

Village of Manchester
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting: April 5, 2021 at 4:30 pm
Meeting held via Zoom

In Attendance: President Orland Campbell, Trustees: Jim Lewis, Bill Mariano, Brian Maggiotto, Nina Mooney; Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector Donald Brodie; Assistant to the BOT/Assistant Clerk & Treasurer Missy Johnson

Committee Members/Village Representatives: Audrey Kolloff, Anthony MacLaurin, Richard Heilemann, Renee Walker and Lu French

President Campbell brought the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

Trustee Maggiotto moved to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Ms. Johnson provided a brief staff update.

Ms. Kolloff, representing the Planning Commission, gave a presentation on the Draft Village of Manchester Energy Plan. She started by providing a background and discussed Act 174. She continued by outlining the goals of the plan and touched on the need for a new ordinance that would require screening of alternative energy equipment. The timeline for the approval and the possibility of the formation of a committee to facilitate the goals provided for in the plan were mentioned. President Campbell expressed that there was an aspect of legality that would require coordination on the part of the trustees and outlined a timeline which includes the need for the BOT to thoroughly review the plan and discuss it. That discussion would be followed by a meeting with the PC to review any changes and to discuss the setting of a public hearing for final approval. Parties who could be available for guidance to the BOT were mentioned.

Trustee Maggiotto spoke about the current state of alternative energy efforts in Vermont and stated that quite a bit of what is happening currently is being paid for by the public. He would like to see more of an effort from the state in assisting private parties to pay for alternative energy options.

Catherine Bryars from the Bennington County Regional Commission spoke about the data included in the plan and stated that the proposal allows for more extensive alternative energy areas in residential neighborhoods so that businesses would not be overly burdened with expenses relating to the state energy mandate.

Trustee Maggiotto stated that a big part of reaching the state goals should be partnership with the state and not having the Village contribute disproportionately.

Ms. Bryars offered the BOT her services going forward through the review process. President Campbell mentioned the possibility of calling a special meeting.

Ms. Johnson presented the tree bid from Trees, Inc. (\$5,075.00.) Trustee Lewis stated that three bids were requested according to Village policy. Ms. Johnson mentioned that two of the tree companies could not bid due to lack of employees and a busy summer schedule. Trustee Mariano moved to accept the bid with the Road Forman's approval. Trustee Maggiotto seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Ms. Johnson presented the new Village logo and provided her thoughts. Trustee Mooney moved to accept the logo as presented. Trustee Maggiotto seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Trustee Lewis then discussed the prospective purchase of a new backhoe. He explained the current market for used backhoes and the lower price of new backhoes that have been quoted. While the backhoe was not scheduled to be replaced until next year, doing so that this time would save the Village approximately \$45,000.00. The bids were reviewed from Milton/Cat and John Deere. Trustee Mariano moved to purchase the 420 XE Caterpillar model and

provide the currently owned backhoe as a trade-in. Discussion with the treasurer ensued regarding the funding of the purchase and whether the HE Account needed to be funded for the backhoe in 2021/22. Trustee Maggiotto seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

President Campbell provided an update on the Opera House. The Zoning Officer was asked to prepare and send a Notice of Dangerous and Unsafe Conditions to the state. The document was necessary in order to get the building taken down as soon as possible.

President Campbell reminded all that the Village fiscal year is ending at the end of this month and requested some dates where budget discussions could be scheduled. Meetings were set for April 15, 20 and 23. The location/method of meeting was discussed and it was readily agreed that it would be preferred that the meetings take place in person. Different locations were discussed and it was finally decided that Ms. Johnson would reach out to the Town of Manchester to see if the Courtroom in the old County Courthouse would be available.

Trustee/Road Commissioner and Tree Warden, Jim Lewis provided his report. The final Salt Report for the year shows that the Village is \$20,000.00 under budget for salt. Which, it was agreed, was a surprise, due to the weather.

Trustee Lewis mentioned that Trustee Mooney had discussed potential Village plans to plant new trees in the coming year with the owner of a tree farm just over the state line. They expressed that they would like to see 3-5 Sugar Maples planted. Locations are pending.

Discussion was then opened to the public. Mr. MacLaurin mentioned that he would like to see a fund established where interested persons could fund the planting of additional trees. It was generally agreed that this was a wonderful idea. Ms. Johnson mentioned that the annual report could be dedicated to the plan to fund and plant trees this year.

There being no further business before the board, Trustee Mariano moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

The meeting ended at 5:48 pm. The next Regular Meeting of the Village of Manchester Board of Trustees is scheduled for May 3, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted.

Missy Johnson, Assistant to the BOT