bang out of a smaller figure like \$10,000. They asked Cambridge for \$50,000. He thinks they asked Wolcott for \$25,000 and Morrisville for \$50,000. Johnson has other things to spend money on that are also important.

Duncan asked what happens if the CUD doesn't spend the money before 2026. Do we have to give it back? Paul said the CUD will spend it. They can buy fiber and put it aside. He doesn't see that being an issue. Beth said the question is, if we give ARPA money to Lamoille FiberNet, is it considered spent by the town?

Duncan said he would like time to think about this request. Eben said he would also.

Mark moved and Shayne seconded to spend \$50,000 of ARPA money as matching funds to support Lamoille FiberNet's application for grant funds from the Vermont Community Broadband Board. The motion was passed with Shayne, Mark and Beth voting in favor and Duncan and Eben opposed.

11. Brownfields Committee Resignation and Appointment

Brian said Doug Molde is stepping down as representative to the Lamoille County Planning Commission's Brownfields Committee. Brian is currently the alternate and he is willing to remain the alternate but he doesn't think attending every meeting is a good use of his time. Beth asked about the purpose of the committee. Brian said its chief function is allocating funds for brownfield studies and remediation. They also occasionally get involved in holding a property while it goes through the remediation to mitigate transfer of liability. They evaluate and select brownfield mitigation projects throughout the county for funding.

Eben moved to accept Doug Molde's resignation as representative to the Lamoille County Planning Commission Brownfields Committee and to send him a thank you letter and the motion was seconded.

Kim Dunkley suggested it might be good for someone on the Planning Commission to serve as representative. Paul said he can bring it up with the Planning Commission to see if there is interest.

The motion was passed.

Brian said he will post the vacancy. He asked if the board would like him to post it in the newspaper. The group doesn't have statutory authority but they vote on allocation of funds. The board agreed that he should advertise it in the News & Citizen. It was also suggested that the Conservation Commission be informed about the opening.

12. Lamoille FiberNet Appointment

Brian said we are permitted two alternates on the CUD board and we only have one. We could advertise for a second alternate. Currently Charlotte Reber is representative and Paul Warden alternate. Charlotte said she may need to step down this year or she may want to switch to being the alternate. Paul said he needs to consider whether he wants to be the representative. It was agreed to post an opening and not appoint anyone tonight.

13. Request for Water Service at Johnson Arboretum (continued)

Brian said the Tree Board is seeking a permanent water source they can use for service at the arboretum. They have talked to the village and have most of a plan in place about how to establish service there. We got information from the village on the cost for the water meter and hookup. That does not include the meter pit, insulation, etc. Jason had mentioned that trenching will have to be done and the line may need to cross a stream, which would require a stream alteration permit.

Duncan asked if this price includes the piping. Brian said no, it does not include anything beyond the meter. Mark asked if the village will be paying a share of the cost. Brian said we haven't asked the village to contribute anything beyond the regular work that they do for a hookup. Beth asked if we will be charged for the village's time. Brian said his understanding is no, but we do not have an agreement.

Mark asked if the Tree Board has approached the village. Sue said they have had a lot of conversations. Most recently Jason has been talking to the village without her involvement. They are aiming to put in lines that do not go down deep because they won't be used in winter. They will be blown out in the fall. They want to have six or seven spigots around the field, trying to have a spigot within 100 ft. of each tree.

Sue said she would make a case for the village to pay for part of the cost because the arboretum is in the village, even though it is on town land and it belongs to everyone in town. She would imagine that the village wants to get paid but she hasn't discussed it with them. The Tree Board already buys water from the village because they fill up their tanks at the town garage. Eben said he thinks the question is whether they will charge us to install the vault and meter.

Beth asked if the Tree Board's question for the selectboard is whether they should pursue this as a project to figure out the logistics and the cost. Brian and Sue said yes.

Duncan said he normally pays about \$68 a month for village water and the largest part of that is the monthly service fee. The cost of the water itself is pretty minimal. Will the village be charging the monthly fee for the water? And if the water is only used seasonally, typically the village would remove the meter in the fall and reinstall it in the spring. They charge for that; he thinks \$75. Sue said they have discussed a couple of times that they would blow out the lines and not use the water in winter and no one ever said anything about taking the meter out. Duncan said it has to be removed or it freezes. Brian said the meter vault Erik and Nate are suggesting is frost proof.

Duncan asked where the water would come from. Sue said she understood it to be from Bill Perkins's line. Duncan said unless the village is planning to take that over to the point of the meter someone will need to have an easement agreement in place with Bill Perkins.

Duncan said he has a small water pump and he would be happy to loan it to the Tree Board for at least a year. If we could install hoses or pipelines we could draw water out of the river and it would not cost anything. Sue said the Tree Board has talked about a pump but it would be susceptible to flooding, tampering, or theft. Ideally in the long run running the water off a main would be better.

Beth said she hears that there are still a lot of questions. She suggests that the selectboard get more information about the project. The Tree Board should be part of any discussions with Jason, Nate and Erik. The Tree Board should be driving the discussion.

Kim Dunkley said she knows the arboretum will benefit the town. She suggested Brian could talk to Erik Bailey and facilitate the project.

Beth said she feels like this could end up resulting in a lot of cost and labor and she would like a better understanding of what is involved before she would want to approve it. Shayne agreed. Duncan said he would encourage the Tree Board to think about the idea of a portable gas pump. He thinks that could be a pretty low cost solution that would provide free water. Beth suggested that Duncan talk to the Tree Board about that.

14. Tree Board Grant Application

Sue said she sent it an application for a grant that was due on Wednesday. The grant would fund improvements to the arboretum entry, a bridge across Checkerberry Brook, a handrail on the entrance slope, 8 benches with backs, 2 picnic tables (one ADA-compliant), and new signs. It will involve a lot of volunteer work. The cost will come to almost \$20,000. Beth asked, no matching funds are required? Sue said no. This is an AARP Flagship Livable Communities grant.

Eben said it would have been nice to know about this before the application was made. Sue said she wanted to put it on a previous agenda but the agenda was full. There was no match required and she couldn't see why she should not apply. Beth said Sue reached out to her and she made the call that Sue should put in the application.

Eben asked, if the Tree Board gets the grant, how many public works hours will the Tree Board ask for? Sue said they might ask the crew to haul some brush.

Eben asked if this plan has been discussed with the Conservation Commission. Sue said yes.

15. Remaining Appointments Carried Over from March 8th

Beth reviewed the positions that are open. Brian will post the openings.

Beth said she is not sure the board appointed Adrienne Stevson to the Planning Commission. She suggested a motion just to be sure. **Shayne moved to appoint Adrienne Stevson to the Planning Commission with a term ending in 2026, Mark seconded and the motion was passed.**

16. Update on Joint Meeting Agenda

Brian said a date for a joint meeting with the trustees has not been set but he wanted to give the board time to talk about topics for the meeting. Eben suggested adding the backhoe and the River Road East stormwater structures. Duncan agreed. Eben asked if we should discuss ARPA funds. Beth said she doesn't think it would hurt to suggest it. She thinks we should also talk about municipal building maintenance and repairs. Mark suggested municipal building efficiencies also. Shayne mentioned the municipal energy efficiency grant opportunity. Duncan said there are \$500,000 energy efficiency grants available in four program areas. There is also a \$4,000 planning grant that we can automatically get if we apply for it. There are two types of energy efficiency evaluations – one more like an energy audit and one that is more of a simple evaluation. To qualify for the \$500,000, as he understands it, we have to do one of those. Mark said the state is bringing on employees so we don't have to search for a contractor to do the evaluation. Duncan said he thinks this would be a good discussion item for the joint meeting. The mill house and lower storage building are also on the agenda for the joint meeting.

17. NEMS Service Station Tax Exemption

Brian said the NEMS building has been tax-exempt as allowed by statute since 2012. (*Crystal Earle arrived at 8:12.*) The tax exempt status was for 10 years and it has expired. (*GiGi Beach left at 8:12.*) Rosemary said the listers' card says the tax exempt status is through March 31, 2023. There has to be a townwide vote to continue their exemption. Duncan said under the new law the town can only exempt

the municipal portion of the tax bill. Were they paying the school portion previously? Rosemary said no. Duncan said we can exempt the school portion as well but if we do then we have to pay it.

Beth said she was told that we are the only town served by NEMS that has exempted them. Eben said it made sense to exempt them previously but it does not now that we have to pay the school tax. Rosemary asked if they want to be exempt. Beth said she thinks they want it, but would be willing to pay tax. Duncan said if they have to pay the tax then all five towns will be covering that cost. Beth said that is fairer. Duncan asked if we got a specific request from NEMS. Beth said yes. Beth asked if the board wants a special town meeting on tax exempt status for NEMS. Eben suggested that it should just be brought up at the next town meeting. Duncan said he is inclined to put them back on the tax rolls for this year and next year it can be on the town meeting warning. Eben said they should make the request in December. The consensus was not to call a special meeting to consider tax exempt status for NEMS. Duncan said he is not in favor of exempting the school portion of their tax.

18. Animal Control Officer Review

Brian said Crystal Earle has sent a letter of interest in being an animal control officer. She has experience working with animals, especially dogs, and would like the board to consider appointing her as an additional animal control officer. We currently have two animal control officers. Dean is handling the bulk of the calls. It would be helpful to have an additional person.

Crystal said her availability is pretty open. She can answer the phone while she is at work and then deal with any issue on her way home.

Duncan asked if she has familiarized herself with the town animal control ordinance. Crystal said somewhat. She is almost through reading it.

Duncan said one thing an animal control officer sometimes has to do is issue tickets for violations. Are there any specific requirements for training in order to be authorized to issue tickets? Rosemary said we just need to fill out a form and send it in. Beth said there is animal control training available through VLCT and she thinks we would want to recommend it. Mark asked if we have ever issued tickets for animal control ordinance violations. Brian and others said yes. Duncan noted that the town has a leash law. He asked if there is anything that would give Crystal qualms about issuing a ticket for violations. Crystal said no. Mark asked, do we have a leash law or does the ordinance say dogs have to be under control? Duncan said they have to be under control.

Brian said she might be asked to collect a dog involved in a dog bite case and the dog might be put down. Is she okay with that? Crystal said she is.

Shayne asked if Crystal could talk about how she would approach going into a dog bite situation if she did not have much information other than that two dogs had fought and there was a bite. Crystal said it would depend on the scenario. Is the dog that was bit okay? How are the dogs acting when she walks in there? If the dogs were still in the middle of a fight she would handle it differently than if they were back at their homes or at the vet being treated. She would have to get all the information. Shayne asked, if there was still an ongoing conflict how would she mediate – not just between the dogs but between the people involved? Crystal said her husband goes where she does. He could probably get the people to calm down and then she could deal with breaking up the dogs. She would handle it differently depending on the size of the dogs. Are tools supplied by the town for her to use to deal with a dog fight or an aggressive dog? Brian said there are some safety tools that the animal control officers share. There are not enough for the animal control officers to take home with them.

Duncan said we don't expect our employees to go into dangerous situations. Crystal had mentioned having her husband there. That would be a liability for the town because he is not an appointed official or employee. If Crystal had any qualms or concerns he would be happier if she called the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department and asked for an officer to be present.

Beth said whenever we have a situation we need written reports. She asked if Crystal has any concerns about filing reports. Crystal said no; she has done that kind of thing before. She works as a leashed dog tracker and has to write up reports for Fish and Game. Beth asked how long she has been doing that. Crystal said this is her fifth year.

Beth suggested discussing the appointment in executive session. It was agreed to add an executive session at the end of the meeting and to follow up with Crystal after the meeting. *(Crystal left at 8:30.)*

19. Economic Development Round Table Discussion Planning

Brian said he made contact with the Council on Rural Development and they offered assistance with planning and hosting the economic development roundtable discussion. Beth asked if they know the list of participants. Brian said yes. The meeting may need to be in early May rather than at the end of April.

20. Northern Borders Regional Commission Infrastructure Grants

Brian said Northern Borders has posted some rules and some information about when training sessions will be available. We need to send a letter of interest by April 21. Training sessions for more detail begin April 3. The training sessions are not required but are highly recommended. It would probably be worthwhile having a selectboard member attend in addition to Brian. Grants of up to half a million dollars are available to be spent on infrastructure development that will have an economic impact. A 50% match is required. The grant can be used as matching funds for other federal programs.

Beth said she will probably register for the training but she is not sure if she can attend. Duncan said he thinks he heard that the actual potential amount available is up to \$3 million and that up to 30% of the 50% match can come from ARPA funding. Brian said this year they have made allowances for even larger grants. He is not far enough through the rulebook yet to know all the details. The original limit was \$500,000 but they can go beyond that for certain projects. Duncan said one thing Johnson has going for us is that we are in an economic opportunity zone. Brian said that is one thing that gives us points.

Brian said in the letter of intent we will say what we think the project will cost and what we plan to spend. We will need Mumley's report for the full application. Beth asked if the light industrial park is the only thing we are talking about applying for. Brian said that is currently the only thing he is aware of. It might be worth talking to LCPC about administration support. Especially if we start talking about combining multiple grants, the administration could get pretty burdensome.

Beth asked if Lamoille FiberNet could fall under this grant. Brian said he doesn't know. Brian asked if Lamoille FiberNet has talked about Northern Borders grant funding. Paul said not that he knows of.

21. Continuing ARPA Discussion

Brian said we wanted to discuss the possibility of forming a subcommittee to focus on ARPA. Do we want to keep this at the board level or empanel a smaller group to focus on it? Beth said she has serious concerns about the selectboard's bandwidth. She also thinks there are people in various groups around town who we should be using to help with our discussions – for instance, the Planning Commission and Lamoille FiberNet. She is not saying we should have a big working group but there are probably some ways we can create smaller subgroups and be more effective in gathering ideas and bringing them back.

She is not suggesting that other groups make decisions, just come up with ideas and possibilities. She is worried that if it is just up to the selectboard we will do injustice to ourselves and the town.

Shayne said he tends to agree. He thinks we would benefit from an outside perspective. We have talked about the economic development person helping us spend the ARPA money. He thinks we would benefit from having someone like that to guide the discussion before we go too far.

Duncan said if we are able to relieve some of the time constraint as suggested today, that takes away some of the angst. That was good news to him. He is not opposed to the idea of having a committee, but we have already done a survey and had a couple of public meetings. He doesn't want the general public to have the impression that if we convene this committee we are just going to take the committee's suggestions. At the end of the day spending the money is our decision. He wants to be clear with the committee and the public that it is great to have thoughts and ideas but the board may not agree with or support them. As far as time, he has not seen a situation yet where a committee can be convened and it can save time. If we hire an economic development coordinator or a consultant he doesn't want a group working at cross purposes with that person. His idea about hiring someone for economic development is that their first priority would be to help us come up with ways to spend ARPA funds wisely.

Mark said there is a huge amount of money available, not just ARPA money but Inflation Reduction Act money. We need help with it. He agrees with Beth that it is more than the board can handle. Some amount of input from the community is important but he doesn't think we can make ARPA spending decisions other than using the money for ongoing expenses to free us from deadlines. Shayne said if that is really a possibility it is almost obvious that we should do that.

Beth asked what the unintended consequences of that are. Brian said if we use the money to offset current expenses, that frees up money from the general budget. Towns aren't allowed to carry a surplus. We could apply the surplus to reserve funds but we don't currently have an applicable one. We can't just hold cash. It doesn't have to go into one of our existing reserve funds. It can go into a special purpose fund.

Beth asked, does this change our revenue? If we have this large amount of revenue coming in, it makes us a more rich town in theory. Does that put us in a bad position with regard to qualifying for PILOT money, for instance? Brian said eligibility for most programs is determined by the town's annual budget. It could be that at some point we want to apply for something that looks at the total of all reserves. He is not aware of anything right now that looks at that. Beth said Act 46 is based on the grand list. That would probably not be affected. Other things are based on the income of the community.

Duncan suggested that we communicate with Katie Buckley about this. Beth said if we talk to someone who needs to support towns in administering ARPA funds, their objectives are different from ours. Their objectives are all ARPA based. Duncan said he agrees that we should consider Beth's question carefully. Beth said she is personally not ready to jump into the solution of applying the funds to the budget. Brian said he and Duncan will talk to Katie Buckley. Does the board want to invite her to a future meeting? Board members said yes. Beth suggested trying to invite her to an April meeting. She thinks it would be worth the time.

22. Executive Session to Discuss Appointment or Employment of a Town Officer

Eben moved to go into executive session as allowed by 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3) to discuss appointment or employment of a town officer, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed at 9:01. The board came out of executive session at 9:16.

Mark moved to appoint Crystal Earle as Animal Control Officer for a 6-month probationary period, contingent on background check and completion of Animal Control training through VLCT, Duncan seconded and the motion was passed.

Duncan spoke about the constable role being different from animal control. Elected constables have different responsibilities than appointed constables. Now isn't the time, but we should follow up on these distinctions in a future meeting.

23. Executive Session to Discuss a Contract Negotiation

Eben moved to find that premature disclosure of the contract negotiation might place the town at a substantial disadvantage, Shayne seconded and the motion was passed.

Eben moved to go into executive session for contract negotiation discussion as allowed by 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1), Shayne seconded and the motion was passed at 9:18. The board came out of executive session at 9:51.

24. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

UNAPPROVED