



Village of Manchester, Vermont

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Regular Meeting

Village of Manchester Board of Trustees

Monday, May 15, 2017

4:30 p.m., at the Village Offices, 45 Union Street

In Attendance: President, Brian Knight; Trustees: Jim Lewis, Tom Deck and Bill Mariano; Asst. Clerk/Treasurer and Secretary, Missy Bell-Johnson

Absent: Trustee, Andrea Ross; Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector, Julia Arvin

Public: Richard Moore, Anthony MacLauren, Donald Brodie

President Knight called the meeting to order at 4:24 pm as all expected to attend were present.

- **Trustee Lewis motioned to approve the minutes for the last Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 6, 2017. Trustee Mariano seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
- **Prior to the start of the agenda Donald Brodie raised the question as to what the Trustees were planning to do about the guardrail on Ways Lane that was damaged several months ago during a traffic accident. The Trustees were not aware of the accident or damage. Missy Bell-Johnson and Alan Mowrey are working with the Manchester Police Department on a solution to the matter. The driver of the vehicle involved in the accident was ticketed but did not have valid insurance.**
- **There was discussion of possible purchase of a replacement Highway Department chassis. Three bids were opened and read as follows:**
 - i. John C. Stewart \$17,750**
 - ii. G. Stone 15,238**
 - iii. Carbone 17,239**

A motion was made by Tom Deck to purchase the chassis from G. Stone who provided the lowest bid. Bill Mariano seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Anthony MacLauren questioned the reasoning behind purchasing the truck versus leasing and Alan Mowrey answered Anthony's question to his satisfaction.

- Tom Deck motioned for the BOT to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan and provide authorization for the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) to transmit the plan to FEMA. Trustee Mariano seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Tom Deck expressed the BOT's thanks to Eric Scott who did a great job on pulling the document together.
- **President's Update;**
 - a. President Knight announced an invitation to the public for an information public session to hear concerns and possible solutions to the renting of homes in the Village. The session will be held on June 26, 2017 at 5:30 in the Bennington County Courthouse. Notices will be posted and a letter sent to the Planning Commission and Development Review Board members.

Donald Brodie spoke about the growth of rentals in the area and recommended we find out what is actually being rented. The question then arose – does the Village have the right to ask that question? President Knight asked the group to think about the issue between now and the June 26th meeting.

- b. Donald Brodie questioned Andrea Ross' status with the BOT President Knight mentioned that Andrea has been out of state but has kept in touch and has offered to attend the meetings by phone.
- **Reports:**
 - a. Roads and Trees (J. Lewis): There are no tree issues at this time. The Village was not chosen to receive a State grant for Union Street this year.

President Knight discussed the current state of the historical fire truck garage located next to the Congregational Church.

- b. Treasurer/Tax Collector (J. Arvin): Not present but asked President Knight to schedule budget meetings which was accomplished.
 - c. Administrative Officer (E. Scott) – Written Zoning Report (submitted and on file)
- **Other business;**
 - a. Jim Lewis asked Alan Mowrey to comment on his idea to replace a section of the River Road rock wall. President Knight suggested that this discussion be tabled until further details were available and discussed.
 - b. A short discussion took place on the proposed curbing project. As the State is going to delay the Route 7 paving project until spring 2019 and the curbing was to coincide with the paving project, it will be taken from this year's proposed budget and added into the 2019-19 budget.

- c. **Anthony MacLauren discussed the upcoming Amtrak bus service and the opening of the new Manchester Visitor Center. Mr. MacLauren also inquired about applying for a grant for the proposed traffic island relocation in front of the Equinox. The draft budget did have a provision for the relocation/ modification of the island but now that the paving project has been delayed this project will likely also be moved to the 2018-19 budget.**

There being no further business Tom Deck motioned to end the meeting at 5:34 pm. Bill Mariano seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Missy Bell-Johnson, Secretary**