



Village of Manchester, Vermont

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Village of Manchester Board of Trustees

Monday, March 2, 2020

4:30 p.m., at the Village of Manchester Office, 45 Union Street

In Attendance: President, Brian Knight; Trustees: Richard Moore, Jim Lewis, Nina Mooney and Bill Mariano; Clerk/Tax Collector and Treasurer, Julia Arvin; Secretary/Asst. Clerk & Treasurer, Missy Johnson

Public: Donald Brodie; Anthony MacLaurin; Marian Haines

President Knight brought the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Richard Moore motioned to change the minutes to show that he abstained from the vote on the February Regular Meeting's vote on the food truck. Nina Mooney seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Mr. Brodie then updated the BOT on Equinox on the Battenkill's plan for its dumpster site. A Plan developed by Manse Engineering was presented. Mr. Brodie assured the board that it complies with Agency of Transportation requirements. He continued by saying the drainage ditch will be cleaned out which should stop the water flowing onto Union Street. He also mentioned that the Road Foreman has seen the plan and he is happy with it. The project will be combined with the Union Street paving project. The matter of a curb cut application for this project was addressed. It was mentioned that no angle will be at 90 degrees. President Knight mentioned that because a valid curb cut application was not on file, that one should be submitted by EOB.

President Knight then asked for updates on outstanding issues:

There was no update available on the Bennington County Courthouse.

Seminary Avenue, West Road and Route 7A Intersection and Traffic Study: The upcoming Act 250 Hearing for Founders' Hall at BBA was discussed. The discussion on the possibility of a round-about at this location continued. Trustee Mooney motioned to have President Knight speak with Village Counsel regarding options for the Village from a legal perspective. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

The following State of Vermont Liquor Licenses were provided to the Trustees for Village approval:

- Mulligans of Manchester (First Class only – others have been approved);
- Equinox Resort and Spa;

- Taconic Hotel;
- Wilburton Inn;
- The Inn at Manchester;
- Reluctant Panther;
- The Crooked Ram.

President Knight asked for comments and none were provided. The trustees signed the licenses provided.

The updated State of Vermont Town Road and Bridge Standards were reviewed and discussed. Trustee Lewis motioned to adopt the Standards as provided by the State of Vermont. Trustee Mooney seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Jim Lewis provided his Road and Tree Report.

- We are spending a lot of money on salt.
- The three-way stop on Prospect and Taconic was discussed. The stop from Taconic could be a challenge in the winter as it is on a hill. Trustee Moore indicated that he knew of several traffic incidences in this area. Trustee Mooney motioned to amend the previous decision from a three-way stop to a two-way stop on Prospect with a yield on Taconic. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion. A majority of the board voted in favor with Trustee Moore voting no.
- Bill Mariano was asked to provide an update on the traffic signal at MEMS and he asked that this update be continued. President Knight mentioned that if the amount for the signal is less than \$1000, it would be okay to order the item.
- A lot of tree work has been done with more to come.
- A recent power outage was discussed.
- Mr. Brodie mentioned that he had received a notification that the Garden Club of Manchester was celebrating its' 100th anniversary. The club would like to know if the Village is interested in having some trees planted. It was mentioned that Trustee Lewis is the contact for the club and that the trees would be planted in areas designated by Trustee Lewis and the Road Foreman. All in attendance expressed how nice this offer is.

Julia Arvin provided the Treasurer/Tax Collector Report.

- The Financial Report looks good.
- The Tax Report was distributed. There are fewer than 8 properties that have not paid taxes at this time.
- It is almost budget time. Ms. Arvin will provide a budget schedule at the next Regular Meeting of the BOT. It is time to start thinking about projects.
- Ms. Arvin promised that she will take care of changing over to the Bank of Bennington on Tuesday.
- An update was provided on the changeover to QuickBooks. Ms. Arvin predicted that by the start of the next fiscal year we should be up and running.
- Ms. Arvin mentioned that the Salt Report was not correct as the company used has been historically behind in their billing.

Administrative Officer (E. Scott) – submitted report was not discussed. Copy is on file.

- **Other/New Business;**
 - Trustee Moore brought up the subject of alternatives to salting the roads during bad weather and asked about brining. A history of brining was provided and President Knight mentioned that, unfortunately, there is no decent alternative to salt at this time.
 - Ms. Haines provided her final report on the Holiday Lighting project: There were \$825 in donations with 4 offers for additional funds. There were \$674.29 in expenses and \$150.00 still available for use. The decorations were generally well received. She stated that she would have liked to have notified when the wreaths were taken down and some of the bows were damaged during the process. President Knight and Trustee Lewis thanked Ms. Haines for her work on this project.
 - Mr. Brodie updated the BOT on the Energy Commission and distributed a flyer.
 - Trustee Moore asked Mr. Brodie for an update on the BOT's request to look into the loss of tax revenue from properties being purchased by BBA and like entities. Mr. Brodie indicated that he was discussing the matter with people from the Town of Middlebury who deal with the college. He believes information gathered from this source will be beneficial to the BOT going forward. Several questions still need to be answered before the Planning Commission provides a final report.
 - Trustee Lewis asked again about increasing the limit for a second signature on checks. Ms. Arvin reiterated that changing the policy should go along with a review of all of the financial policies. This issue will be added to the agenda for the April meeting.
 - Trustee Mooney asked Ms. Arvin in money had been allocated for updating the website. Ms. Arvin will get back to her.

As there was no further business, the meeting ended at 5:24 pm.