



Village of Manchester, Vermont

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Village of Manchester
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting: January 11, 2021 at 4:30 pm
Meeting held via Zoom

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

President Campbell opened the meeting at 4:37 pm when a quorum was available.

President Campbell moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Ms. Johnson provided a staff update.

The computer system upgrade project was discussed and President Campbell mentioned that he would like to see Brian Maggiotto coordinate the efforts on behalf of the trustees. There were no objections. Various aspects of current work on this project were discussed.

President Campbell provided an update on the Municipal Planning Grant. The target date for completion of projects affiliated with this grant is April, 2022. Traffic studies that would be completed under this grant may be on hold at this time since it is impossible to gather accurate data due to the pandemic/lack of traffic. Discussions with BCRC on this subject are forthcoming.

It was mentioned that the Equinox is still planning on taking down the Opera House. The timing of that project was discussed. The future use of the Courthouse is still not known.

Preliminary discussion on the 2021/22 Budget ensued. It was mentioned that the Town taxes may be going up and therefore a greater effort to keep spending in check this year would be necessary and appreciated by the Village tax payers.

Mr. Brodie requested information from the Road Commissioner and mentioned that he had been in contact with the Road Forman regarding heavy equipment purchases. Mr. Brodie also mentioned that he would like the computer upgrades to stay within \$10,000 limit and that this amount would be available from the current year's budget.

Mr. Campbell expressed desire to see the Village Sign Regulations upheld. There was agreement from Trustee Mooney and Mariano. The zoning administrative officer will be informed that unless the signs are related to businesses that are not compliant because of the pandemic, that he should be informing violators that the Village is upholding the regulations and have the those responsible remove the signs. Mr. Campbell will notify the press that that regulations will be upheld going forward.

Mr. Brodie reviewed the current status of the Bank of Bennington Accounts and indicated that Missy Johnson and Julia Arvin would close out the last account at Berkshire Bank as soon as possible. Mr. Brodie indicated that he would like to add signers to the Schwab Account to include: Mr. Campbell, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Lewis. Funding the Heavy Equipment Accounts (HE) was discussed as was moving money from the HE Accounts to the Schwab account in order to increase the amount of interest earned was discussed. Trustee Lewis mentioned that he would like the legality of moving money from reserve fund accounts reviewed.

Mr. Brodie provided an update on a Village credit card. All agreed that they would like to see the card procured from a local bank. In the meantime, Mr. Brodie offered to donate a credit card for use until the credit account is established.

Mr. Lewis provided a brief report. Other than the one big storm we had last month, things have been relatively quiet. Mr. Lewis did mention that he would see the replanting of trees included in the upcoming budget.

The topic of permits for tree removal was discussed. It was noted that while the Village has regulations on the removal of trees, that the regulations are not being upheld and that property owners are removing trees without permits. The responsibilities falling under the tree warden and the zoning administrative officer were discussed. Ms. Johnson voiced a request to have a Village policy written on this topic as it can be confusing as to who is responsible for the approval of the tree removal. She also asked if a permit was needed for tree removal on a private road. President Campbell expressed the need to review the current rules and update them as necessary. Mr. Brodie mentioned including the Development Review Board (DRB) in this process. Mr. Campbell indicated that he would like to see the BOT review the matter first and then provide information to the DRB.

The removal of the holiday wreaths was discussed and it was agreed that the wreaths would be stored in the vault behind the Village Office. The bows will be removed from the wreaths and given to Marian Haines for storage.

Mr. Campbell opened up the meeting for public comment. There was no public in attendance.

Trustee Mariano moved to end the meeting at 4:47 pm. 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 Monday, February 1, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Missy Johnson
Administrative Assistant to the BOT