

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

Present: Selectboard members: Mike Dunham, Peter Hammond, Adrienne Parker, Eben Patch
Others: Tom Galinat, Rosemary Audibert, Kyle Nuse
Absent: Duncan Hastings

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Oath of Officers

Rosemary administered the oath of office to Peter Hammond and Adrienne Parker.

2. Call Meeting to Order

Eben called the meeting to order at 6:35.

3. Consider Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda

It was agreed to move part of Appointment of Municipal Positions (election of officers) to be the first item.

4. Election of Officers

Peter nominated Eben for board chair. Mike seconded. **Eben was elected chair, with Eben abstaining from the vote.**

Mike nominated Adrienne for vice chair. Peter seconded. **Adrienne was elected vice chair.**

5. Consider Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda

It was agreed to add delegation of signature authority for permitting paperwork for the library project.

6. Public Comment

Kyle Nuse said she is a little upset with the school board process. It felt really challenging to get consistent answers on how to get on the school board. It went from an appointment process to an election and in the election both candidates ended up running for the same position. She thought they were both going for different positions. She thinks this is why a lot of people don't get involved. It was so hard to get answers. She thinks we need to improve on that if we want people to run for positions.

Eben said he and Tom had a lot of discussion about the school board position. They were told that the school board needed a recommendation and then the school board chair asked the selectboard to help the candidates get on the ballot. His guess is that the school board will need a recommendation for one of the positions. Tom said he would like to get clarity on the need for the selectboard to make a recommendation. He will take that up and reach out to school board chair Mark Nielsen.

Kyle said it is time sensitive because the hiring process for the new Johnson Elementary principal is ongoing and the board is short a representative from Johnson to help make a huge decision.

Eben asked which term Kyle took. Kyle said the 3-year term. Mike asked if she filled out a petition. Kyle said yes. He asked what term she put on the petition. Kyle said the 3-year term. Mike said the other candidate must also have put the 3-year term. Kyle said she thought there were two 3-year terms and she thinks Carri Ferrari did too. Part of it was their mistake. But she wishes it had been brought to their attention when they handed in their petitions. Rosemary pointed out that Kyle had turned in her petition on the last day.

Eben suggested posting for interested candidates to fill the vacant school board position. He suggested Tom or a board member could reach out to Carri Ferrari. Tom said he will reach out to Mark Nielsen.

Peter asked in terms of being short on time for important decisions, does that work out? Kyle said the next school board meeting is March 10. Eben said because of the time crunch he would encourage Carri to make it to that meeting. Historically we have always given the public a chance to apply for open positions and he would like to do that even though people already had a chance and it seems pretty clear that only two people were interested.

7. *Selectboard Issues and Concerns*

Eben said multiple people reached out and were upset because they thought Kyle was counting ballots. She was not counting town ballots. She was counting school board budget ballots at Lamoille Union. She had nothing to do with any ballots with her name on them. And even if she had, she is an honorable person and Eben would not have questioned her integrity. And beyond that, she would not get anything past Rosemary, who is the election official. If anyone has any questions, they should call Eben.

Adrienne said if no one else is interested she would like to be selectboard liaison to the planning commission and the rail trail committee.

Adrienne said Doug Molde, chair of the rail trail committee, asked if someone could help him use the town Zoom account to have a remote meeting of the committee on March 19. Can she do that? The board agreed Adrienne can work with Tom to help Doug.

Adrienne said she would like an agenda item at a future meeting about how to help committees hold Zoom meetings. Eben asked if Adrienne would be okay with adding that to Old Business so it could be brought up at future meetings. Adrienne said yes.

8. *Appointment of Municipal Positions*

The board discussed what changes needed to be made to the list of appointed positions. It was agreed to remove the position of town service officer.

It was agreed that Adrienne can be liaison to the planning commission and the rail trail committee.

Adrienne asked, she can no longer serve on the Planning Commission, right? Tom said they are just an advisory group. He doesn't think she would have to resign. Eben said the only possible conflict of interest he could see would be if the Planning Commission was asking for money. Adrienne could just recuse herself. Mark Woodward was on the bread oven committee. Adrienne asked if there would be a conflict of interest if the planning commission and selectboard were discussing something like form based code. Eben asked if Rosemary thinks it would be cleaner if Adrienne resigned. Rosemary said she thinks it would be. Adrienne said she will resign. She asked if she could stay on the beautification committee and rail trail committee. Eben said he thinks that would be all right as long as she recused herself from anything involving money. Adrienne said she is a co-chair of the Reimagine Johnson downtown development task force. Is it okay to remain on that? Eben said it has no affiliation to the town. It is no different than being a board member of Vermont Electric Coop, as Mark was.

Peter moved and Adrienne seconded to make the following appointments:

Road commissioner: Tom Galinat

Animal control officers: BJ Putvain, Dean Locke, Crystal Earle

Fence viewers: Beth Foy, Eric Osgood, Mark Woodward
Official weigher of coal: Michael Patch
Tree warden: Noel Dodge
Health officer: Dean Locke
Deputy health officers: town administrator, BJ Putvain
Emergency management director: Eben Patch
Energy coordinator: Mark Woodward
Inspector of lumber, wood and shingles: Richard Simays
Green Up Day, Chair: Adrienne Parker
LCPC municipal director: Duncan Hastings
Green Mountain Byways representative: Randall Szott
Sheriff's department communication advisory committee representative: selectboard chair
Fire warden: Corey Davis
Assistant fire warden: Gary Underwood
Town historian: Linda Jones
LCPC Brownfields Committee representative: Kyle Nuse
Lamoille FiberNet representative: Paul Warden
Lamoille FiberNet alternate: Mark Woodward
Planning Commission: Paul Warden (term ending 3/26), Rob Rodriguez (term ending 3/26), Charles Gallanter (term ending 3/27), Kim Cotnoir (term ending 3/28), Kyle Hill (term ending 3/26)
Skate Park and Bike Track Committee: Casey Romero, Howard Romero, Greg Fatigate, George Swanson, Alexis Daniels, James Whitehill
Conservation Commission: Noel Dodge (term ending 3/28), Peter Hammond (term ending 3/28), Sue Lovering (term ending 3/26), Jackie Stanton (term ending 3/26), Jared Jasinski (term ending 3/27), Lois Frey (term ending 3/27), Dean Locke (term ending 3/27), Johna Keefe (term ending 3/28), Adrian Schmidt (term ending 3/28)
Tree Board: Sue Lovering, Rob Maynard, Noel Dodge, Jacob Vandorn, Brian Vandorn
Historical Society: Linda Jones, Lois Frey, Richard Simays, Alice Whiting, Kelly Vandorn, Mary Jean Smith, Mike Dunham
Development Review Board: Will Angier, Jim MacDowell, David Williams
Development Review Board alternate: Kim Dunkley
Beautification Committee: Kyle Nuse, Lauren Philie, Johna Keefe, Adrienne Parker, Blake Parker
Tuesday Night Live Committee: Howard Romero, Tim Mikovitz, Abby Gladstone-Strobel, Sophia Berard, Tom Moog, Charles Flaum, Geoff Hollis
Community Oven Committee: Jasmine Yuris, Elizabeth Faracini, Luke Gellatly, Sophia Berard, Charlotte Roozkrans, Mark Woodward, Adrienne Parker, Aubrey Wagner
Johnson Rail Trail Committee: Peggy Williams, Jan Gearhart, Kyle Nuse, BJ Putvain, Adrienne Parker, Doug Molde, Mary Lou Kopas, Kim Dunkley

The motion was passed.

9. *Old Business*

Eben said a piece of new business that is very important to him is getting job descriptions and an offer letter for the town clerk and town treasurer positions.

10. *Signature Authority for Library Project Permitting*

Eben said he understands Tom is asking for authorization to sign forms that don't incur cost to the town to keep the permit process rolling. Tom said it will cost money to get the permits but the cost will be covered by the library grant.

Mike asked, we have to get a new wastewater permit when we have a library that already has a permit? Tom said we are trying to get an exemption under what is called a boundary line adjustment. There are existing water and sewer hookups at Legion Field from when the alumni house was there. But it doesn't look like our argument is being heard. We asked the village to waive the connection fee.

Mike moved to authorize Tom Galinat to sign forms related to library project permitting that don't incur property tax based costs, and to designate Peter Hammond as an alternate authorized to sign forms if Tom is not available, Adrienne seconded and the motion was passed.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

UNAPPROVED