

Village of Manchester
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting, July 6, 2020, 4:30 pm
Meeting Held Via Zoom

In Attendance: President, Brian Knight; Trustees: Nina Mooney, Jim Lewis, Bill Mariano; Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector, Julia Arvin; Assistant Clerk & Secretary, Missy Johnson

President Knight opened the meeting at 4:34 pm. Trustee Mooney motioned to approve the minutes from the last Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Details of the Annual Meeting were briefly discussed. The Annual Meeting will be held at 7:00 pm at the Bennington County Courthouse. Discussion on the possible tax rate followed.

Trustee Moore's resignation was brought up and the question on how best to replace him was considered. It was confirmed that two trustees are up for re-election this year and there will be another opening to fill along with the election of the president. It was also confirmed that all openings are subject to a motion and second and a vote by the Village residents who have registered to vote and are present at the meeting. Known candidates for these positions and other open offices were discussed.

Trustee Lewis provided his Road and Tree Report. Bids on paving of Union Street were opened. It was confirmed that completing this project before grants are awarded would not jeopardize the Village from being reimbursed by the state should the Village be awarded a grant. Trustee Lewis mentioned that the work needed on Union Street was subject to a very tight window give the date and that the work would be completed in two phases. It was generally decided that the lower bid would be awarded the project but that the award was conditional on approval of the budget at the Annual Meeting.

Trustee Lewis continued his report by providing information about a Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) opportunity. BCRC is in the process of applying for a Downtown Revitalization Grant for a study on a potential roundabout at the Route 7A, Seminary and West Road intersection. The grant is expected to be around \$22,500.00 with cost to the Village of 10%. The BOT unanimously approved the Village's commitment to this proposal. The grant will be submitted by BCRC before October 1, 2020.

The sidewalk project on Union Street has started and what has been finished looks great. Completing the south side of the Union Street may be problematic due to concerns voiced by the Equinox.

The Village Highway Garage doors are in need of repair. The cost is expected to be around \$2,000.00.

It was mentioned that both positive and negative comments (mainly positive) have been received about the new stop signs and traffic signs that were recently erected in the Village.

Trustee Mooney asked about the status of the flashing sign on Dillingham. It was mentioned that this idea of placing a sign was not popular with some of the residents in this area and the question of the legality of the sign was brought up. President Knight asked Ms. Johnson to contract Village counsel regarding the possibility of the need for an ordinance. Trustee Mooney expressed concern that the project be completed soon as school will be back in session soon.

Traffic control and the BBA projects was briefly discussed.

Ms. Arvin provided the Treasurer and Tax Collector Report. She mentioned the possibility of taking a loan from the Heavy Equipment Account as a possibility in the event funds become low due to the postponement of the Annual Meeting and tax bills. She also mentioned that she is working with Schwab regarding the Employee Benefit Fund and that she needed approval from the BOT, on the record, to have authority over the account. Trustee Lewis asked if Ms. Johnson should also have authority over the account. Trustee Mariano motioned to authorize Ms. Arvin and Ms. Johnson authority over the Schwab Employee Benefit Fund Account. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

As there was no further business before the Board, President Knight adjourned the meeting at 5:38 pm.

The next meeting the Board of the Trustees will be a Special Meeting held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting at the Village of Manchester Offices on August 10, 2020.