

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD / VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD  
JOINT MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024

**Present:**

Selectboard members: Mike Dunham, Duncan Hastings, Eben Patch, Shayne Spence

Trustee board members: GiGi Beach, Steve Hatfield, Will Jennison, BJ Putvain (remote), Ken Tourangeau

Others: Erik Bailey, Tom Galinat, Rosemary Audibert, Jason Whitehill, Nate Brigham, Seth Jensen (LCPC)

**Absent:** Mark Woodward

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

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00.

**2. Roll Call for Minutes**

There was a roll call of those present.

**3. Sink Hole at Town Garage**

Eben said there is a sink hole by the town garage on joint town-village property due to a collapsed culvert. It needs to be fixed. Jason said he and Nate agree that it would be a good idea to see if any other parts of the culvert have failed.

Erik said he talked to people in the state Sites Management Section who deal with brownfields. They said we need to do our work. If we run into any obvious hazardous materials we should notify them and we should keep any spoils on site, maybe with hay bales around them if there is a big pile. Steven LaRosa of Weston & Sampson said that sounds like the right approach.

Ken said he would like to see a temporary fix done before the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment that is going to be done soon at the village garage. *(Seth Jensen arrived at 6:04.)*

Tom said VLCT is sending an engineer to look at it this week.

Ken said right now we can make any repairs necessary without permits. *(Steve arrived at 6:05.)* Erik said that is the case if the damage is flood-related. This damage was from the flood. They culvert may not have been in great shape before the flood, but during the flood there was massive scouring velocity beating it up. Tom said the town is submitting an insurance claim.

Ken asked if we have a coupler large enough to cover the hole. Jason said no. The best thing they could do as temporary repair would be to cut a piece of plastic culvert to put around it.

Ken asked Seth if he thinks not fixing the hole before the Environmental Site Assessment will be a problem. Seth said he would defer to Weston & Sampson regarding what can be done with regard to the assessment. He recommends getting pictures of the scour in the stream. There was a similar situation with a bridge in another community where a lot of rocks got moved and FEMA didn't believe a river could move rocks that size. We should show as much as possible

that the stream was scoured. He would follow Steven LaRosa's advice about what can be done and how fast we can move. He would suggest having the VLCT engineer communicate with Steven LaRosa. Erik said Steven LaRosa basically said to go ahead and do it and that we should keep any material on site and test it if we want to use it as fill. Nate said the village already dug in that area for a water line so it is probably clean fill. Erik said if the culvert is re-routed we could run into spoils.

Will asked to hear an evaluation of what can and cannot be done from the foremen. Jason said there was no scouring. The culvert is just rotten. He and Nate can dig down and patch it temporarily. They would need to rent a backhoe and have a contractor come in with a hammer. They have talked about filling the culvert with concrete and re-routing it to another culvert in the parking lot. We won't know until we try it if that culvert will be able handle the extra runoff. If not, we could put in a bigger culvert.

Mike said he thinks the crews should take care of it the way they see fit. Will agreed. Duncan said he doesn't think the boards should plan how to fix it. If it needs to be scoped, he is okay with that.

Ken said he is only concerned about affecting the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment. Won't it be a problem if we dig down through the road and parking lot? Seth said that would be a disturbance of the site. He will follow up with Steven LaRosa to confirm whether that will be an issue. His gut feeling is that as long as material is stockpiled it will be all right. The town and village are already considered the responsible parties so there is more flexibility to do things like repairs. He will let the boards know what Steven says. Ken said he would like to either temporarily fix it until the brownfield study is done or get confirmation from Steven LaRosa that it won't affect our study.

Jason said he can do a temporary fix with a plastic culvert but he can't commit the town crew to work on permanent repairs until after the grant work is done. The village also has other work going on now. He and Nate would like to do the work in a slower time. They can get it scoped after the temporary repairs are done. He is thinking the permanent repairs would be done in late September.

Ken asked if Seth is likely to have an answer from Steven LaRosa within a day or two. Seth said yes. Will asked when the patch can be done. Jason said it depends on the rain that may be coming. They may be able to do it on Friday. Will said he would like to see it covered over by tomorrow, even just with some plywood, because it is so close to the ball fields where children play.

The boards agreed that the town and village crews should repair the culvert as described. Tom said he submitted this to VLCT PACIF as flood damage. That is why they are sending an engineer. Shayne asked if the village is willing to split the cost if the town is unable to get reimbursed. The trustees agreed to that.

#### **4. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20.

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*