

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY – JOHNSON, WILLEY LIBRARY, ROOM 217
FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023

Present: Beth Foy, Duncan Hastings, Eben Patch (remote), Mark Woodward

Absent: Shayne Spence

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 Changes to Agenda*

It was agreed to add potential authorization for Beth or Eben to work with an attorney on an EDA grant letter, potential authorization for Beth or Eben to put out RFP's and accept bids, and discussion about handling information dissemination.

3. *Bids for Debris Removal*

One bid was received from the RFP for debris removal. It was from Casella. They would charge \$200 per hour per truck. They are expecting 3 trucks to be deployed. The additional cost per ton is \$164. The total tonnage is not known.

Eben moved and Duncan seconded to authorize the chair to execute a contract with Casella for debris removal at a cost of \$200 per hour per truck with 3 trucks, plus \$164 per ton.

Beth said Casella is subcontracting with Myers and Hillside Trash. They will each be providing a truck. **The motion was passed.**

4. *Vermont Community Foundation Donation*

Duncan said an application has been made to the Vermont Community Foundation. They are making a determination on Tuesday. If we are accepted we could expect anywhere from \$2500 to \$5000 from the special grant program for flood related assistance. The intent would be to cover costs not covered by FEMA or Vermont Emergency Management.

5. *Letter for EDA Grant Application*

Duncan said one requirement for the EDA grant application Seth Jensen is working on is a letter from the municipal attorney saying the town has the capacity to borrow or bond for funding.

Duncan moved to authorize Beth and/or Carl to work with the municipal attorney to issue a letter for the EDA grant application stating that the town has capacity to borrow or bond for funding, Mark seconded and the motion was passed.

6. *Authorization for Chair and Vice Chair to Put out RFPs and Accept Bids*

Duncan moved to authorize Beth or Eben to put out requests for proposals and accept bids related to the most recent flood event, Mark seconded and the motion was passed.

7. *Information Dissemination*

Beth asked how the board wants to handle information dissemination once she goes back to work and is not able to spend the same amount of time on it. Should we be thinking of hiring someone? She thinks Ron will have his hands full with what he was hired for. Mark asked how much time she envisions someone will need to spend on this. Beth said maybe an hour and a half a day and some cleanup at the end of the week. Eben said some days it will be more and some less.

Duncan said he doesn't think we should underestimate the capacity of Ron or Carl to handle this. He also doesn't think the town should necessarily be a conduit for providing information to all citizens about applying for individual FEMA assistance. Beth asked, when decisions are made by FEMA or the state, will the town ever be responsible for delivering information about the decision? Duncan said he is not sure he knows. That is a good question to ask FEMA. Beth said if we are not ever going to be responsible for delivering information about those decisions she can support Duncan's thoughts. If we are going to be, then we should be proactive in how we communicate with residents.

Eben said he doesn't see the town being involved with decisions on assistance, but he feels we are responsible for sending out information we receive via Facebook or the website. Duncan said he thinks that is probably fine as long as we are simply forwarding information from another entity. Beth agreed. Eben said relaying that information is not necessarily our job but it is a helpful public service.

Duncan said he feels Carl or Ron could post some information. Beth said up until now she has been the only one able to post on Facebook. She suggested we see how it goes in the next week with Carl putting out information.

8. Other Business

Duncan said if we adopt updated flood zone regulations based on river corridors we can be eligible for an extra 5% reimbursement. He doesn't know if adopting them is worth the extra percentage. Beth suggested having Ron and Carl look into it and draft a potential ordinance for the board to consider. Duncan said he thinks the first question to answer is what date we have to adopt the ordinance by. We may not have time to wait until the regular August meeting. We might have to add a special meeting. He thinks it would be good to have Ron and Carl weigh in and see if they think this is a good idea. It was agreed to ask them to look at this.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths