



Village of Manchester, Vermont

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DRAFT MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Village of Manchester Board of Trustees

Monday, November 5, 2018

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

In Attendance: President, Brian Knight; Trustees: Tom Deck, Nina Mooney, Jim Lewis and Bill Mariano; Assistant Clerk/Treasurer and Secretary, Missy Bell-Johnson

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector, Julia Arvin

Public: Donald Brodie, Arthur Short

President Knight opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Trustee Mooney motioned to approve the minutes from the last Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held October 1, 2018. Trustee Deck seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Trustee Lewis opened the two bids received for the budgeted purchase of two solar traffic signs. Trustee Lewis asked that the decision to purchase the signs be tabled until the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees so that he could speak to the road foreman about the bids.

Trustee Deck distributed information on changing the Village of Manchester Charter in order to change the dates of the fiscal year and mentioned that there were a couple of avenues to explore. President Knight commended the idea and asked that the trustees define the reasoning behind such a decision and agree on a plan that would work with the Village treasurer and accountant. He suggested establishing a task force.

Trustee Deck explained that if the fiscal year was changed there would be benefits related to establishing the budget. He also explained that the process to change the Charter in the state legislature is not as complex as was previously thought. Trustee Deck volunteered to run the task force suggested by President Knight.

President Knight stated that the Village already has a very late tax year and that most of the other municipalities complete their budget months before the Village. Just how the change would help in the budget process must be looked into. He continued by reviewing the responsibilities of the trustees as they relate to the budget.

Trustees Mariano motioned to approve a task force for the purpose of modifying the Charter in order to change the fiscal year. Trustee Mooney seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Donald Brodie mentioned that he was not aware of previous discussions about modifying the Charter and asked, if when it was first discussed, was it based on a problem with a delay in receiving the grand list? He also asked for copies of the documents involved. Mr. Brodie then asked if the task force meeting would be open to the public. President Knight then reviewed the Vermont Public Meeting Law.

The president continued with his monthly update by addressing the unsafe situation at the intersection of West Road, Seminary Avenue and Route 7A. This area has seen, and will likely continue to see, an increase in traffic. One clear resolution to the situation is to put a round-about in this area. He briefly addressed the challenges, impact to the public and mentioned some of the properties that would be affected. He also touched on the cost of such a project. The road foreman is in favor of such a plan and he was asked to discuss the possibility with VTrans as a preliminary step to the potential process. President Knight is anticipating that VTrans will provide guidelines for the project and discussed the possibility of state grants for the project but stressed that such a project would be a big budget issue and may require a bond.

Trustee Lewis asked if any other board had looked into the possibility of a round-about in this area. Donald Brodie agreed with President Knight that the flow of traffic has increased over time. Trustee Mooney asked about having it labeled a school zone. Trustee Lewis mentioned that a “walk through” of this area is likely in the near future. Trustees Deck and Mooney expressed interest in attending the walk through. Trustee Deck expressed concern about the road foreman meeting with individuals without trustee knowledge.

President Knight asked for an update from Trustee Mariano regarding the fire department’s recommendation to the continued issue of double parking at the entrance to the Equinox. Trustee Deck recommended that the trustees discuss the continued challenges with the new general manager of the Equinox. President Knight asked Trustee Lewis and Mariano to meet with the new general manager. Trustee Deck expressed his concern that the road foreman was discussing the issue with the general manager without trustee input.

Trustee Mariano provided an update on the Village Glen Road by saying the road belongs to all residents on the street. He explained that the owners have the right to turn it over to the Village. President Knight asked who would be representing the individual residents. He continued by saying that the representative would have approval of the homeowners to negotiate the ownership of the road. Donald Brodie asked Trustee Mariano to recuse himself, as a trustee, from the Village Glen matter. Trustee Mariano agreed. President Knight stated that the trustees would consider the recusal

President Knight asked for an update on the noise issue that is currently under consideration with the Planning Commission. Trustee Mooney indicated that this issue was postponed until the next PC meeting.

Trustee Lewis provided the Road and Tree report. Withtherall and Brightwood will not be paved until next year due to the weather. The Village was guaranteed the same price for the project next year and should the price go down, we will be eligible for a discount. The end of April is quite possible as a timeline. The Village is first on their list.

The new stop sign and marble sidewalk project at the corner of Union Street and 7A is complete and is a huge improvement. The Village gained an extra parking space due to the reconfiguration and it was recently lined. Comments from the public have been positive. There is still an issue with vehicles coming from the south and cutting the corner; however, there are some ideas in the works for addressing that issue.

The tree project for this year is finally finished. Next year we will probably see a larger list of trees with a potential increase in budget in this area.

There were no treasurer/tax collector reports provided. Trustee Deck posed questions and concerns about the replacement of the truck engine. President Knight stated that the budget looks good. Trustee Deck discussed the current price of road salt and thanked Alan Mowrey for his foresight in locking in a good price for this year.

As there was no new business, at 5:16 p.m. Trustee Desk asked to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Trustee Mooney seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

The executive session ended at 5:38 p.m. At 5:38 p.m. Trustee Mariano motioned to end the meeting. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

The next Regular Meeting of the Village of Manchester Board of Trustees will be held on December 2, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,
Missy Bell-Johnson, Secretary