

Village OF Manchester
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting: January 3, 2022, 4:30 pm
Village of Manchester, Courthouse, 45 Union Street, Manchester

Present: President Orland Campbell; Trustees: Jim Lewis, Brian Maggiotto; Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector Donald Brodie; and Assistant Clerk/Treasurer and Office Administrator Missy Johnson

Public: Keld Alstrup, Anthony MacLauren

President Campbell opened the meeting at 4:28 pm.

President Campbell moved to approve the Minutes from the December 6, 2021 Regular Meeting of the BOT with the following change to the 7th paragraph of the first page of the minutes: *Ms. Johnson was asked to inform Rain or Shine Tent Company of the decision.* Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Ms. Johnson provided a financial statement for the board's review and updated the trustees on the work that was being done with NEMRC. Focus for the next week or so will shift to tax reporting, W2's, 1099's and the like.

President Campbell brought up some concerns about the Energy Plan and asked the trustees to review the fact that, under the current plan, no solar would be approved in 2 Districts in the Village and asked the trustees to review section 10.7 because the stock language does not pertain to the Village.

A Special Meeting was agreed upon to continue the discussion on the Energy Plan and the Bylaw changes. The meeting will be warned for: Wednesday, December 26th at 4:00 pm.

Follow-up discussion took place on the possibility of a traffic study for the Seminary, Route 7A and Franklin Avenue area. President Campbell was asked if his recent conversation with the chief of the Manchester Police Department provided any insight into this challenge. It was noted that he Chief does not believe that assigning an officer to this area to direct traffic during peak times will have any positive effect on easing traffic congestion.

It was also mentioned that during a recent conversation with the BBA Headmaster a possible change in the way vehicles are directed coming and going from the upper circle may help ease traffic congestion. It was posed that if BBA were to implement such a change that the Village may be in a position to help fund the effort.

Anthony MacLauren mentioned that the Bennington County Regional Commission does not believe that there is a solution for the traffic congestion in this area.

Donald Brodie brought up the idea of issuing traffic tickets using a camera system. Mr. Brodie will provide contact information for the State Police administrator for this type of system to Trustee/Road Commissioner Lewis.

It was generally agreed that a traffic study in this area would not yield any viable suggestions. Trustee Maggiotto mentioned that he would like to see that any future study in this area be based on the previous study conducted in 2021 by the Bennington County Regional Commission in conjunction with the Planning Commission, but that a traffic study should not be conducted at this time.

Mr. Brodie mentioned that parking meters on Seminary might be something to investigate.

Discussion then turned toward a possible noise ordinance. A draft of a Village ordinance and the ordinance from another Village were provided to the trustees. President Campbell would like to see the two documents combined into one workable ordinance. Areas in the Village were identified where noise is a problem. It was noted that both Liquor Licenses and Annual Special Events Permits could be withheld from businesses who are not operating within the parameters of the noise ordinance. Other means of enforcing the ordinance were also discussed including citations and civil court.

It was also mentioned that notification of the noise ordinance could be included with the renewal of the Liquor Licenses this year. President Campbell asked the trustees to pay attention to the definition of “unreasonable noise” as it relates to the hours when the ordinance would be in effect. Trustee Maggiotto would like to see additional examples of ordinances; and, he expressed that the current drafts may not contain enough to solve the Village’s noise problems.

Changes to various permit fees were then discussed. Trustee Maggiotto moved to increase the amount of a Special Events Permit from \$35.00/event to \$50.00. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor. It was noted that there will be continued discussion regarding permit fees including the Annual Special Events Permit.

President Campbell asked for approval to issue payment to Equinox on the Battenkill in the amount of \$2,000 (previously agreed upon amount) for the expenses EOB incurred in repairing paving issues with the access road. The trustees generally agreed that this was not the time to issue the check. A meeting with the road foreman, the road commissioner, the president of the BOT and EOB officials will be scheduled in the near future.

President Campbell asked that everyone take a look at Danby’s website. He would like to see the Village website altered similarly and to make it easier to post to the Village website. Better communication with constituents is the goal. Improvements to the website will be discussed at the next regular BOT meeting.

Trustee Lewis provided the Road Commissioner/Tree Warden Report: The sidewalk salt spreader may need to be replaced. The road foreman has it repaired at the moment, but the repairs may not hold. Trustee Maggiotto asked if the road foreman had a projection in the amount of money the Village has saved on salt so far this winter. It was mentioned that it was too soon to tell if there would be any savings and that it takes more salt to combat ice storms than snowstorms.

Trustee Lewis would like to send official correspondence to the Equinox regarding the barriers placed at the access to its parking area near the Village Post Office. It was mentioned that several Village officials have already had informal conversations with Equinox staff about the unsightliness of these barriers. President Campbell will follow up with the GM.

Mr. Brodie provided the Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector Report: He referenced Ms. Johnson's report discussed earlier and indicated that he did not have anything else to add to that report. He is now working with another Fidelity representative on having the Schwab account moved to Fidelity. More paperwork will need to be completed in the coming weeks. The status of this account was confirmed. The Schwab account is still open.

In Other Business, Mr. Alstrup mentioned that the Village is dumping stone and concrete over the bank on River Road to build up the riverbank. He questioned whether this was an acceptable practice.

The motor home parked behind the Levis' building on Route 7A was mentioned again.

There being no further business before the board, Trustee Lewis moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Trustee Maggiotto seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Executive Session began at 5:35 pm. At 6:30 pm the trustees exited executive session. President Campbell moved to approve a one-time bonus for an employee. Trustee Maggiotto seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

The meeting ended at 6:34 pm.

The next meeting of the Village of Manchester Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 4:00 pm. This is a special meeting to discuss the draft Energy Plan, Bylaw revisions and the possible adoption of a Noise Ordinance.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Missy Johnson, Office Administrator

