



Village of Manchester, Vermont

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Village of Manchester, Vermont August 10, 2020

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, Secretary/Assistant Clerk & Treasurer Missy Johnson; Zoning Administrative Officer Eric Scott; Development Review Board Chair Craig Powers; Development Review Board Vice Chair Orland Campbell; Planning Commission Chair Donald Brodie; Design Advisory Committee Member Hong Campbell

Public Present: Russell Mills, Hoa Campbell, Nancy Lewis, Katie Pinkus, Keld Alstrup, Brian Maggiotto, Tom Deck, Auharad Llewelyn, Martha Heilemann, Richard Heilemann,

President Knight brought the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and reminded the attendees that they were being recorded and asked everyone to make sure their cell phones were turned off. He then began the process of reviewing each of the Articles warned for the meeting.

ARTICLE 1: To hear the reports of the Officers.

President Knight mentioned that the reports were published in the Annual Report and asked if anyone had questions, concerns or comments. Hearing none, Orland Campbell moved to approve the reports as written. Craig Powers seconded the motion and it was so voted.

ARTICLE 2: To vote on authorization for total funding expenditures to be used for operating expenses of \$733,060.00, of which \$ 487,560.00 shall be raised by taxes.

President Knight provided a brief description of the main projects the Village will undertake this year. Keld Alstrup commented on the disrepair of the rock walls on River Road and mentioned that he had brought this subject up at two previous Annual Meetings. President Knight provided that there were questions regarding the ownership of the walls and mentioned that there are residents of the Village who do not wish to continue funding the repairs to the rock wall. He assured Mr. Alstrup that the matter would be taken up with the Board of Trustees in the coming year.

Craig Powers questioned why the budget was higher last year. President Knight mentioned that there were more costly projects approved for last year. Eric Scott mentioned the purchase of a new Village truck last year as a reason why the taxes were higher. President Knight mentioned that that new truck was purchased from the Heavy Equipment Fund so the purchase of the truck did not affect taxes.

Tom Deck requested an update on the status of the demolition of the Equinox Hotel's Opera House. President Knight answered by saying that a letter was being prepared to the owners of the hotel. It was mentioned that a new permit or an extension of the current demolition permit may be necessary.

Russell Mills commented that the marble sidewalks leading to Burr and Burton Academy needed to be inspected for future repair.

Orland Campbell moved to pass Article 2 as written and Brian Maggiotto seconded the motion and it was 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 (1%) per month on all delinquent taxes for the first three months and one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month thereafter.

Julia Arvin moved to approve Article 3 as written and to make October 2, 2020 the date taxes are due. Brian Maggiotto asked Ms. Arvin what would be done in the event the State of Vermont approved an extension on the amount of time provided to pay municipal taxes. Ms. Arvin answered by saying the Village would review any law passed and seek legal counsel, if needed, in order to determine the correct approach. Donald Brodie then seconded Ms. Arvin's motion and it was so voted.

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

Julia Arvin moved to approve Article 4 as written. Donald Brodie seconded the motion. Eric Scott voiced concern that this Article does not encourage mailing payments to the Village and he stated residents should be encouraged not to bring payments to the Village Office. Ms. Arvin provided background regarding postmarks on tax payments and the difficulty in determining when the bills were actually mailed. She continued by saying that the Village was providing the tax payers additional time this year to make payments. Eric Scott noted that it is not unusual to have five or more people in the office at a given time during the

week taxes are due and this was concerning given the current pandemic. General discussion followed and it was determined that payments would be dropped through the mail slot on the main door to the office. Orland Campbell moved to amend the wording of the first sentence of Article 4 to: "Payment of real property taxes *must be received* by the Village Office before 5:00 p.m. on the due date. Payments postmarked on the due date, *but not in receipt by the Village of Manchester* will not be considered timely. Craig Powers seconded the motion to amend and so it was so voted.

President Knight took a moment to thank Julia Arvin for the 10 years she has dedicated to the Village of Manchester and for all of her hard work. He continued by stating that her decision to not seek re-election this year was a deep loss for the Village.

It was then pointed out that only the amendment to Article 4 had been approved and that the Article as amended needed to be voted on. Article 4 as amended was then moved by Orland Campbell, seconded by Jim Lewis and the Amended Article 4 was approved.

- ARTICLE 5:** **To elect all Officers required by law:**
- **President of the Board of Trustees for a one-year term.**
 - **One Trustee for a one-year term.**
 - **Two Trustees for two-year terms.**
 - **Clerk, Treasurer & Tax Collector for a one-year term.***
 - **Three Auditors for one-year terms.**

President Knight started by asking for nominations for the open positions on the Board of Trustees. He began with the two, two-year term positions on the Board and mentioned that both Jim Lewis and Nina Mooney wished to continue to serve in their respective positions. Tom Deck nominated Brian Maggiotto for a two-year position. Craig Powers seconded the motion and it was so voted. Craig Powers nominated Orland Campbell for a two-year position on the Board. Tom Deck seconded the motion. Mr. Campbell refused the nomination.

The nominations for the Board of Trustees continued with Orland Campbell nominating Jim Lewis to a two-year term. Julia Arvin seconded the motion and so voted. Craig Powers then nominated Nina Mooney to a one-year position. Nancy Lewis seconded the motion and it was so voted.

The nominations continued for the President of the Board. Craig Powers nominated Orland Campbell as President of the Board of Trustees for a one-year term. Donald Brodie seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Note: There was discussion throughout the nominating process for the board of trustees regarding the legal procedure for nominations and voting. Legal counsel provided guidance regarding the process and several people spoke regarding their personal beliefs on how the voting should be handled.

The nominations continued for the Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector. Julia Arvin nominated Donald Brodie to this position. Craig Powers seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Donald Brodie then nominated to re-elect Amy Swinarton and Ariel Rudiakov as Village Auditors. He added the nomination of Keld Alstrup as a third auditor. Julia Arvin seconded the motion and it was 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.

Russell Mills mentioned the radar sign on Seminary Avenue and asked whether it was rented or owned. Jim Lewis stated it was owned and discussed the need to monitor the number of cars on this road in conjunction with Act 250 matters at Burr and Burton Academy. He indicated that car counts were an added feature of the radar sign. Mr. Mills said the sign did not encourage drivers to comply with the speed limit. It was mentioned that the police should have a greater presence in this area.

Craig Powers then thanked Brian Knight for his 30 years of service to the Village of Manchester as a Trustee and as President. A standing ovation for Mr. Knight followed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted.

Missy Johnson, Assistant Clerk