

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

To Meredith Dolan and the Village Trustees of Johnson,

We the undersigned believe that a violation of Open Meeting Law occurred on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please see the excerpt below:

“No formal or binding action shall be taken in executive session except for actions relating to the securing of real estate options under subdivision (2) of this subsection.”

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/01/005/00313>

As the Village Trustees were preparing to go into executive session, Village Manager Meredith Dolan said “Everybody who’s not a trustee, please leave the meeting and I will let folks know tomorrow if a decision has been made.” Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting prior to the conclusion of the meeting.

*“An executive session is a closed portion of a public meeting and is allowed only in certain limited situations. Those that apply to municipal bodies are as follows: a. Negotiating or securing real estate purchase or lease options. 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) b. The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee (but the public body must make a final decision to hire or appoint in an open meeting and it must explain the reasons for its final decision). 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3)”*

Due to Open Meeting Law being violated, we the undersigned claim that all actions taken by the board at the improperly conducted meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 are ultimately and effectively invalid.

Further, we suggest a special meeting be held so the final decision of appointments be done in a public meeting in compliance with Open Meeting Law, as well as a cure of all Village Trustees and the Village Manager attend the Municipal Assistance Center Onsite and Digital Training, (<https://www.vlct.org/mac-onsite-training>) since there appears to be a pattern of violations.

Respectfully,  
Diane Lehoullier  
Rick Aupperlee  
Pam Aupperlee  
Jane Nuse  
Kyle Nuse  
Lynda Hill  
Sophia Berard  
Jackie Stanton  
Cal Stanton  
Jasmine Yuris  
Margo Warden