

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

Present:

Trustees: Gordon Smith, Walter Pomroy, Scott Meyer, Bob Sweetser (by phone), Phil Wilson

Others: Meredith Birkett, Rosemary Audibert, Troy Dolan, Dan Copp, Mike Dunham, Brian Story, Kim Dunkley

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. *Call to Order*

Gordy called the meeting to order at 6:05.

2. *Changes, Additions to Proposed Agenda*

Walter added an informational item for the end of the meeting.

3. *Review and Approve Minutes of Trustee Meetings*

Walter moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2019 and January 27, 2019, Scott seconded and the motion was passed.

4. *Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills & Warrants / Budget Status Report / Action Items*

The board reviewed budget status reports. Walter commented that it appears we will have a surplus of about \$6K in the general fund.

5. *Water/Wastewater Report and Action Items*

All samples met state requirements. The E-DMR and WR-43 were submitted for review.

There were 3 callouts for the wastewater plant. One was for a power bump at the River Road pump station and two were for low wet well at the plant. Dan believes those were false readings due to ice.

The alarm dialer was installed at the River Road pump station. Cycle counters for both ejector pots were also installed. This will allow us to calculate flow through the pump station.

Brook Field Services was here to service the generator, which hadn't been serviced in two years and wouldn't start. It needed about \$1200 worth of parts. It was inoperable for 4 days. Dan borrowed a Utility Partners pump to have on standby in case of a power outage.

Gordy asked about the generator out here. Troy said it was serviced in January here.

Walter asked what the Utility Partners pump is capable of doing. Dan said it is on a trailer. It is a self-priming portable pump. Walter asked about its capacity volume-wise. Dan said he thinks it will move 700 gallons a minute. Walter asked if Utility Partners always has it on standby. Dan said it is staged in Lyndonville. Walter said the worst-case scenario he always fears is ice wiping out the bridge over Pearl Street, causing us to lose all our pipes. He is wondering if this pump could be used in that situation. Dan said it is big enough to handle normal flows here.

Scott asked if it is possible to protect that spot where the main goes under the Pearl Street bridge. That is something to think about.

A relay in the influent wet well heater malfunctioned and was replaced.

A blower motor bearing seized and it burned and melted all 3 connection wires. Pratt replaced the wiring. We replaced the motor with a spare. We have two more spares so he is not going to have it repaired.

All samples taken at the water plant were negative. We didn't have any callouts.

Brook Field Services serviced the emergency generator and ordered a replacement for a low fuel sensor that was faulty.

Archie McDonald from Pureflow visited the water plant. He installed the water plant originally. He went over calibration of the chlorine and pH analyzers. He went over every aspect of plant operations and troubleshooted a few minor issues.

Water loss for the month was 17%.

Dan described what he proposes for a high water notification alarm at the plant. Gordy suggested identifying what the warning level would be for Sterling Market as well as for our plant. Dan said there are two floats so it would be possible to warn for both. Scott asked if we would be liable if we have an alarm but the sensor fails and we don't warn Sterling Market and it floods. Meredith said she thinks we can make it clear that they are not to rely on this and have to use their own procedures to monitor the situation.

Scott asked if we need to worry about people messing with it. Dan said it will be bolted from the inside and locked.

Dan said we can install it ourselves. The cost estimate is \$1722.40.

Walter moved to authorize purchase of a high water monitor from Champlain Associates for \$1722.40 and to have Dan install it, Scott seconded and the motion was passed.

6. Enhanced Energy Plan Public Hearing

The meeting was recessed at 6:32 and the public hearing for the Enhanced Energy Plan was opened. Scott said his wife was planning to be here for the hearing but she had not yet arrived. Walter moved to recess the public hearing, Scott seconded, the motion was passed and the public hearing was recessed at 6:33.

7. Other Business

Walter said he has heard the legislature may pass a bill requiring testing for PFOAs. He asked about possible costs. Dan said he imagines the testing wouldn't be required yearly. He could imagine it being required on a 3-year cycle. Rosemary said when we tested for PFOAs it only cost \$200. (*Kim Dunkley arrived at 6:34.*)

8. Enhanced Energy Plan Public Hearing

The public hearing was reopened at 6:34. Meredith explained that communities can create enhanced energy plans, which will give the community substantial deference – a stronger voice for local concerns about proposed energy projects. If there are no concerns about the plan, the board can approve it. Once the trustees and the selectboard vote it becomes our plan and it will then be blessed by LCPC.

Kim said LCPC provided help on this. The person who led the Planning Commission through it knows what is expected and what will give us deference. She is here to let the board know that a lot of work went into the plan and she hopes it is approved. She hopes that at town meeting the Planning Commission can have a couple of copies of the enhanced plan and a couple of copies of the town/village plan.

Walter asked who will be responsible for making this part of the plan happen. Kim said the village and town should tell the Planning Commission what policies and tasks they should be working on.

Walter asked if any consideration has been given to having an energy committee like some towns have done.

Kim said some of the policies and recommendations in the town/village plan that are related to the energy plan are being explored.

Meredith said there is a process the planning commissions have gone through and there has been a parallel path that utilities have gone on. She feels coordination between utilities and planning commissions is important. There are going to be things electric departments are required to do for the renewable energy standard that will help with some of these goals.

Kim said she thinks an energy committee would be a wonderful thing. Maybe there could be a post on Front Porch Forum to see if there is interest. She said she thinks the enhanced energy plan will give our town more say. Walter said it gives us more voice if a wind company wants to put towers in our town.

Walter moved to close the public hearing at 6:43, Scott seconded and the motion was passed.

Walter moved to adopt Johnson's Enhanced Energy Plan as an amendment to Johnson's Municipal Development Plan, Scott seconded and the motion was passed.

9. 2019 Town of Johnson Fire Services Contract

Brian Story thanked the trustees for adding clarifying language about emergency and non emergency services to the agreement between the town and village for fire department services. The town has identified a problem with the contract that has existed for a long time. The town has been treating it as a fiscal year contract and the village has been treating it as a calendar year contract. The contract is for the calendar year. But if it is a calendar year contract and the selectboard signs it before town meeting, the town doesn't have approval from the voters. The town needs either a termination clause in case its budget is voted down

or a change to a fiscal year contract so it will be signed after town meeting. The selectboard hasn't had a chance to discuss this issue yet but Brian wanted to make sure the trustees were aware of it. The town's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30.

Gordy asked how the NEMS and sheriff's department contracts are handled. Brian said they are fiscal year contracts.

Meredith said her concern with moving to a fiscal year contract is that the village is relying on that amount of money to cover its calendar year expenses. If we move to a fiscal year contract the town would have to pay for half a year to finish out the calendar year on top of paying for a whole fiscal year. She is not sure if that would be palatable to the town. Brian said he expects not. He said he doesn't expect us to solve the problem this year. He thinks it is not a realistic option to start working on a new contract this late in the town and village budget cycles. He thinks we need to tackle it next year. He thinks the selectboard will agree with that.

Walter suggested that next year the village give the town an 18-month contract. Brian said he thinks something like that would be good. The selectboard hasn't discussed this yet and doesn't have an official proposal. He mentioned that the contract starts January 1 so technically we don't have a fire contract now. Mike said he agrees with an 18-month contract.

Brian said he thinks we need a termination clause for protection of both parties. Whenever the contract is signed at least one party will be signing it without approval from the voters so a termination clause is probably a good idea.

Gordy said he doesn't want to get into the numbers. The fire chief's budget gets scrutinized by the trustees. He wouldn't want to see the town try to get out of the contract because of financial reasons and expect the trustees to renegotiate it, jeopardizing safety.

Brian said his request is totally unrelated to any specific contract discussion or whether we agree about budget numbers. If either board is signing the contract without voter approval the voters could say the board needs to do something different but there would already be a signed contract. He agrees it wouldn't be appropriate to use the termination clause just because the town would like to pay less money.

Meredith said Brian pointed out that we should endeavor to have these contracts signed by January 1. That is something to keep in mind next year. We should get Arjay on the agenda earlier if we want to shoot for that goal.

Walter said we have the other contract towns to consider too. Meredith said she will talk to them about how they want to handle it.

10. Other Business

Walter asked where we stand with regard to the recent news that a flaw was found in NEMRC software that allows unauthorized access to certain records. Rosemary said NEMRC said they have fixed everything. Walter asked if our IT people have signed off that

NEMRC's fix worked. Rosemary said no. Walter said he thinks we need to ask them that question. He asked if there are any indications we have been breached. Rosemary said no. As far as she knows there have been no NEMRC breaches. Someone just said it would be possible.

Brian said a flaw was discovered in the underlying program that NEMRC was developed on, which is no longer supported. The flaw could allow access to NEMRC's records. A consultant discovered the flaw and let NEMRC know. NEMRC and the consultant who found the flaw are aware of no breaches in any town. NEMRC did fixes and then it was made public that there had been a flaw and that it was fixed.

11. Foreman Report and Action Items

Troy said there was one outage on February 1 at 258 Highland Drive. (*Brian left at 7:00.*) It turned out to be on the customer's side of the secondary service. Chan and Jeff left today for NEPPA apprenticeship training. The rebuilt voltage regular that was purchased by Just Send It Solar LLC failed. It had no effect on our other customers. Alan is working with the seller to have it replaced. The crew completed monthly meter reading, disconnects and Dig Safes. The high snow depths made meter reading difficult and it took an extra day to complete. Walter suggested we could put a comment in the newsletter asking people please to shovel out their meters. Meredith said we do put that reminder in the bill insert but we could also put it in the newsletter.

Troy said with all the snow during the last month the majority of the crew's time was spent clearing sidewalks, sanding, salting, plowing and maintaining the equipment. Walter said the crew is doing an excellent job. On February 1 all rubber line covers, insulated sticks and protective grounds passed the annual testing. Troy placed an order with Irby Tools to restock our electric inventory that was used during the heavy wet snow storm and the large primary underground job in November. The order total was \$3,950. All line trucks have been scheduled for annual di-electric testing at the end of the month. Troy and Meredith have been working on the 2019 budget.

Scott said he got a call from a Railroad Street resident about a giant pile of dirt on their lawn. He is not sure if the town or village is responsible. Troy said he has no idea about that. The ground is frozen solid. He is not sure how dirt would get moved. Where he lives, in Eden, he takes two pickup truck loads of dirt off his lawn each year and the town says it is up to him to deal with.

12. Review Pearl Street Engineering/Design Services Proposals

Meredith said we received 4 proposals for design of Pearl Street sidewalks. Using the 4 criteria outlined in the RFP, Dufresne Group scored best and Lamoreux & Dickinson was next. Dufresne had the lowest cost and Lamoreux & Dickinson's cost was the next lowest. Dufresne was one of the engineers who worked on the School Street project. They were not the engineers that designed that project. They had to deal with mistakes made before their involvement. They did something in their proposal that the other companies didn't. Part of their quote was a fixed fee and part was based on time and expense. So there is potential for costs to be higher than quoted. It is a little unclear if Lamoreux & Dickinson is proposing a fixed cost or if the figure they provided is just their estimate and could go up or down. She would want clarification if we wanted to go with them. They spoke to VTrans and VTrans

said they may require 2 months to review the project so our plan might be ambitious. Lamoreux & Dickinson is proposing the end of May for a completion date. Dufresne said they expect to be ready to go out to bid at the beginning of April, which is close to the target Meredith put out.

Meredith's recommendation is Dufresne Group. They have knowledge of the area and they have some of our data already. We have a good working relationship with Elizabeth Emmons, who would be the project manager. But while their cost estimate is the lowest now it could come in higher because only a portion is a fixed fee.

Scott asked if there is any guarantee on their work. Meredith said they are stating they will meet state and ADA standards and accepted design standards but she doesn't think we will get a guarantee. This is just for the design, not the construction. We might want to contract with someone else for construction management. This doesn't include that, just some time to answer questions during construction if clarification is needed.

Walter moved to authorize Meredith to enter into a satisfactory contract with Dufresne Group for Pearl Street Sidewalk engineering/design based on her judgment, Scott seconded and the motion was passed.

13. Inclusion of Inclusivity Statement as an Article on the Village Meeting Warning

Scott said he would like an article on the village meeting warning asking voters to approve the inclusivity statement already adopted by the selectboard, leaving it to voters to come up with a statement everyone is comfortable with at the meeting.

Kim Dunkley said she feels like the statement the selectboard already passed is a really important inclusivity statement because it names the things we don't want. By naming those as a town we can do something about them. She loves Barbara Backus's proposed statement as a mission statement for the town or village but we are looking to name what we don't want so when something happens we can do something about it. If we don't name it we don't know what we are looking for and people do not feel supported. She didn't agree with the current inclusivity statement when she first heard it. The words in it didn't feel good. But it is for the people most in need of hearing that supportive language, so they feel included.

Walter said we have to put our warning out before town meeting. We won't know what will be decided about the town's statement at town meeting. Can the voters amend the article and adopt whatever the town adopted? Rosemary said yes. Walter said he feels the voters should decide on the statement and should be able to decide to go with either one. He thinks the worst situation would be if the town and village ended up with two different statements. He asked if it is possible to have an open ended article that says we will adopt whatever the town adopts. Rosemary said no.

Gordy asked if we could have 2 articles. If one gets voted up, the other gets voted down. Phil said we will all know what happened at town meeting. Meredith said there will be a different set of voters at the village meeting so there is no guarantee what will happen. Scott feels we should put the wording of the original statement in the warning and see where the voters bring it.

Walter asked if Gordy or Meredith could put in their report that we feel both the town and village should adopt the same statement. Scott said he doesn't think that is needed. If the town adopts something different from the wording in the village warning he will bring it up at the village meeting.

Walter said he doesn't want to feel like we are endorsing one over the other. He wants the voters to choose.

Gordy asked why the wording of the selectboard's inclusivity statement article says the article is non-binding. Rosemary said that is the advice Brian got from the attorney. Meredith said she thinks we will not include that in ours.

Scott moved and Phil seconded to warn an article for the annual village meeting asking if the voters will approve the inclusivity statement previously adopted by the selectboard.

Walter said technically the voters can't bind us. The article has to be advisory, but we would be stupid not to follow them. Meredith said the selectboard article is different because the selectboard has already voted on an inclusivity statement. A question for our attorney is whether village voters can adopt a statement or if the board has to adopt it. Walter said he would like clarification on whether the article is advisory or binding before we print the warning.

The motion was passed with Gordy opposed. Gordy said he supports the wording proposed in the town meeting warning. (*Kim left at 7:35.*)

14. Powerhouse Building Update

Meredith said KAS had additional conversations with the disposal site and found that additional lead testing needs to be done to determine the level of contamination, which affects the cost. She also learned that the presence of asbestos will add at least \$500 per load. They project 10 loads. If the work is done while temperatures are still below freezing there will be additional costs. She is still waiting on a determination from Historical Preservation. There will be a Brownfields meeting on the 26th when hopefully funding for additional lead testing will be approved.

Scott said he thought the asbestos contamination was already quantified. Why can't they just do one load with all of the asbestos in it? Meredith said she thinks Scott is right that if there is a load that they can definitely say doesn't have asbestos we won't have to pay extra for that load.

Scott said he thinks if we separate out hazardous waste we can dispose of the rest as special solid waste, not hazardous waste. Meredith said she has been told we won't really be separating anything out. It all goes into one dumpster. That is what will be required because of PCB's. Scott said it would be nice if the asbestos waste was first removed and all put into one container. Meredith said she doesn't think we can definitively say where it is when we haven't been into half the building.

Meredith said VPPSA has put forward a bill that would allow utilities to go through VPPSA for Section 108 borrowing. That is getting good reception. It will likely not be signed until July 1 but if our process is drawn out and we want to borrow money we may be able to do it without going to the PUC. Meredith is keeping that in the back of her mind as an option if it seems the timing would work out for us to get funding and save \$100K without having to go through PUC approval. (*Mike Dunham left at 7:41.*)

15. Set Date for Special Trustee Meeting to Review Revised 2019 Budget

It was agreed to schedule a meeting for February 25 at 6:00. Scott can't be there.

16. 2019 Draft Village Budget – All Departments

Meredith said all 4 budgets are very tight. She set the same tax rate as 2018.

She reviewed the general department budget. We got confirmation that Northern Vermont University will pay \$6K again. She increased auditor salaries a little as previously discussed. Office administrative services may need to be budgeted higher. The merger study, the audit and the sidewalk project are all in the budget. We got a big rebate this year from PACIF. When they have money left over they return it to their members. She reduced beautification to \$1K.

Gordy said Doug Molde asked him if the town could go ahead and put flowers and landscaping on the village green and he said no, the trustees have to approve it and Troy has to approve it to ensure it won't cause problems for snow removal.

The existing Christmas decorations are in poor shape. Meredith thinks we need to purchase new ones. They are expensive. Probably the cheapest is \$350 each and we have 22. Board members talked about the possibility of putting fewer up. Meredith said she budgeted 22 times \$400, which is \$8,800. Scott asked if the Laraway school might be able to make Christmas decorations. Meredith said they need to be really durable and big. She can talk to Johnson Works about it. Gordy said it would be nice if some organization like Johnson Works could look at the possibility of something different for Christmas decorations. There could be something lit up.

Meredith said postage has gone up so she increased the amount budgeted for that. There is a slight increase in the amounts budgeted for office supplies and printing and publishing. She budgeted \$35K for work on the municipal building. She put in placeholder amounts for work on the old mill building and possible additional work on the municipal building. Walter said he thinks we need to address the sidewalk outside the municipal building.

Scott asked if we have a leak in the municipal building tower. Meredith and Rosemary said yes. Meredith said Brian called someone to look at it and he thought there was a place snow was getting behind. Troy said there is a water trap there. (*Bob left at 8:08.*)

Meredith said heat expense last year was very high. She kept heat a little higher than in previous years. She budgeted \$5K for Bobcat tires and a plow. She budgeted a contribution toward a future Bobcat purchase. The general department budget includes a share of the flood notification float.

Troy said this will be the last year we can use our current dump truck. It used to be a town truck and the village purchased it. It is at the end of its useful life. The transmission is starting to slip. If the intention of the village is to keep picking up snow we need another truck. We use two trucks. We push all the snow off the sidewalks into the road and blow it into the back of the trucks and dump it. It takes 2 trucks to do that.

Gordy asked if a new truck is in the capital plan. Troy said yes.

Troy said a Ram 5500 is what he wants. It is smaller than the current truck but has more capacity and capability. The dealer told him it would cost roughly \$64K. The electric department uses it in summer to blow chips into. He asked about a lease option but for commercial use the only lease option involves a balloon payment to buy the truck at the end.

Walter asked, why not get a used truck? Troy said usually used ones are worn out. The one we got from the town should never have been purchased.

Meredith said other villages don't pick up snow the way we do. Troy said we go above and beyond what others do. It looks better and it makes it easier for people to get to businesses. And if snow is not removed it can get built up to the point where it is a public safety issue because people can't see to get out of a driveway. Gordy said there is a high standard of what has been done and no one likes going backwards.

Meredith asked if we could get by with one truck if we just did snow removal on Main Street. Troy said no. His crew has to keep coming in earlier and earlier because of the amount of traffic coming through town. Their goal is to be off Main Street by 6:00 am. Meredith asked, having 2 trucks allows the work to go faster? Troy said yes. It is also more efficient because no one is waiting for another person.

Meredith said she and Troy were thinking it might be wise to lease rather than purchase but if that is not an option we will have to brainstorm. Phil suggested maybe we could get a used truck from someplace like Texas. Troy said he wouldn't want to buy a used truck from around here, because of salt. Walter said we have 6 or 8 months to address what we buy. We just need to know about the warning. Rosemary said we only need an article in the warning if we are going to finance for more than 5 years. Meredith asked if we could get a good used truck for \$40K. Troy said he would have to do research.

The general department budget has a deficit of \$9K.

Gordy asked how much we are putting into the sidewalk fund. Meredith said we are not putting anything in it this year.

Walter suggested maybe the truck and Bobcat could be paid for out of the sidewalk reserve fund. He said he would rather not do that but it is a possibility.

Troy said he is sure we can sell the current truck, but he doesn't know how much we would get. That would offset the cost of the replacement a little.

Meredith reviewed the wastewater budget. She budgeted for somewhat lower revenue. She is proposing to pay for the cupola out of the reserve fund. Scott asked if we need the cupola. Dan said we got a quote for tearing the whole thing off. His concern is that the electric system up there was not made to be uncovered. We also got a quote for maintaining sections. One contractor gave a quote of \$20,660 to tear it all off and \$9950 to basically rebuild part of it. That is on the high end. It depends on what shape the truss is in. Troy asked if there is any way of moving the electric panels to a different location or if that would be a higher cost. Dan said he thinks it would be higher cost. That is a question for an engineer.

Meredith budgeted about \$1K to improve the heating system at the WWTF. Dan said the heating system is a mess. None of the thermostats work or are used. He thinks if we got someone who knows what they are doing to improve it we would see payback. Some rooms don't need to be as hot as they are. He is talking about getting the controls and thermostats operating correctly, not replacing the boiler. Walter said he thinks we should start improving the heating system now.

Meredith changed the split between sewer and water for the Utility Partners contract to 90% sewer and 10% water to better reflect how the time is being spent.

The bottom line for wastewater is \$4,919 to the good.

Dan said he thinks the UV unit, belt press, River Road pump station and diffusers and SBR's would be the big ticket items we would roll into a bond. Walter said we have also talked about Lamoille View. Meredith said dealing with water, sewer and storm drains there is about \$300K. That is not in this budget.

Meredith said this budget assumes about \$77,500 coming out of our reserve fund.

Meredith reviewed the water budget. She kept water sales flat compared to last year. She put \$7K in for distribution system maintenance.

Gordy asked, weren't we talking about prioritizing replacing commercial customers' meters? Meredith said she thinks we replaced some commercial customers' meters but didn't get far. We could go back through the customer list and find some it might make sense to replace. Walter said especially with sales dropping off that would be a good idea.

Meredith budgeted for the "Cadillac" communications upgrade. Dan said he thinks we could do part of it at a time.

Meredith said the bottom line for water is about \$1200 to the good but it is very tight, especially if revenues continue to fall off.

Scott asked how we would check water meters for high users. Meredith said we would just switch out the meter. Troy said we have a method of testing a meter in the shop. Phil asked if there is a process of going through old ones and testing them. Troy said no, not unless we get a complaint. Meredith said they were all replaced in around 2006 or 2007. Scott suggested checking them for high use commercial customers.

Meredith reviewed the electric department budget. (*Dan left at 9:00.*) We have some money from Consolidated Communications for pole setting on 100C. It is not enough to pay for all of the pole setting that needs to be done but we haven't budgeted for the rest of that project. If we are going to use that money we have to put other money into the project. Troy said it needs to be done. The poles are in very poor condition. Meredith said there is a cost to do the work and a legal cost to get easements.

Walter asked if we can just do what we can with the \$40K and then stop or if we have to match it with our own funds. Meredith said she is not sure; she would have to look into it. Troy said we can't just do part of that job. We have to do the whole thing.

Meredith said we may be able to assume higher sales than she has assumed. We also would have to assume higher purchased power costs. She will talk to VPPSA to better understand their load projections. Right now she is being pretty conservative and assuming a 4% decrease in sales.

Phil asked about the costs for tree trimming if emerald ash borer shows up. He suggested budgeting to cut down ash trees now before it gets here. Troy said there are specific rules and regulations for disposing of the wood. He is not familiar with them. He can see it being a substantial cost. He asked if we are better off cutting the trees when they are still healthy. Phil said he thinks so. Once they are infested there are restrictions on how to dispose of them. Meredith said doing it now is more cost effective than waiting until they are infested.

Meredith said the electric department budget has a \$43,946 deficit. If we assume similar sales to last year we can shave that by about \$31K. Every year for the past 3 years we have budgeted a deficit and come back with a surplus. A lot of that was driven by extra projects we didn't count on. Walter said the voters don't have to approve the electric department budget and we have a cash surplus.

17. Reimbursement for Ice Rink Water Usage

Gordy said Brian Raulinaitis wants to use a mini zamboni on the Legion Field ice rink. He wants to know if he can get a refund off his water and sewer bill if he uses the spigot at his house to fill it. Its tank holds 30-35 gallons. But the fire department will donate about 20K gallons of water, about \$100 worth, through the end of February. It is town property and we are donating a good share of water to it.

Meredith said she called Brian Raulinaitis. He was going to double check how much water the little zamboni uses and get back to her. His initial estimate was about \$1000 gallons. That would be about \$8-10 dollar a month for water and with sewer it would be about \$20.

Walter moved to give Brian Raulinaitis credit for water he uses for the ice rink and to ask him to keep track of his usage. Meredith said she doesn't want Susan to have to adjust his bill. She would rather send him a check.

Gordy brought up the precedent this sets. Someone might want to hold a car wash and get reimbursed. Walter said he understands but this is a recreation activity available for all in the community to use.

Meredith asked if we want to set any cap. Walter said he is good with any number. This is a volunteer putting in time and effort to support recreation for the community. **Walter modified his motion to reimburse Brian Raulinaitis for water and sewer charges associated with the ice rink, Phil seconded and the motion was passed.**

18. Discussion of Using Credit Card for Purchased Power Invoices

Meredith said one VPPSA member said they often get no limit cash back credit card offers and if they could pay for purchased power with one of these credit cards they could make additional revenue. They approached VPPSA about it. VPPSA did some research. They would probably have to use commercial credit card processing. It would require some work on their part. They have asked to see if VPPSA members' boards are interested in the idea. Meredith said she thinks it sounds like a good idea but we would have to get a credit card with a massive credit limit or no limit. She asked if Rosemary thinks we could get one like that. Rosemary said she doesn't know. Walter said let VPPSA research it but he thinks once the word is out the opportunity will be taken from us. He feels we are interested, but not a lot. Meredith said she doesn't want to spend a lot of time researching this. But she would be interested in learning about it from other VPPSA members.

19. Information Item from Walter

Walter said he has decided not to run for re-election. He thinks he can be more effective to the village serving as a citizen volunteer on committees such a charter or merger committee. Gordy thanked Walter for all his years of service and input. He said he will be hard to replace. The board discussed whether and how to notify village residents that there will be a vacancy on the board. It was agreed that Meredith would put out a notice about the 3 seats that are open for election and note that the incumbent for one of them is not running for re-election.

20. Executive Session – Personnel Matter

Walter moved to go into executive session for a personnel matter with Meredith and Troy remaining, the motion was seconded and passed and the board entered executive session at 9:52. The board came out of executive session at 10:25.

21. Adjourn

Walter moved and Scott seconded to adjourn at 10:25 and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths