



Village of Manchester, Vermont

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Board of Trustees Meeting January 8, 2024

In Attendance: President Tom Deck, Trustees Jim Lewis, Nina Mooney, Anthony MacLaurin (by Zoom), Clerk Donald Brodie, Treasurer & Tax Collector Sarah McClintock Absent Trustee Peter Mull

Public: Claudia Burns, Brian Maggiotto, Christian Wiegand

President Deck opened the meeting at 16:30.

The first order was to approve the Agenda.

Two items were added :

1 under Old Business - continued discussion about the Courthouse.

2 under New Business - appointment of a Village Zoning Administrative Officer.

Trustee Deck moved the Agenda and Trustee Mooney seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Secondly : President Deck requested approval of the minutes of the December 4, 2023 Regular Meeting and the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Mooney moved acceptance and Trustee MacLaurin seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Thirdly : The appointment of a representative to the Bennington County Regional Commission. President mentioned that the Village had always attempted to have Village residents fill the post, but for the time being he recommended that Curan Van Der Wielen be so appointed. Trustee Mooney moved the appointment and Trustee Lewis seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Fourthly : the Trustees consider a new Zoning Application Permit. Mr. Van Der Wielen pointed out that the Trustees were required to approve this new form and that it would be available on the web site.

President Deck moved approval and Trustee Lewis seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Fifthly : the consideration of the approval of State of Vermont Liquor Licenses for the Ekwanok Country Club and the Inn at Manchester. Clerk Brodie reviewed the past procedure and said that the process had been moved "on line". He regretted the absence of Missy Johnson and that he had not been able to discover any forms relating to the license renewals. He recommended that, barring any exceptions by the Trustees present, the Licenses be approved. Any discrepancies could be corrected at a future meeting as the existing licenses do not expire until April. Mr. Maggiotto said that he had experienced difficulties with the new web site - it did not have payment option. To the approbation of the body, he presented a cheque to the amount of \$115 for his license fee. Trustee Mooney moved approval and Trustee Lewis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Report : Mr. Van Der Wielen reported that there had been minimal activity although the Planning Commission had discussed their plans for the the year 2024 and beyond. There is a vacancy on the Commission and they are reviewing the STR ordinance as well as other open items in their purview.

Roads & Trees - Trustee Lewis reported on the recent snow fall and that one of the road crew has pneumonia. Salt Brining was discussed and the Highway Foreman was reported to indicate the cost and the efficiency at present did not meet Village needs.

Treasurer & Tax Collector - Treasurer McClintock reported that the Village was only owed about \$ 16,000 in delinquent taxes. Sullivan & Powers have nearly completed the Audit, they are just waiting on a few, followup questions, the report & recommendations could be ready in several weeks. The change from Accrual to Cash has only created a \$ 10,000 difference in the accounts. She also said that they had found a way to reconcile our accounts with what NEMRC creates.

Clerk - Clerk Brodie mentioned the need for a small refrigerator in the office. Trustee Lewis magnanimously offered to donate one. with delivery asap.

Old Business - continued discussion on the courthouse. President Deck plans to re-open collaboration with the Town.

New Business - Trustee Mooney moved to nominate Mr. Van der Wielen as Zoning Administrative Officer, seconded by Trustee MacLaurin, and so voted.

17:13 Trustee Lewis moved to have the Trustees go into an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Trustee Mooney seconded and the trustees, *en banc*, so voted.

17:25 The trustees came out of Executive Session with no action taken.

17:28 President Deck adjourned the meeting.

D Brodie Clerk