

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013

Present:

Trustees: Gordon Smith, George Pearlman, Ellis O'Hear, Walter Pomroy

Others: Duncan Hastings (Manager), Rosemary Audibert (Clerk), Steve Towne, Tom Elwood, Brian Callnan (via phone)

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:06.

2. Call to Order

Brian Callnan of VPPSA joined the meeting by phone to discuss a proposed power purchase contract. He reviewed graphs showing a 26-year forecast with and without the proposed purchase. Walter asked how the contract would meet our needs at peak. Brian said it wouldn't. It would be a round-the-clock contract. During peak we would probably need more power and would manage that on a short-term basis. Walter expressed concern that we could end up with more power than we need. Duncan suggested we might want the contract to provide no more than 80% coverage in order to avoid being overcovered. Brian said the proposed contract currently has 60% from one provider, but he is trying to get an additional provider. Duncan suggested we might want to set a limit of no more than 30% from a single source. (*Ellis arrived at 4:21.*) Brian said our other contracts are at a rate of around 7 cents and this one would be around 5 cents. Duncan said the rate would be a flat 5 to 5.2 cents with no escalator for 5 years. (*Brian left the meeting at 4:30.*)

Walter moved and George seconded to direct Duncan to look at power purchase contracts that meet 80% of our projected load requirement, with no more than 30% of the coverage from one vendor. Ellis asked if Duncan is going to check whether we can renew the contract for more than 5 years. Duncan said Brian had said we probably won't get a vendor that will lock in for more than 5 years at this price. **The motion was passed.**

3. Treasurer's Report and Review and Approve Bills and Warrants

Rosemary said we received money from the USDA for the water project. She paid it back to the CIG fund, but there is still a balance of about \$5K that needs to be paid back.

George moved to borrow from the CIG fund for 3 years at no interest to cover the water expenses deficit, Ellis seconded, and the motion was passed.

Gordon asked that reimbursement from the forest fire in Underhill be applied to the Fire Dept. general fund.

4. Review and Approve Minutes

Duncan suggested some edits to the minutes of December 10 and January 7. **Walter moved to approve the minutes of December 10, 2012 and January 7, 2013 as corrected, George seconded and the motion was passed.**

5. Wastewater Treatment Facility & Water System Operator's Report

Tom said on December 31 we had a wastewater inspection by a state engineer. Only a few minor problems were identified. One has to do with an outfall pipe. The river bank has moved

so that now we have no mixing and the state is asking us to extend the pipe so there is a full mix with the effluent coming into the river. We have some portable samplers that don't have temperature control and need to be packed in ice. Tom thinks we ought to think about upgrading to refrigerated units. Maybe we could replace one this year and one next year. The effluent one is the most critical. Our overall rating on the inspection was excellent.

There was a water main break on December 24. As a result our water loss was a little off. Tom can't calculate how much we lost.

There was a recent water leak at the Studio Center's Chesamore Hall. We lost about 98,690 gallons. George is filing an insurance claim. The water didn't go through the meter. The board agreed to bill the Studio Center as if the water had been used, based on an estimated usage figure.

Tom said he heard from Efficiency Vermont that we will get reimbursed \$5K for a fix we did at the college.

On Friday afternoon, Tom heard that there was high E. coli in effluent sampled on Thursday. He notified the state engineer. One UV rack was not working so Tom put in a spare rack and will sample again. He doesn't think we will get a formal violation.

Walter asked about something mentioned in Duncan's report – a letter sent to food preparation entities asking for their assistance in maintaining commercial grease traps. Duncan said there was a recent blockage on the siphon chamber caused by a solid plug of grease. Tom said there have been numerous problems with grease buildup in the line over the past year and a half, so a letter was sent out to people in Johnson who prepare food.

Tom is working on a flyer to send out with bills telling homeowners about easy ways to find water leaks, what they can and can't put down the drain, etc.

The Vermont Rural Water Association is doing a class in February and the instructor will be using Johnson's wastewater energy efficiency measures as a case study for the class. *(Tom left at 5:24.)*

6. *Public Works Superintendent's Report*

Steve said VTel has paid for make ready work on an alternate route instead of going up 100C but have not gotten back to us about whether they are going up 100C, nor has Fairpoint. It appears there is no water leak at Cabin Cove. There was a water main break on Christmas Eve that took a lot of work to repair.

We need cold weather to get ice on the skating rink. Walter asked who will be maintaining the rink. Steve said probably the village. Duncan said he volunteered to clean it with his snow blower and 8 or 10 people have volunteered to clean it with shovels. Walter said he is concerned about adding duties for village employees on plow days. Steve said his hope is that we maintain the ice and someone else shovels it. Duncan said clearing it with the Bobcat would probably take only 15 minutes.

Steve said poles were set on Stan Ellow's property but the work there cannot be completed until spring because of snow. The broken pole at the bottom of Collins Hill Rd. has been replaced. It has been billed to insurance and reimbursed. Steve noted that the fog lines by the crosswalks, which were supposed to last for 3 years, are already wearing off. Gordon said the sidewalks have been looking good. Village employees are doing a good job on them.

7. ***Manager's Report***

Duncan and the board acknowledged Gordon for his years of service on the Fire Department. He has announced he is stepping down as chief. Duncan said Johnson's fire department is the finest he has been involved with, largely thanks to the efforts of Gordon as chief.

Walter moved to appoint Arjay West as Fire Chief, Darrell West and Peter Dodge as Assistant Fire Chiefs, and Jim Davis, Darren Russell, and Craig Carpenter as Captains. George seconded and the motion was passed.

The board agreed to invite Arjay West to come in during budget discussion and to discuss with him how often other visits to the board should take place.

Duncan said he is trying to finalize the town budget; then he can start on the village budget. Is there any particular budget goal the board wants to target for this year? He thinks we should look at water and sewer rate increases. The last increases were in 2011. He thinks we should do a capital budget plan for water, sewer, and electric. Walter said he thinks capital reserve for water, sewer, and electric should be incorporated into the budget.

Duncan distributed copies of a letter from Kingsbury requesting additional money for claims on the project. The board agreed to ask attorney Steve Stitzel to review the information and provide a legal opinion on how to deal with the claims.

Duncan said he got a letter today from Mark Cattelona saying he and Rick Jewett would like to pursue the option of buying the land from the village before signing the lease agreement, even though Duncan had already informed them that was not an option. **Walter moved to have Doug Molde send Mark Cattelona and Rick Jewett an eviction notice, George seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Troy Dolan has submitted a lineman application. Duncan would like to send him a letter saying that we don't have a position open now but we would like to keep him in mind. The board agreed. Ellis asked about finding part-time work for him. Steve said he would have to outfit him with tools and equipment and pay for him to get some training and certifications. It was agreed to discuss this further at budget time.

Duncan said he wanted to share some information from VPSSA regarding confidentiality issues related to Critical Energy Infrastructure Information. **Walter moved to enter executive session at 6:02, George seconded and the motion was passed. Walter moved to come out of executive session at 6:05, George seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Duncan requested an extension of time and an increase in funds for the HSU Water Rescue Grant so a second water rescue motor could be bought. Both were approved.

Duncan distributed copies of the Draft Electrical System Study.

Lea, Ben Waterman, and Duncan will meet with Mike Comeau on Thursday. Duncan thinks Comeau and Pomerleau have either signed or will sign soon a lease. We are working on the CDBG requirements. The environmental review Lea submitted was accepted.

It appears there is no Cabin Cove water leak, or only a minimal one. The board agreed Duncan should call the homeowner who incurred expense looking for a leak to discuss reimbursement. Duncan would like to have him submit a proposal for the board to review.

Duncan and Steve have been in touch with George Lague about doing an electric system study. Duncan and Steve need to sit with George so he can prepare a written cost proposal.

Duncan has been working with Craig on a draft transmission agreement with Morrisville Water & Light. They had a phone conference with John Coyle, who provided some good ideas regarding back up service from GMP and load loss issues raised by GMP and VEC. Morrisville may incur some legal fees from Coyle. Duncan suggested the village might make a modest contribution. They will have a conference call with DPS to discuss a proposal for financing.

We got our first estimates of tariff rates from GMP sub-transmission service. It looks like it would increase from about \$67K to \$70K.

Gordon asked if anyone had ideas about people who might be interested in serving on the Planning Commission. Duncan said he got a letter of interest from Brian Boyden and Ben Waterman has also indicated interest.

Gordon asked when the selectboard and trustees will start prioritizing work for Lea. Duncan said Gordon and Eric should discuss that. It will probably require another joint meeting.

Duncan said the selectboard had passed a motion to appoint an interested person to the vacancy on the Planning Commission and also to expand the Planning Commission from 5 to 7. Eric afterwards said he was unhappy with the way that was done. He thinks the selectboard should have a process for getting applications and interviewing people. The selectboard is going to talk about that. Duncan mentioned another person who is interested in serving on the Planning Commission.

Walter said he went to the last Planning Commission meeting because they are working on the village plan. He pointed out to them that the village's plan is more restrictive concerning areas near the town/village boundary than the town's plan. He also brought up the issue of wind power and suggested that wording be added to the village plan expressing that the mountain view is important to the village. The Planning Commission chose not to do so. Duncan said he had brought up to the selectboard the question of whether they want to put anything related to commercial scale wind power in the warning for town meeting.

8. *Adjourn*

Ellis moved to adjourn at 6:31, and the motion was seconded and passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths