

**Village of Manchester, Vermont**  
**Minutes of Annual Meeting**  
**July 8, 2019**

Trustees, Chairs, Officials and Staff Present: President Brian Knight; Trustees Jim Lewis, Bill Mariano and Nina Mooney; Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector Julia Arvin; Legal Counsel Rob Woolmington, Accountant Ron Smith; Auditor Charles Pufahl; Development Review Board Chair Craig Powers; Planning Commission Chair Donald Brodie; Design Advisory Committee Chair Richard Moore; Bennington County Regional Commission Representative Anthony MacLauren; Assistant Clerk/Treasurer and Secretary Missy Bell-Johnson; Zoning Administrative Officer Eric Scott

Absent: Trustee Tom Deck

President Knight opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and welcomed all in attendance. He mentioned that the meeting was being recorded, asked everyone to turn off their cell phones and encouraged everyone who would be speaking to properly identify themselves for the record.

President Knight continued by saying that this was the annual meeting for the year 2019/2020 and talked about the Village Charter. He went on to make introductions and asked everyone to follow along with the Articles which are printed in the Annual Report. He mentioned that anyone voting must be a registered voter of the Village.

The meeting continued with the articles to be voted on.

**Article 1: To hear the reports of the Officers.**

President Knight mentioned that all reports were published in the Annual Report and asked for questions and/or comments.

Orland Campbell motioned to approve Article 1. Richard Moore seconded the motion and so voted.

**Article 2: To vote on authorization for total funding expenditures to be used for operating expenses of \$828,900, of which \$523,900 shall be raised by taxes.**

President Knight mentioned that the budget is lower than last year's budget. Craig Powers questioned the 15, 000.00 in lighting improvements listed. It was explained that there was an effort to have holiday lighting improved by the Village spear-headed by Marian Haines. The amount needed will allow the Village to the our lamp posts retrofitted in order that holiday lights can be displayed. Keld Alstrup commented that too much salt was being used. President Knight agreed with Mr. Alstrup and said the Village is known for keeping the roads clean and

the increase in the budget in this area was due to volume and not price. He commended Alan Mowrey for negotiating a good price on salt last year. Keld Alstrup mentioned that he was pleased to see that River Road would be paved and asked why there was no money allocated to fix the rock wall this year. President Knight commented on the cost of repair to the rock wall and mentioned that the budget did not include any funds to repair it this coming year. Tom Scarnecchia mentioned his concern regarding the slippery nature of the marble sidewalks. President Knight explained that the marble sidewalks were a characteristic of the Village and provided that it is known that marble can be slippery. Craig Powers asked if the Town of Manchester plowed the Village sidewalks. President Knight answered and said the Village had its own sidewalk plow. Orland Campbell questioned the Health Equity line item. Ms. Arvin explained it was a health plan option for employers to have an account available for workers to use funds to cover portions of their deductible. She mentioned that the Villages pays \$5,000 in each year and is refunded about half of the money the next year if it is not used by the workers. Keld Alstrup motioned to pass the budget as presented. Anthony MacLauren seconded the motion and so voted.

**Article 3: To set a date on which taxes shall be payable and to impose a penalty of 8% for delinquencies, and to charge the maximum statutory rate of interest of one percent per month on all delinquent taxes for the first three months and one and one-half percent per month thereafter.**

Ms. Arvin asked that the due date for taxes be September 13, 2018. President Knight commended Ms. Arvin for her efforts in collecting overdue taxes in the past year.

Orland Campbell motioned to pass Article 3 as proposed. Craig Powers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**Article 4: To vote to authorize payment of real property taxes by physical delivery to the Village Office before 5:00 pm on the due date. Payments postmarked on due date, but not physically delivered to the Village Office will not be considered timely.**

Orland Campbell questioned the legality of this Article and stated that the Town of Manchester does not have a similar rule. Ms. Arvin listed a number of problems she has encountered accepting payments with a post mark. She explained that she talked to the town about using the same procedure. Craig Powers asked if this process worked last year and Ms. Arvin answered in the affirmative.

Charlie Pufahl motioned to approve Article 4. Richard Moore seconded the motion and so voted.

**Article 5: To elect/re-elect Officers for the ensuing year:**

President Knight explained that Trustee, Tom Deck is not looking to be re-elected this year. He continued by commending Mr. Deck for his service saying he was a “very valuable trustee.” President Knight then mentioned that Bill Mariano was seeking re-election. He also spoke of two other candidates that were known to him: Richard Moore was introduced and President Knight talked about his background. Lu French was also mentioned and her accomplishments were reviewed.

President Knight asked for motions to elect the President. Donald Brodie motioned to elect President Knight for a one year term. Anthony MacLauren second the motion. There were no other nominations for President. Donald Brodie motioned to close nominations and all voted in favor.

Craig Powers spoke about Richard Moore and reviewed his accomplishments then motioned to have Mr. Moore elected as a trustee. Donald Brodie seconded the motion. Nina Mooney then recommended Lu French and outlined her background. She then nominated Lu French for election as a trustee. There was no second to the motion. President Knight then asked for a vote for Richard Moore for trustee and so voted.

President Knight introduced Jack Lawreson who’s family recently moved to the Village and spoke of his interest to serve. Bill Mariano highly recommended Mr. Lawreson.

Craig Powers nominated Julia Arvin for re-election as the Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector. Tom Scarnecchia seconded the motion and so voted.

Richard Moore motioned to re-elect Charles Pufahl, Ariel Rudiakov and Amy Swinarton as Village Auditors. Craig Powers seconded the motion and so voted.

**Article 6: To hear and discuss any other business that may properly come before the meeting, not to include any binding municipal action.**

Marian Haines acknowledge the loss of four people in the past year who served on various Village of Manchester boards and/or committees. Recognized were: Judy and Brian Lewis, Marge Wilbur and Diana Olcott.

Craig Powers provided a special thank you to Eric Scott, Zoning Administrative Officer for an incredible job in the past year.

Robert Cowles asked about a couple of large trees in the front of his house that are either dead or dying. President Knight explained that the trees were part of a growing list of trees that need to come down. He mentioned the new trees will be planted in the next year and he encouraged residents to plant trees outside of the right-of-way when trees are taken down. A

question was posed regarding the grinding of stumps and President Knight answered that the Village was planning on removing stumps as well.

Keld Alstrup asked why there was no interest listed in the cash assets of the budget. The Village Accountant, Ron Smith answered the questions directing Mr. Alstrup to page 15 (Receipts) and mentioned that other funds are in money market funds that provide relatively little return. Julia Arvin promised to look into the matter in more detail and said she would get back to everyone.

Orland Campbell brought up the subject of the rock walls on River Road and mentioned that the Village does not own the walls – the individual property owners own the walls. He continued by saying he would like to see the walls taken down in certain spots because they are unsafe. He also said he did not feel the Village should continue to maintain the walls because the Village does not own them. President Knight said this was a Planning Commission matter. Mr. Campbell disagreed and said it was a roads issue. President Knight mentioned that he thought Mr. Campbell was going to look into how the Village might deal with the walls going forward. Keld Alstrup believes the walls were deeded to the Village many years ago. Mr. Campbell said if the walls were deeded to the Village, they could be taken down. Bob Cowles asked if the future of the rock walls was an item for referendum and mentioned he would like to see the walls continue. Tom Scarnecchia asked about the difference in the walls and the sidewalks in level of obligation.

As there were no additional questions or comments the meeting ended at 7:43 pm.

All newly elected or re-elected officials present at the meeting were then sworn in by Village Counsel, Rob Woolmington.

Respectfully Submitted  
Missy Bell-Johnson, Assistant Clerk