



Village of Manchester, Vermont

PO Box 482
Manchester, Vermont 05254-0482
(802) 362-1515
villageofmanchester.com

Regular Meeting

Village of Manchester Board of Trustees

Monday, May 3, 2021 at 4:30 pm

Bennington County Courthouse

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

At 4:32 President Campbell noted that a quorum was present, and he opened the meeting.

Trustee Lewis moved to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Mariano seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. President Campbell mentioned that the minutes taken at the recent budget meetings would not be eligible for approval as a quorum was not present. The name of these minutes from the budget meeting has been changed to "Special Reports" and they are available on the Village website.

General discussion regarding the budget ensued. Trustee Lewis discussed the possibility of asking businesses to donate toward the sidewalks being repaired in front of their businesses.

The hiring of a new road crew worker was discussed and the possibility of offering the job to the appropriate candidate with the caveat of more pay in lieu of full medical coverage was mentioned.

Trustee Mooney questioned the sidewalk and the health insurance line items on the budget.

There was discussion on keeping with the Village Bid Policy when purchasing trees and it was generally thought that the trees would need to be planted in the fall.

Missy Johnson provided a staff update. The new computers are working well. A couple of minor adjustments still need to be made. She brought up the topic of the disposal of the old equipment. It was determined that additional equipment would be acquired for working at home and the old equipment would be recycled. She continued by providing an update on the roll-out for NEMRC. Bill-pay and payroll should be shifted over to the new software this week.

Discussion turned to the Energy Plan. There was generally consensus that the committee had worked very hard on this first draft. Generally, the first part of the plan looked acceptable to the trustees. A few trustees had comments about several topics addressed in Section 10.8. President Campbell stated that a "screening" bylaw was necessary to coincide with the plan. He also provided the trustees with some background into why this plan is necessary. The specific actions suggested in Section 10.8 need further

review and work, but generally, at this point, the trustees were not supportive of most of the current proposals.

It was reiterated that this plan is currently in draft form. President Campbell offered to meet with the planning committee to go over the topics in more detail. It was mentioned that the Energy Plan could be approved two ways: 1) the BOT can vote for its approval after hearing, or 2) It can be approved after hearing by public vote at a specifically warned Village Meeting.

Trustee Mariano moved to approve the Curate Café's State of Vermont Liquor Licenses. Trustee Mooney seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Reports:

President's Report: President Campbell asked the trustees if they felt it was necessary to move the annual meeting to BBA. The consensus was that it should be held at the Courthouse.

Road and Trees: There was additional discussion on the purchase of trees and Trustee Lewis was asked to contact 3 companies to obtain bids for the purchase and placement of the trees.

There was discussion regarding the paving of Shepard's Lane. The Village has an opportunity to have the road paved while Prospect Street is being paved. Having this job done this month (instead of later this summer or fall) while the paving company is in town, will save the Village approximately \$10,000. Trustee Lewis motioned to contract with Pike Industries to pave Shepard's Lane in the month of May 2021 for the estimated price of \$20,400.00. Trustee Mariano seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

There was discussion regarding PILOT payments and asking BBA to contribute given the school's use of the roads. Mr. Brodie mentioned that he reviewed some older minutes from the DRB, and both the Fly-Fishing Museum and the Maple Street School both agreed to PILOTs when their zoning permits were issued. There was also discussion about having major construction companies pay more in the permit process to cover wear and tear on the roads.

Clerk/Treasurer & Tax Collector: Mr. Brodie briefed the trustees on the new HE Account at Bank of Bennington and provided an update on all the accounts. He then asked the trustees to think about a tax due date in mid to late August or later in September so that the due date would not be so close to the Town of Manchester's due date. General comments reflected the thought that the due date could be moved up but should not be moved back.

There being no further business before the board and no public comment, President Campbell moved to go into executive session at 5:35 pm to discuss personnel issues. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

At 6:02 pm the trustee came out of executive session. There was no vote and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Missy Johnson, Assistant to the BOT