

VILLAGE OF MANCHESTER, VERMONT  
ANNUAL MEETING, JULY 11, 2022

President Campbell opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. He thanked everyone for attending and commented on the large turnout.

ARTICLE I: To hear the reports from the Officers:

President Campbell provided information on specific challenges the Village faced in the last year including: Covid; replacement of the zoning administrative officer – twice; change in accounting system with new software; mounting concerns in regard to noise and speeding; and keeping costs in check. He continued by reviewing the process in having a Village of Manchester Noise Ordinance approved.

President Campbell asked if the voters at this meeting wished to allow non-voters present to speak. Anthony MacLaurin moved to allow non-voters to be heard. Tajlei Levis seconded the motion and a majority voted in favor.

ARTICLE II: To vote on authorization for total funding expenditures to be used for operating expenses of \$1,037,371.00, of which \$540,053.00 shall be raised by taxes.

Trustee Maggiotto stated that now was a time to enjoy the benefits of federal funding the Village has received in the past year. He noted that the community will benefit incrementally and added that this funding will help as a stepping-stone to build a new foundation for the Village to utilize in years to come.

President Campbell then provided a partial list of projects that will benefit from this funding including digitization of zoning records; improvements to the Village website; improvements in communication and hiring a part-time office staff person. He continued by saying the Village was in very good financial condition.

Questions were asked about the duties and tenure of the proposed new employee. Mr. Campbell provided a partial list of duties and mentioned that a job description had not yet been created and it was not known if the employee would be working with the Village long term.

Dr. Heilemann mentioned that as a member of the Planning Commission, he sees the challenges the Village staff has had recently. He explained this was a time of transition and that neglected record keeping in the zoning office was in the process of being repaired which would put the Village in a better position to obtain grants in the future.

Trustee Maggiotto and President Campbell discussed the effect of increased reporting to, and statutory requirements from, state and federal agencies and the effect this has had on the Village staff. He continued by saying that the need to modernize Village responses is clear. He added that it will cost money to bring the Village into the current century. Other goals such as full transparency and improvements in communication with Village residents was also mentioned. President Campbell discussed the fact that the Village was created over 100 years ago and that updates were needed to have an effective government organization.

Mrs. Heilemann asked about the administration salary budget, and it was noted that the accompanying note to that budget entry was in error. Donald Brodie and President Campbell explained that the increase in the line item was due to the hiring of the part-time employee, an increase in approved working hours and a cost of living pay increase.

It was asked if a merger with the Town of Manchester was still being discussed. It was noted that no expenses relating to a potential merger appeared to be budgeted for. President Campbell explained the legal process of having services merged with the town and noted that the exploratory discussion on this subject did not indicate the Village voters would embrace such a plan.

Donald Brodie moved to approve Article II as written. Craig Powers seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

ARTICLE III: 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 (1.5%) per month thereafter.

Donald Brodie moved to set the date of September 23, 2022 as the date taxes would be payable. After learning the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September was a Friday, President Campbell asked if date could be moved to the 22<sup>nd</sup> as the Village Office is closed on Fridays. A question was taken regarding the cut-off time for payment and it was confirmed that payments would need to be in the Village Office by 5:00 pm on the due date in order to be considered timely. Donald Brodie amended his motion to reflect the date of September 22, 2022 and to have the remainder of Article III approved as written, as the date taxes would be payable. Anthony MacLaurin seconded the motion and there was unanimous approval.

ARTICLE IV: To vote to authorize payment of real property taxes by physical delivery to the Village office before 5:00 p.m. on September 22, 2022. Payments postmarked on the due date, but not physically delivered to the Village office will not be considered timely.

Donald Brodie moved to have Article IV approved as written After a brief review of this necessity of this procedure, and there being no questions or comments, President Campbell seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

ARTICLE V: To elect all Officers required by law:

- President of the Board of Trustees for a one-year term:

President Campbell noted that the president of the Board of Trustees provided that this office was not a prestigious position, that it was working position, and that the primary duty of the president was to facilitate/moderate meetings. Trustee Maggiotto moved to nominate Tom Deck. Mrs. Heilemann seconded the motion. Melissa Levis asked if it would be possible to ask Mr. Deck some questions before the vote. President Campbell said that questions could not be asked as the replies would be considered "campaigning" and that this was not allowed under Vermont state elections laws. Claudia Burns objected to President Campbell's answer and said that she had no idea who Tom Deck is and she would like to know more about a person who could be serving as president of the board. President Campbell reiterated that there would be no questions posed.

The ensuing vote for Mr. Deck as President of the Board of Trustees was unanimous with no voiced opposition.

- Vote for two trustees for a two-year term. The nominations went as follows:
  - Nina Mooney moved to nominate Jim Lewis as trustee. Craig Powers seconded the motion.

- Melissa Levis moved to nominate Anthony MacLaurin as trustee. Keld Alstrup seconded the motion.
- Anthony MacLaurin moved to nominate Melissa Levis as trustee. Ann Marie Malack seconded the motion.
- Bill Mariano moved to nominate Arthur Short as trustee. Nina Mooney seconded the motion.
- Orland Campbell moved to nominate Tom Scarnecchia as trustee. Nina Mooney seconded the motion.

The nominees names were written on a bulletin board and each candidate was asked to introduce themselves. Voters were directed to check-in to assure voting eligibility and to obtain a blank ballot which was used to write down up to two nominees names. The ballots were place by the individual voters in the ballot box. When the voting ceased, the clerk, assistant clerk and Brian Maggiotto (as witness), retired to an adjoining room and counted the ballots. They returned to the main room at 8:10 pm and the two candidates with the most votes were announced by the Village clerk. President Campbell asked for the count and the following was provided:

- Anthony MacLaurin      22 votes
- Tom Scarnecchia        4 votes
- Jim Lewis                14 votes
- Tajlei Levis             13 votes
- Arthur Short             9 votes

A question regarding the duties of the clerk was posed and answered by Donald Brodie. Jack Morris moved to nominate Donald Brodie as Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector. Craig Powers seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Donald Brodie then nominated Amy Swinarton, Ariel Rudiakov and Keld Alstrup to continue in their roles as Village Auditors. President Campbell seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

President Campbell expressed his pleasure in the great progress the Village residents have made in interest in Village matters from the last annual meeting to this meeting.

ARTICLE VI: To hear and discuss any other business that may property come before the meeting, not to include any binding municipal action not warned.

General displeasure with the frequency and severity of excessive vehicle speed in the Village was discussed and commented on by various residents who live in all areas of the Village. There was consensus that the Manchester Police Department is doing little to slow traffic down. Various other ways to deal with speeding traffic were discussed. The recent installation of speed dips on Franklin Avenue was mentioned. There have been discussions between trustees and officials at the Town of Manchester regarding this issue over the last several years. The trustees mentioned that Village residents are also considered residents of the Town of Manchester. As the Town of Manchester oversees the Manchester Police Department, it is acceptable, and recommended, to contact the Manchester Police Department and/or the Town of Manchester Select Board directly regarding issues with speeding traffic. The possibility of lowering the speed limit to 25 mph through the entire Village was raised. The possibility of photo enforcement was also raised.

A comment was taken regarding homes in disrepair in the Village and the potential effect on the value of nearby homes. President Campbell discussed his knowledge of these properties and mentioned that

these homeowners likely do not have the financial means to maintain the homes. He also mentioned that it was not against any Village ordinance or state law to have an unkept property.

The potential Village approval of the Noise Ordinance was discussed. President Campbell provided information on what those in opposition can do to end the adoption of the current version. Comments were taken including: potential difficulty in fulfilling existing contracts should this ordinance be passed and the affect the ordinance would have on the businesses and the community. Comments were also taken regarding the need to regulate noise in the Village because of the increase in public comments and concerns in this area.

President Campbell mentioned that the boards could look at the ordinance again and he recommended a hearing on the matter. The public was urged to bring concerns to the trustees. Ms. Johnson asked that all concerns be conveyed to the Village of Manchester office for proper distribution and record keeping.

The maintenance of the River Road Rock Walls was discussed including the plans to repair an important section of the wall this year. President Campbell mentioned that he had conducted a title search for the transfer of ownership from Wilbur to the Village of Manchester, but that he did not find such a transfer in the Manchester Land Records.

Keld Alstrup thanked President Campbell for his service to the Village of Manchester for the past two years. All applauded.

There being no further public comment or business, Trustee Mariano moved to adjourn the Annual Meeting. Trustee Mooney seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. The meeting ended at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Missy Johnson, Office Administrator/Asst. Clerk

Attested by:

(Signature on File)

7/14/2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Orland Campbell  
President of the BOT & Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(Signature of File)

7/14/2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Mariano  
Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

