



Village of Manchester, Vermont

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MINUTES

Regular Meeting

**Village of Manchester Board of Trustees
Monday, November 2, 2020 at 4:30 pm
Bennington County Courthouse
45 Union Street, Manchester**

In Attendance: President, Orland Campbell; Trustees: Jim Lewis, Bill Mariano, Nina Mooney and Brian Maggiotto, Clerk/Treasurer & Tax Collector, Donald Brody; Assistant to the BOT/Assistant Clerk & Treasurer, Missy Johnson; Village of Manchester BCRC Representative, Anthony MacLauren

President Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Trustee Mooney moved to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Mariano seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Ms. Johnson provided an administrative update.

President Campbell inquired about the status of the budgeted sidewalk project and Trustee/Road Commissioner Lewis informed the board that the project had been put on hold until spring.

President Campbell gave a brief update on the status of the Village holiday decorations. He asked the trustees for thoughts on decorating the lamp posts on Union Street. There were comments made about the different style of these lamps posts and how the road crew had decorated them last year. There was consensus that wreaths would be difficult to attach to these posts and therefore no additional wreaths would be purchased for this area. It was also mentioned that the vault, that was inadvertently closed and locked, will be opened by a locksmith, hired by the Town of Manchester, prior to November 16th.

There was general discussion on the Seminary, Franklin and Dillingham traffic issues. It was previously thought that when Prospect Street reopened, the traffic issues in this area would not be as severe. That does not appear to be the case. It was also noted that traffic lines in this area had been paved over. A parking issue at the end of Franklin was addressed by the BBA Headmaster in the past month. President Campbell indicated that he will discuss the traffic study with BCRC. It was mentioned that it would not work to conduct the study when school is not in session. General comments were made about the safety of walking in this area.

Discussion continued regarding a Village Credit Card. Mr. Brody noted that there are limited situations where a credit card would be helpful. Thoughts on security and a limit on the card are

needed. The Bank of Bennington can issue a debit card. Mr. Brody was asked to look into a credit card instead of a debit card.

President Campbell provided a history of the Village holiday benefit to the staff. After a brief discussion, Trustee Lewis moved to give the four paid staff members a \$100 gift prior to Thanksgiving. Trustee Mariano seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Trustee Maggiotto provided an update on the computers and software project.

President Campbell noted that there were letters of recommendation to appoint Jack Morris to the Development Review Board and for Katie Pinkus, Larry Kolloff, Hong Campbell and Terry Findeisen be appointed to serve as alternates to the Development Review Board. Trustee Mariano moved to approve the appointments as recommended. Trustee Maggiotto seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

President Campbell discussed the re-appointment of Eric Scott as the Zoning Administrative Officer. It was confirmed that the chair of the Development Review Board had indicated approval of the re-appointment. Trustee Maggiotto moved to re-appoint Mr. Scott for a 3-year term. Trustee Mariano seconded the motion. A majority of the trustees voted in favor with one abstention.

President Campbell provided information on the Town of Manchester's water project on Prospect Street. The road will be paved by the Water Department in the spring.

Anthony MacLauren provided that the parking signs were back up on West Union Street for Equinox Pond. He also mentioned that there is a trash issue in this area when BBA hosts some events.

Trustee/Road Commissioner and Tree Warden, Jim Lewis initiated conversation about budgeting for and planting trees in the coming year. The idea was well received and Trustee Mooney suggested a wholesale tree nursery as a possible source. It was requested that the Manchester Garden Club be consulted. Trustee Maggiotto suggested consulting an arborist regarding the health of the existing trees and for guidance in the placement of new trees. President Campbell mentioned that the focus should be on Route 7A.

Trustee Mooney asked for the trustees for support in asking BBA to revisit the screening of the new parking lot. The Board asked Trustee Mooney to develop a plan for review and potential approval by the Board.

Mr. Brody provided his Clerk/Treasurer & Tax Collector report. There are currently about 25 properties delinquent on taxes and he is in the process of contacting the owners. He reiterated that there will be no fee, penalties or interest charged on delinquencies on 2020/21 taxes until the end of November, 2020. He mentioned that some delinquencies go back many years and he would like to start discussing options with the BOT on how to manage those properties. A brief overview of the tax lien procedure was provided.

President Campbell then discussed the possible appointment of Jock Lawrason to the Planning Commission. The chair of the commission had sent a recommendation for his appointment but the discussion was not warned as part of the agenda. After a brief discussion, Trustee Mariano

moved to appoint Mr. Lawrason as recommended. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Trustee Maggiotto asked if the Village Office had received any information on a possible second stimulus for the municipality. It was mentioned that the financial health of the Village had not been negatively affected, as yet. It was agreed that the Village would join in with the Town of Manchester to assure that the State of Vermont is aware that Village businesses are suffering because of the pandemic.

As there was no further business before the board and no further public comments or questions, President Campbell ended the meeting at 5:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Missy Johnson, Assistant to the BOT