



Village of Manchester, Vermont

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MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Village of Manchester Board of Trustees

Monday, February 4, 2019

4:30 p.m., at the Village of Manchester Office, 45 Union Street

In Attendance: President Knight; Trustees: Jim Lewis, Bill Mariano, Nina Mooney; Clerk/Treasurer/Tax Collector, Julia Arvin; Assistant Clerk/Treasurer and Secretary, Missy Bell Johnson; Road Crew Foreman, Alan Mowrey

Absent: Tom Deck (available by phone)

Public: Richard Moore, Anthony MacLaurin, Donald Brodie, Keld Alstrup, Marian Haines

President Knight opened the meeting at 4:30 pm. A quorum was present.

Trustee Mooney motioned to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2019 Regular Meeting, Trustee Mariano seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Updates on Outstanding Issues: President Knight then directed the focus to pending updates on outstanding issues and spoke about the goal to come to conclusion on as many of these items as possible in a timely manner.

Replacement of Truck #2: Trustee Mooney questioned why there could not be a special meeting to obtain approval prior to the Annual Meeting. President Knight answered by saying that using a special meeting was contrary to the legal opinion he received. President Knight clarified that the content expressed his opinion on the purchase of the truck.

Trustee Lewis then asked the trustees if they would like to look at the bids. President Knight questioned the receipt of bids when the item was not budgeted for. Alan Mowrey answered the question saying that quotes are received periodically to assure enough money is being budgeted and allocated to the Heavy Equipment Fund so that replacement of equipment is not delayed. Mr. Mowrey urged the trustees to look at the bids recently received. He continued by saying that the replacement of Truck #2 had been an issue for two years but there was never enough money to purchase a replacement until this fiscal year. He warned that waiting to order the truck would cost the Village money as the trade-in value of the current Truck #2 would go down, there may be an increase to the cost of the new truck, increases to the equipment needed for customization, and likely further repair expenses to the current Truck #2. He went on to explain that when the

truck and equipment is approved that it would take up to 6 months to receive the truck. He then summarized the bids received.

Trustee Lewis asked the trustees and the public if anyone wanted to view the bids. Anthony MacLaurin asked if purchasing the truck sooner would defer additional repair expenses. Questions were posed regarding the warning of this meeting and the Annual Meeting. Trustee Mooney asked about the process of purchasing equipment in the past. Julia Arvin answered Trustee Mooney's question and re-capped her discussion with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns on the use of reserve funds; stating that their opinion was not to be considered a legal opinion, but that their recommendation was to go back to see how the Heavy Equipment Fund was formed and that the wording used could provide the authority to purchase the equipment. She also said that calling the Fund a Heavy Equipment Fund does not create an account that can be used as needed.

Trustee Mooney expressed the opinion that if the motion to purchase the truck is not passed, the Village is going to lose more money. She then motioned that the matter be tabled for the next Regular Meeting to assure that the issue is properly warned. Trustee Lewis spoke about the trustees rights under the Village Charter and continued by saying the legislative body has the right to purchase the truck under 24 V.S.A. § 2804. He continued by saying that the delay in receiving the truck could go beyond 6 months as it recently took the Town of Dorset one year to obtain their new truck and this would be unacceptable. He continued by saying that it would be a disservice to the residents of the Village not to purchase the truck as this point. Donald Brodie stated that he felt he could speak for the residents of the Village by supporting the purchase of the truck at this time. Several members of the public in attendance voiced approval as well.

Trustee Lewis motioned to purchase the truck and equipment using the funds available in the Heavy Equipment Fund. Trustee Mariano seconded the motion and a majority of the trustees voted in favor.

President Knight voiced concern that several of the trustees had expressed reservations about purchasing the truck. Trustee Mooney said the concerns were addressed at the last BOT meeting and President Knight withdrew his concern.

Trustee Mariano motioned to accept the bids recommended by the Road Foreman for a truck and chassis with net trading price of \$57,788.00 and Quote ID 90010 from Viking-Cives for customized equipment quoted at \$60,000.00. Trustee Mooney seconded the motion and a majority of the trustees voted in favor.

Trustee Lewis stated that the price of the truck and equipment is under what is currently available in the Heavy Equipment Fund for that piece of equipment.

Village Glen Road: Trustee Lewis discussed updates on the possible adoption of the Village Glen Road stating that the dimensions of the road are in compliance with state standards and Village standards except for an area south of the cul-de-sac. There are issues over who owns the road. Trustee Mariano said the deeds state that the road belongs to the HOA. Julia Arvin stated she is currently investigating, but it appears no one is currently being taxed for the road. Trustee Lewis mentioned that other matters still need to be reviewed before this matter can be brought for a vote.

Donald Brodie asked Trustee Mariano if he would explain the benefit to the taxpayers and residents of the Village if Village Glen Road would be taken over. Trustee Mariano stated that he had recused himself from this matter as a trustee but would answer as a Village Glen homeowner. He went on to say that the Village Glen residents would appreciate the road being plowed by the Village and he felt the benefit to the Village would be the same as any other road.

Keld Alstrup asked for clarification as to whether the road was just going to be plowed or would it be taken over. President Knight answered by saying that the road would be taken over. Mr. Alstrup then asked what would stop other private roads from asking for the same consideration. He then extended a request on behalf of the homeowners of Riverbend Drive to have the Village take over that road. Questions were posed and answered. There was discussion on the reasoning behind having Village Glen Road designated private in the first place.

Traffic at Route 7A/West Road/Seminary Avenue: President Knight briefly discussed the traffic issue at Route 7A/ West Road/Seminary Avenue in Trustee Deck's absence. Keld Alstrup asked about federal funding for a potential round-about in this area. Questions were posed. The state has been contacted. Donald Brodie asked about the status of asking the Manchester Police Department to become involved. Keld Alstrup expressed concern about the safety of this area. Trustee Mooney asked about the possibility of crossing guards. Trustee Mariano said that BBA could arrange crossing guards if necessary. There was discussion about the use of legal means in order to obtain land necessary for a round-about. Trustee Lewis indicated that the state legislature recently approved a lowering of the speed limit which may be used in this area. The outstanding issue is to confirm that BBA is willing to staff a crossing guard at this intersection.

Change in the Fiscal Year: This matter has been resolved and is no longer outstanding.

Holiday Lighting: This matter is being referred to budget discussion.

Equinox Parking Area: a meeting with the owners of the Hotel during a scheduled visit has been scheduled.

Noise Ordinance: Deferred to the next BOT Meeting

Tree Stump Removal: Deferred to budget meetings.

Bennington County Courthouse: situation with the Village Office lease is not ripe as of this date but that the BOT was proactively prepared to act should the lease be terminated by a future owner of the Courthouse.

Ways Lane Intersection: Trustee Lewis then updated the group by saying the Ways Lane, Route 7A intersection project proposed by the Town of Manchester has been withdrawn.

President Knight recommend that a letter of thanks be written by the trustees to Bob Johnston for his commendable work with the Design Advisory Committee. All were in favor.

The following State of Vermont Liquor Licenses were approved by the trustees and will be sent to the Vermont Department of Liquor Control for consideration:

The Silver Fork
Inn at Manchester
The Crooked Ram

The Taconic Hotel
Wilburton Inn
The Equinox Resort

Ekwanok Country Club
The Crooked Ram

Trustee Lewis then provided a brief Road and Trees Report. There have been multiple problems with Truck #2 and it broke down again today. He is thankful that the budget provided for the repairs. He is working on the Tree Inventory for the 2019/20 budget. A discussion on removing stumps and the cost ensued and was continued for budget discussions. It was mentioned that it would be ideal to combine removal of the stumps with the removal of the trees.

Julia Arvin, in the Treasurer/Tax Collector Report, mentioned that there were no new taxes collected in the past month, but some outstanding fees were collected. The updated Heavy Equipment Fund Report was distributed. Budget meetings will be calendars at next month's BOT meeting.

The Administrative Officer's Report is on file.

There was no new business.

At 5:37 pm Trustee Lewis motioned to go into executive session to discuss appointment to committees. Trustee Mariano seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

At 5:39 pm the trustees came out of executive session and voted to accept the proposed nominations as indicated in a letter from the chairs of the Development Review Board, Planning Commission and the Design Advisory Committee received on February 4, 2019. Mr. Richard Moore was appointed to complete Bob Johnson's appointment with the Development Review Board. Mr. Larry Kollof was appointed to the Design Advisory Committee and Ms. Audry Kolloff was appointed to the Planning Commission for a term ending in 2020.

The meeting ended at 5:41 pm.