

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024

**Present:** Selectboard members: Duncan Hastings, Eben Patch, Shayne Spence (via phone), Mark Woodward

Others: Erik Bailey, Beth Foy, Nate Brigham, BJ Putvain, Ken Tourangeau, Arjay West, Tom Moog

**Absent:** Mike Dunham

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

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Eben called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Roll Call for Minutes**

There was a roll call of those present.

**3. Emergency Management Director Update and Status Report**

Eben said the rain has stopped. The river continues to rise. The last report from Morrisville was that the river had stabilized there. The fire department has gone around to problem areas to provide advance notice to people who may be at risk. (*Mark Woodward arrived at 9:02.*) Erik Bailey said he and Duncan moved electronics, land records, etc. away from the floor downstairs. If the water gets to the top of the ramp they will put the copier on the elevator and bring it upstairs. Eben said the highway crew prepared yesterday.

**4. Next Steps for Response**

**Duncan moved to declare an emergency and authorize the emergency management director to have full latitude to do what needs to be done, Mark seconded and the motion was passed.**

Ken Tourangeau brought up emergency funding for the fire dept. Eben said he has to talk to Arjay about what they are doing. He has the ability to authorize funds if needed. (*Arjay West arrived at 9:03.*)

Arjay West said the fire department is distributing public notification. The construction workers at Willow Crossing reported the river has come up about 3 feet in the last half hour. Morrisville believes they have peaked. Earlier this morning they experienced about a four foot rise in an hour. He believes there is still water coming downstream that will affect us. Erik said Hardwick peaked at 6 a.m.

Beth asked how long it takes water to get from Morrisville to us. Duncan said roughly 3 hours. Arjay said it takes about 8 hours to get from Wolcott to us. He thinks the next 1 to 2 hours will give us a good indication what the flooding will be like.

Erik said the village requests that the emergency declaration remain in place long enough to allow them to place rip rap to shore up the utility pole near Union Bank. They are allowed to do that during an emergency.

Duncan thanked the fire department and whoever was responsible for putting together the emergency warning system. He was pleased to hear that announcement. Shayne agreed. (*Tom Moog arrived at 9:06.*)

Arjay said the fire department discovered one hazmat situation at Uncommon Accommodations. Multiple propane tanks are floating. They will put a crew together to use water gear to get them. They

are seeing a few things they need to do that are beyond distribution of public information. He would like to request that some of their expenses be eligible to be reimbursed under the emergency declaration. He doesn't expect it be more than about 1500 hours of labor.

Beth asked if the propane tanks are in the river moving downstream. Arjay said no, they are contained on private property in the flood waters. They think they can get them retrieved and secured on the premises.

Ken said he just got a report from Dan Copp at the wastewater treatment plant that the water in Wolcott and Morrisville seems to have crested.

Duncan said it is his understanding that the propane dealer is supposed to secure propane tanks when they are in a flood zone. He doesn't have any problem compensating the fire department for dealing with that but he wonders if we should go after the property owner or propane dealer to make sure that in the future the tanks are properly secured. Arjay agreed that would be a good idea. The fire department has distributed messages to residents and fuel companies about trying to improve this.

**5. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*