

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE/SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015

Present:

Trustees: Gordon Smith, Ellis O'Hear, Walter Pomroy, Chris Parker, David Goddette

Selectboard: Eric Osgood, Kathy Black, Nat Kinney, Doug Molde

Others: Duncan Hastings (Manager), Rosemary Audibert (Clerk)

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order - Selectboard

Eric called the selectboard to order at 6:35.

2. Holcomb House Project

Duncan said Gilles Lehouillier is looking for a decision about putting a roof over the handicap ramp. The board agreed to first get an updated estimate from him of costs so far and the cost of the remaining work and to have him do the roof if it looks like there is enough money.

3. Call to Order – Village Trustees

Gordy called the village trustees to order at 6:39.

4. Additions, Changes to Agenda

Walter requested two additions if time allows: discussion of to what extent the selectboard's revolving loan fund will be in sync with the village's revolving loan fund and discussion of whether the town could stripe a crosswalk for the rail trail on Railroad St.

5. Ten Percent on Grand List Discussion

Ten percent on the Grand List is \$59,465.70 – maybe a couple of hundred dollars more than last year. (David arrived at 6:42.) **Walter moved to maintain reimbursement from the town to the village at 10% of the Grand List (\$59,465.70) as per charter, Chris seconded, and the motion was passed.**

6. Pay Adjustments for Shared Employees

Duncan said last month's 12-month average cost of living increase was 0.9%, but the 12-month average of 12-month averages is closer to 1.45%. Last year shared employees were given 2% increases. **Walter moved to increase pay for shared town-village employees by 2% for the coming fiscal year, seconded by Chris. Kathy moved to increase pay for shared town-village employees by 2% for the coming fiscal year, seconded by Nat.** Eric said it had previously been discussed that the employees might take a little more of a hit next year on health insurance so a more generous increase (higher than the increase in the cost of living) might be in order. Duncan said those who stay with the Platinum plan will pay more and those who go from Platinum to Gold will get a lesser policy and more out-of-pocket costs so everyone is taking a hit. Walter said lower paid employees may find their percentage step up does not cover their health insurance increase, but he feels we are being generous overall. Gordy agreed. **The selectboard motion was passed. The village trustee board motion was passed.**

7. Revolving Loan Fund Discussion

Walter said he is curious about whether the village and town will be working together with their revolving loan funds. What will the selectboard's interest rates be? Eric said the selectboard hasn't even seen Lea's proposal regarding the revolving loan fund yet. One thing that has been discussed is having a committee of people who are knowledgeable about making loans. Duncan said the selectboard will be having its first look at proposed guidelines at the next board meeting. They

won't have enough money to loan out for at least two years. Walter said eventually the selectboard will have more money and will be able to make bigger loans. Eric said one difference is that the village's money is totally unrestricted, while he thinks the selectboard will be restricted to loans that support businesses, job creation, etc. Duncan said he thinks it would be a great idea to establish a loan review committee to review all applications and make recommendations to the board. We would try to get people with appropriate experience to serve on the committee. Walter said he could see having one application for both loan funds and letting the committee decide which fund it would make the most sense to use for the loan. Duncan said he would love to have conversation in the future about coordinating between the town and the village on loans.

8. Discussion on Crosswalk for Rail Trail

Walter said he wanted to see if the town thought it would be a good idea to paint a crosswalk where the rail trail crosses Railroad Street. Doug said the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission will be meeting soon to discuss the rail trail. Anyone who is interested could probably come. It is an important meeting. Duncan said we would have to work closely with VTrans in deciding about a crosswalk because their right of way would be involved. Kathy said she believes the Mississiquoi Rail Trail has crosswalks marked where it crosses the highway. Nat asked what other towns and the state are doing in similar situations. He doesn't feel cars should have to yield to people using the rail trail; he thinks rail trail users should stop before crossing. Walter said he feels pedestrians should have the right of way. Kathy said she thinks there is probably protocol from other rail trails. Lea and Duncan will be at the meeting Doug mentioned. Walter said the rail trail also crosses West Settlement Rd. and there could be a crosswalk there, though there is less traffic. The other crossings in Johnson are on dirt roads.

9. Adjourn - Selectboard

The selectboard adjourned at 7:01. The village trustees began their regular meeting.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths