

VILLAGE OF ENOSBURG FALLS  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
October 10, 2017

Trustees Present: Walter Scott, Guy Breault, William Spears, Jr., Ellen St. Marie and Leonard Charron

Staff Present: Jonathan Elwell, Gary Denton and Joanne Davis

Public Present: Doug Goulette of Lamoureux & Dickinson, Rachael Lamoureux, Sandra Ferland and Mark McDermott - Polly Rico arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Walter Scott called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Modifications/Changes to Agenda  
There were no changes to the agenda.
2. Public Comment  
There was no public comment.
3. Review/Approval of Minutes September 26, 2017  
William Spears, Jr. moved to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2017 Trustee meeting as written. Ellen St. Marie seconded. Unanimous
4. Elm Street Sidewalk Project, to Receive Public Input on the Conceptual Engineering Design  
Jonathan Elwell explained to those present that this meeting was to review the Conceptual Engineering Design and receive public comment on the proposed project as required by the State. Doug Goulette of Lamoureux & Dickinson displayed drawings of the proposed Elm Street Sidewalk Project. This project is covered by a Vtrans grant so must follow very strict State guidelines which include Public Meetings such as tonight. Doug outlined the plans being presented including an additional three curbs to be installed at McDermotts to direct trucks to specific areas of entry and exit to the facility.

Mark McDermott expressed he had concerns about the dangers of this project as presented. According to McDermott this sidewalk will be placed in front of five businesses where at least 40 trucks per day enter and exit. He feels this is much more dangerous than directing the pedestrians to use the sidewalk on the south side of the street which is currently there and goes to Jay View Drive (the driveway to Hannafords, etc.). Mark believes the next section could go from McDonald's across Route 105 to the EMS driveway where it can proceed as projected. The Village of Enosburg Falls had been advised that as this section of Route 105 is a State highway under the jurisdiction of the State of Vermont, Vtrans who has the say on a pedestrian crossing at this location and they have denied it.

Jon Elwell explained to Mark that the Trustees did look at various locations for the sidewalk including behind McDermotts and NAPA, and the option Mark has suggested crossing in front of

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Jay View Drive and then making another crossing on Route 105 around the area of McDonald's to the Town of Enosburgh Emergency Services property. Every option to get a sidewalk up Elm Street to the Town of Enosburgh Recreation Fields has difficult challenges. There is no easy or completely safe solution which is why this project has been so difficult. The plan as presented tonight is the plan that the Board of Trustees feel, all things considered, to be the best overall solution if people in the community want this sidewalk constructed. Mark asked if there was an opportunity to change the location currently presented and Jon Elwell advised him that the Trustees still have that option.

Sandy Ferland asked if the sidewalk was going to be lighted and Jon Elwell and Doug Goulette said that they had not included any lighting. Sandy feels the sidewalk should be well lit. Doug explained that the athletic fields are not lighted so they did not feel the walkway would be used during the night so lighting was not projected.

Leonard Charron asked if the athletic field was associated with the school. The Town owns the athletic field and the school uses it.

Leonard Charron had been approached by one homeowner on Elm Street asking that the large Oak tree in front of her house be removed as it was very old. The current design places the sidewalk curved around the tree. Doug Goulette explained that as part of the grant process historical sites are evaluated and as this is a very old tree, it is considered historical. Through the Scoping Study process, the Board of Trustees had chosen to keep this tree, and route the sidewalk around the tree. In fact, no trees will be removed as part of this project. Sandra Ferland was very happy to hear this. Mark McDermott, Sandra Ferland and Doug Goulette left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

5. Rip-Rap at Bridge of Flowers and Lights

Leonard Charron visited the site as well as Gary Denton. They feel this site speaks for itself. It does not lend itself to encourage people to use it as access to the river. Leonard Charron moved to end this discussion with the understanding that no signs or gates will be installed. Guy Breault seconded. Unanimous

6. Transco Equity Offer 2017

Jon Elwell explained that this is a new offer, separate from the Highgate Substation offer of a month ago. The Village has always participated in these offers. VPPSA will, if we use them for the funding, secure a note at 3.25% interest rate for ten years for the Village's investment of \$236,000 for 23,600 units. Guy Breault asked for the reason behind the offer and Jon explained that Transco uses these offers to raise funds for projects and upgrades it is working on. Leonard Charron asked about the "initial cost to the Village" mentioned in Crystal's email. Jon pointed out that Crystal's email did not elaborate, but it may have been in reference to the interest rate

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which Crystal also indicates would decrease over time. Guy Breault moved to purchase this 2017 offer, William Spears, Jr. seconded. Unanimous.

Ellen St. Marie asked if this was a fixed rate offer and Jon referred back to the email from Crystal that outlines the rate as a decreasing rate which will afford more profit to the Village in later years.

Guy Breault moved to utilize VPPSA for funding as outlined in Crystal's email. William Spears, Jr. seconded. Unanimous.

7. Manager's Report

Jonathan Elwell updated the Trustees on the replacement of the roof at 42 Village Drive. Wendall Bashaw was awarded the contract and came to meet with Jon Elwell and Gary Denton last week regarding an increase in the cost of the materials. Due to the natural disasters occurring in Florida and Texas, the cost of construction materials has increased significantly adding a proposed additional cost of \$1,620 to his original bid. Jon approved the increase and advised the trustees that this project still remains below the budgeted amount.

The Trustees had asked Joanne Davis to investigate the drop in value on the grand list. Joanne met with Kermit, the assessor for the Town of Enosburgh to discuss the changes. Kermit explained that there were several changes that occurred that affected the grand list, included lower line reports by utilities. Kermit will be making changes to the utility reports he receives to make sure the numbers are accurate.

Jon Elwell received a response from the Enosburg Foodshelf regarding the incident that occurred during their most recent coin drop. Suzi Hull-Parent responded on behalf of the Foodshelf. Her response is included with Jon's report.

Federal Tax Plan –Municipalities in the U.S. have been advised that there is a possibility that tax exempt bonding for municipalities could be eliminated by the Trump Administration. The October 2017 NEPPA newsletter indicates that the exemption is going to be maintained which is good news for the municipalities. Jon received an email from Ken Nolan, General Manager at VPPSA who had been contacted by APPA – American Public Power Association. APPA is asking for permission to have APPA members sign a letter that is being sent to the Trump Administration asking that the exemption remain in effect. The Village of Enosburg Falls Electric Department is also a member of APPA. Jon asked the Trustees if they were comfortable with the Village of Enosburg Falls signing the document. All Trustees were in agreement with Jonathan signing the letter on behalf of the Village.

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At Rodney Allen's retirement party Jonathan had mentioned that Rodney was going to be receiving national recognition for his achievements at the wastewater plant from TPO (Treatment Plant Operator) magazine. This article appeared in their October 2017 issue and Jon distributed a copy for the Trustees. The Trustees asked if they could have copies made for them and Jon advised that we can do that and will put it in their mailboxes in the office. Jon feels that this is an excellent article and a great accomplishment for Rodney, Brian and the Village.

11. Other Business

Leonard Charron was approached by Jim Kennison on Pleasant Street regarding runoff that he feels is being directed down his driveway by the road pitch and sidewalk configuration. As discussed at the last Trustee meeting, Gary Denton along with Leonard Charron visited the site. Gary Denton explained that the issue is caused by the number of times the road has been resurfaced which has raised it above the sidewalk encouraging run-off down the driveways of three properties. The solutions would be to update a portion of the sidewalk to raise it above the road level and encourage the water to a catch basin to be tapped into further down the street or to remove the sidewalk and build a swale to direct the water flow to a catch basin. Jonathan asked if the Trustees would like to take an action on this item. Leonard Charron asked that the staff include the sidewalk renovation/replacement option in the draft 2018 budget.

Gary Denton left the Trustee meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Walter Scott asked that Jonathan add the status of a health officer to the joint Trustee/Selectboard meeting in November.

12. Executive Session – For the Purpose of Discussing Negotiations in which Premature Public Knowledge may Compromise the Position of the Municipality, a Legal Item and a Personnel Item.

William Spears, Jr. moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations in which premature public knowledge may compromise the position of the municipality, a legal item, and a personnel item at 8:05 p.m. Leonard Charron seconded. Trustee meeting entered executive session. Joanne Davis and Polly Rico remained in Executive Session. Joanne Davis and Polly Rico left Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Davis  
Director of Finance

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Ellen St. Marie made a motion to reenter the Board's Regular Meeting. Seconded by Leonard Charron. Unanimous. The Board reentered their Regular Meeting at 8:32pm. No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

13. Adjourn – There being no other business to come before the Board at this time, Ellen St. Marie made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Leonard Charron. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Elwell  
Village Manager

These minutes were approved as written at the October 24, 2017 Trustee meeting.