

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON WATER & LIGHT GARAGE, 663 RAILROAD ST and
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026

Present:

Trustees: Will Jennison (arrived 6:16), Ellis O’Hear, BJ Putvain, Darrell Wescom

Others: Erik Bailey, Rosemary Audibert, Laurel Persico,

Absent: Ken Tourangeau

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

BJ called the meeting to order at 6:03.

2. Review of Agenda and Any Adjustments, Changes and Additions

No changes to the agenda were needed.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

4. Review and Approve Minutes of Trustee Meetings

Ellis moved to approve the minutes of April 13 and April 27, 2026, Darrell seconded and the motion was passed.

5. Members of the Public

No members of the public wished to comment.

6. Treasurer’s Report: Bills and Warrants / Budget Status Report / Other Action Items

Rosemary said Waterville has made their first installment on the fire contract. Electric sales were 39.55% of budget for the first 4 months. Power costs for the first 2 months were 20% of budget. Water sales for the first 4 months were 35.76% of budget and sewer sales were 34%.

Rosemary said Jim Barlow is willing to send demand letters to two village taxpayers. Any other demand letters are \$75 each. The amounts of taxes owed are so low that it does not make sense to send letters to all delinquent taxpayers. She suggests sending letters to the two taxpayers that owe the largest amounts. The tax sale will probably be sometime this summer. BJ asked if these two letters are free or cost \$75 each. Rosemary said these are probably \$75.

Ellis moved to authorize Jim Barlow’s law firm to send letters to two taxpayers about delinquent taxes and to authorize Ken to sign the letters, Darrell seconded and the motion was passed.

Board members signed the warning for the special village meeting to be held June 17. The informational meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on June 8.

7. Village Manager’s Report and Any Action Items

Erik read his report:

Water & Light Garage Project Update:

The new Water & Light garage is getting very close. The garage bay area has hit Substantial Completion, and the crew is beginning to bring stock back into the building. Some work remains in the break room and office.

DR4720 FEMA WWTF Project Update: Seth Jensen and I are working on the RFQ to go out for the construction engineering, as the project has finally moved to that phase.

Jeff passed his CDL physical and has had his first day with the CDL school. The rest of his classes will be planned once they have a Road test date locked in with DMV, so the classes end right before the exam, keeping the knowledge fresh in his mind.

The proofs for the Vet Banners came this afternoon. They are ready to review and be approved.

I will be at the VT Rural Water Association Spring training event this Thursday and will be off May 20-22nd.

Erik said Carl Rogers emailed him today about a tech assistance grant and he forwarded the info to the board.

The board looked at the banner proofs and agreed they look good.

8. *Water/Wastewater Report and Any Action Items*

Erik read the report submitted by Dan Copp:

Operational Status of Wastewater Plant and Callouts

- E-DMR's and Wr-43's were submitted to the State
- We hauled 84 thousand gallons of sludge to Morrisville for processing in April
- Monthly Composite testing completed
- Manosh completed scheduled Grit channel cleaning, we're having to do this twice as often this spring due to infiltration in the system, we are working with the village crew weekly to narrow down the cause and location
- Assisted village crew with trying to unplug invert in manhole on main street, could not get it, we are going to arrange with village crew to have it inspected with camera.
- Got Alum line thawed, and serviced alum pumps with new pump tubes, and repaired frozen alum line.
- Took snowblower attachment off from tractor, and installed mower deck. Serviced tractor and all outdoor summer power equipment.
- Assisted the village crew on inspecting possible infiltration spot in manhole on school street with camera and locator.
- Completed all outside yard work – clean up from winter to prepare for summer lawn care.
- Tim and Luke both completed CPR/First Aid class and got certifications.
- Tim and Luke have been taking Continuing Ed classes in these slower months required for ongoing water and wastewater credits.

Operational status of Water Plant and Callouts

- Monthly reports were submitted to the state.
- Coliform samples were negative

- Added coolant to water plant generator as needed. Started scheduling new generator installation with Brookfield, Corse fuels, and village crew for the month of May.
- Continually having to shop-vac Asian lady beetles at water plant, due to large infiltration inside of plant.
- Water loss was 7 % for April
- Turned off heat for the summer season in all meter houses

Will arrived at 6:16.

9. Electric/General Report and Any Action Items

Erik read the report submitted by Nate Brigham:

Electric Dept. –

Waiting to install transformer at new library site due to the elevation of vault to be fixed

Programming of the regulator for the solar is complete. Still having issues with the array. Customer is getting an engineer to come up with a fix

Attended solar meeting for shop

Tree limb on line at pole #234 behind West Highland Drive, 7 customers out for 1hr

All DCUs are installed and all are commissioned

Outage at 261 Lower Mian East 26 customers out for 2hrs due to a blown transformer

Broken neutral at 242 Rt 15 West, no outages

Secondaries knocked down by tree for the barn at 124 Gould Hill Rd, no outages

Removed electric service at 355 Rocky Rd for barn demo, re-installing at a later date

Energized power line at 1900 Clay Hill Rd for DCU

Met at 13 Prospect Rock Rd for moving electric service

Looked at service pole at 849 Rt 15 West for a new house going in
Meeting at Little Barn Rd for new service

Replaced service to 4/0 at 813 Rt 15 West

Fixed lawn at 1990 Rt 15 West from bucket truck ruts

Installed cover at 738 100C

Attended bi-weekly meetings for Shop

Completed monthly meter reading, high/low checks, substation check, and dig safes

Water/Sewer -

Fixed water meter at 28 Katy-win East

Dropped off water meter for new house by River Rd West sewer pumping station

Turned water on and dropped off water meter at 554 Railroad St

420 Wescom Rd turned off curb stop for water line that blew off turned back on after Customer fixed it

Had a call for sewer plug at 294/288 Railroad St, Sewer main was fine it was on Customers lateral

Cameraed sewer line on School St for infiltration waiting on dye

Tring to find infiltration into the sewer line system

General Dept. -

Put winter equipment away

Installed spring banners

Moved air compressor to new shop

Installed pole at new shop for antenna and street light

Got flags ready to install

Cleaned lawn at Green and Municipal offices

Started sweeping sidewalks/streets

Safety -

Attended NEPPA safety meetings: 5/5 OSHA 1

Nate started Leadership Training through VLR

Jeff passed CDL permit test and DOT physical

Fixed broken extendo stick

Had fire extinguishers inspected

10. Fire Department Report and Any Action Items

Erik read the report submitted by Chief Arjay West:

Mar. 27 – Apr. 30, 2026

Calls:

JFD responded to 9 calls.

7 calls occurred during the daytime (6 am – 6 pm)

2 calls occurred during the nighttime (6 pm – 6 am)

The average duration was: 70 minutes

Nature:

Those calls were: 4 – automatic alarms, 1 – co alarm, 2 – mutual aid (water rescue/vehicle fire), and 2 – other (citizen assist and electrical hazard)

Staff:

The average number of firefighters that responded was: 9

Total hours of service was: 81

11. Tree Board Presentation on New Trees They Wish to Add

No members of the Tree Board were present. Erik said they would like to plant a couple of dwarf crabapple trees. That doesn't seem like a good idea to him. And they still haven't fixed the borders around the existing trees. Will said he would not entertain any requests for new trees until the borders are fixed, and he is opposed to ornamental apples.

12. Appoint Ashley Isabell as Village Treasurer and Tax Collector

Will moved to appoint Ashley Isabell as village treasurer and tax collector effective May 28, 2026, Ellis seconded and the motion was passed.

BJ asked if we figured out what we are doing with the village clerk position. Is Ashley going to take it on? Are we going to see if we can pay Susan Tinker a stipend to do it? Erik said he hasn't talked to Ashley about it yet. Ken said he had talked to Rosemary about doing it next year and she didn't say no. Rosemary said she would be fine with doing that.

13. Discuss If/When/Who Invited for Possible Ribbon Cutting at the New W&L Garage

The board agreed Erik should represent the board and arrange a time for a ribbon cutting with appropriate people invited. Any board members who wish to attend may do so.

14. Discuss and Act On Adjusted Electric Department Budget and Loan

Will asked if Laurel Persico, the only member of the public present, had any questions. Laurel asked if the audit has been completed. Rosemary said no; the auditors are still working on it.

Laurel asked, when the bond comes to a vote, will there be a detailed description of what it is for? Erik said it is for operational funding and capital items. Laurel said she thinks the description should be detailed. Erik said he will be able to explain at the meeting how it will be used. The informational meeting will be the second Monday in June at 5:30.

Will moved to rescind the already approved electric department budget and approve the electric department budget as presented at the last meeting, Darrell seconded and the motion was passed.

15. Other Business

Will said the banner proofs look good to him. Erik said we have received 11 applications for banners so far. Tomorrow he will tell the vendor to go ahead with them. BJ said they will send a blank test piece to make sure it fits our hardware and if it does then they will print all the banners.

Laurel asked where the village garage is. Erik and Will described the location. Laurel asked what the building built into the bank in that area is. Erik and Will said it is for cold storage.

Laurel asked if there are hazardous materials in the soils around our buildings. Erik said it is a brownfield site, but in order to be able to do the construction project they tested around the building envelope and the soil passed the tests. Will said the ball fields are where the talc mill settling ponds used to be, so the site must be considered safe.

Laurel asked, when any old transformers come off the power lines, is the oil tested for PCBs? Erik and Rosemary said testing is done. It is required.

Laurel said something was mentioned at a selectboard meeting about taking waste from other towns. The village has nothing to do with that? Darrell said that is going to their gravel pit. Erik and board members said that is probably clean fill. It has nothing to do with the village.

16. Adjourn

Will moved to adjourn at 6:36, Darrell seconded and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths