The meeting was called to order by Moderator Pat Hayes at 6:32 pm. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Hayes asked if there were any objections to having non-village residents speaking in this meeting. There were none.

Moderator Hayes issued a reminder polls close 7:00 pm.

**Article 1: To receive and act on the reports of the Village Officers for the past year.**

Village Trustees Report:

Motion to Approve: Pat Boucher

Second: Cindy Weed

Comments/Questions: Mike Larose asked if the appropriation for Elm Street was for work or for a study. Carolyn Marcy advised the funds are for a scoping study for Elm Street. The Pleasant Street project was approved using a prior study. The Village has a 10% match for each project. No further comments/questions.

Village Trustees Report passed unanimously.

Village Manager’s Report:

Motion to Approve: Normand Gervais

Second: Pat Boucher

Comments/Questions: Mike Larose noted that the Water Tower Road project of 2014 totaled less than had been borrowed. Mr. Larose asked where the balance of the money had gone. Jonathan Elwell stated that those funds had been used to pay back the loan at no penalty. Carolyn Marcy stated that the loan balance in the financials reflects the lower loan amount. No further comments/questions.

Village Manager’s Report passed unanimously.

Water Department Report:

Motion to Approve: Val Bonk

Second: Normand Gervais

Comments/Questions: Mike Larose asked if insurance covered the lightning strikes mentioned in the report. Carolyn Marcy stated that insurance claims were made and there was a $1,000.00 deductible per incident. No further comments/questions.

Water Department Report passed unanimously.

Electric Department Report:

Motion to Approve: Cindy Weed

Second: Pat Boucher

Comments/Questions: None.

Electric Department Report passed unanimously.

Wastewater Department Report:

Motion to Approve: Cindy Weed

Second: Pat Boucher

Comments/Questions: None.

Wastewater Department Report passed unanimously.

General Fund Report:

Motion to Approve: Normand Gervais

Second: Val Bonk

Comments/Questions: None.

General Fund Report passed unanimously.

Zoning Administrator Report:

Motion to Approve: Pat Boucher

Second: Normand Gervais

Comments/Questions: None.

Zoning Administrator Report passed unanimously.

Article 1 passed unanimously.

**Article 2: To see if the Village will authorize the Trustees to borrow in anticipation of taxes for 2015.**

Motion to Approve: Val Bonk

Second: Ron Duso

Comments/Questions: None.

Article 2 passed unanimously.

**Article 3: To see if the Village will authorize the Trustees to borrow in anticipation of revenues for 2015 for the operation of the Water & Light Department.**

Motion to Approve: Cindy Weed

Second: Pat Boucher

Comments/Questions: None.

Article 3 passed unanimously.

**Article 4: To see if the Village will authorize the Trustees to borrow in anticipation of revenues for 2015 for the operation of the Wastewater Department.**

Motion to Approve: Pat Boucher

Second: Normand Gervais

Comments/Questions: None.

Article 4 passed unanimously.

**Article 5: To see if the Village will approve an amount of $5,000.00 on the Grand List for the purpose of upgrading sidewalks.**

Motion to Approve: Val Bonk

Second: Rachel Lamoureaux

Comments/Questions: Mike Larose asked why the appropriation is for $5,000.00 when the tax payers were asked for $25,000.00 last year. Walter Scott advised there was carryover from last year and the $5,000.00 is to meet the match requirement of the grant. Pat Boucher asked what sidewalks were to be repaired. The Board clarified that it was Pleasant Street from Missisquoi Street to Elm Street. Rachel Lamoreaux asked if any of the appropriation would be used for a sidewalk section along Main Street and the crossover to Church Street. Garry Atherton stated that he would consider using the line item for sidewalk repair for that area. Sandy Ferland inquired if the project would be on both sides of Pleasant Street or only one. Garry Atherton stated that the project would be on one side of the street and entail sidewalk repair and installation of ADA compliant ramps. Given the amount of grant money, there may be funds available to make other repairs/upgrades. Sandy Ferland asked if the sidewalks would be maintained in the winter and Garry stated yes. No further comments/questions.

Article 5 passed unanimously.

**Article 6: To see if the Village will approve the purchase of a new backhoe to be used jointly by the Public Works Department, Water Department, Wastewater Department, and Electric Department at a cost not to exceed $136,000.00, and payment for such purchase to be allocated as follows: (a) 25% Public Works Department, 25% Water Department, 25% Wastewater Department, with total borrowing in an amount not to exceed $76,500.00 over a term not to exceed five (5) years; and (b) from the Equipment Savings of the Electric Department Fund 25% or up to $25,000.00.**

Motion to Approve: Val Bonk

Second: Kevin Bellevue

Comments/Questions: Mike Larose asked if the purchase was going out to bid. Jonathan Elwell stated that there are 2 options the Board could exercise per the Village Procurement Policy. 1) The Board could ask for bids for an item costing over $5,000.00; or 2) the Trustees could ask for quotes from 3 different vendors. Staff is in discussions of favoring getting quotes rather than soliciting bids. Normand Gervais asked if this backhoe would replace one already owned by the Village. Jonathan stated yes. Rachel Lamoreaux asked if the backhoe would be used in snow removal. Garry stated yes. There was discussion on snow removal and accessories that could be purchased to assist in snow removal. Cindy Weed asked what is wrong with the existing backhoe. Walter Scott stated that the backhoe is in need of bushings and pins and Jonathan stated that the backhoe is a safety concern due to the amount of “play” the swing arm has. There was continued discussion on the pros and cons of repairing versus replacing the existing backhoe. Jonathan reiterated the safety issues with the backhoe and the financial benefits to trading in the existing backhoe. No further comments/questions.

Article 6 passed unanimously.

Article 7: To see if the Village will vote to appropriate the sum of $1,000.00 to the Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation.

Motion to Approve: Val Bonk

Second: Mike Larose

Comments/Questions: None.

Article 7 passed unanimously.

**Article 8: To see if the Village will vote to appropriate the sum of $1,000.00 for Christmas Lighting in the downtown area.**

Motion to Approve: Sandy Murphy

Second: Kevin Bellevue

Comments/Questions: Sandy Murphy asked what the money is allocated for. Garry advised that there is a fair amount of replacement that happens with the existing lights. Garry stated he could look into different types of lighting but believes the cost of repairing the current lighting is equal to or greater than the cost of replacing with new. Cindy Weed asked if the Village needed lighting and could the Village consider something natural like live trees or flags. Garry said it was his belief that the Village used to have flags, but there wasn’t a lot of support for that type of decoration. Mike Larose asked if the $1,000.00 included the manpower to install the lights and if not, where does that funding come from. Jonathan advised that the manpower is “donated” by the Electric Department. Rachel Lamoreaux stated there is a clear benefit to the lighting as it makes the Village more attractive to tourists. No further comments/questions.

Article 8 passed unanimously.

**Article 9: To see if the Village will vote a budget on the Grand List to cover the 2015 Village General Fund Budget.**

Motion to Approve: Kevin Bellevue

Second: Val Bonk

Comments/Questions: None.

Article 9 passed unanimously.

**Article 10: To see if the Village will authorize the Trustees to spend unexpected and unanticipated revenues received.**

Motion to Approve: Ron Duso

Second: Mike Larose

Comments/Questions: None.

Article 10 passed unanimously.

**Article 11:  To see if the Village will authorize the necessary use of surpluses within departments provided those funds stay with the department of origin.**

Motion to Approve: Cindy Weed

Second: Ron Duso

Comments/Questions: None.

Article 11 passed unanimously.

**Article 12: To transact any other business properly coming before this meeting.**

A resident of Church Street asked if there could be anything done about the condition of the vacant house on his street. He is concerned about the safety issues surrounding the house. He has had to chase kids and other people off the property. The house is not properly secured and the roof is in disrepair. There have been people living in the basement. Jonathan stated that the property has been a topic of conversation with the Trustees. It has not been maintained by the owners; however, the owners still pay taxes on the property so it is not abandoned by definition. The Village has approached the owners about securing the property in the past but had been met with resistance. Jonathan stated that the extreme course of action would be for the Village to claim eminent domain over the property but that would take considerable time and money and the Board has not been willing to go to that length yet. The Board was asked if the Village could force the owner to secure the building as it could be a liability. Jonathan stated that the liability would be with the owner of the property. The Village could look at classifying the property as a junkyard and that would then be illegal, but the Village would then be involved in legal proceedings. Angie Wright, Zoning Administrator stated that she has received complaints about the property but does not believe there is any ordinance she could enforce over the property at this time. Angie suggested the Village look into adopting ordinances to cover this issue as other municipalities have. There was further discussion on the topic.

Mike Larose then asked if the Board could shed some light on Page 64, 2015 Rates & Budgets. Jonathan asked for clarification. Mr. Larose asked if the public could be advised on the status of the pending legal case. Jonathan explained that he believes Mr. Larose is referring to the legal case D&D Properties has against the Village and the increase in the legal fee line item. Since the case is open, the Village cannot comment on the specifics, but yes, the case has caused an increase in the legal fees. Jonathan advised there is a court date in Environmental Court of July 9th. Mr. Larose asked if any information could be made public through the Freedom of Information Act to which Jonathan replied he did not think so since the case was active. Mr. Larose asked if the Village has looked into settling the case, perhaps by purchasing the property in question, instead of paying lawyers to fight the case. Both Walter Scott and Guy Breault stated the Village is not in the position to purchase the property.

Cindy Weed asked why there was no longer an elected auditor. Jonathan said that the issue was put before the voters approximately 5 years ago and the voters chose to eliminate the position. The Village does have a yearly professional audit as required by law.

Mike Larose asked if anyone knew the cost of mailing the Annual Report. He is aware of people who do not have access to the report. Walter Scott mentioned the various ways the Annual Report can be obtained. Jonathan informed the audience that the issue of mailing the annual report was put before the voters and the voters eliminated the mailing of the reports. Mr. Larose asked if anyone knew the cost before it had been eliminated. Jonathan stated he believed it was somewhere between $1,800.00 and $2,000.00 about 4 years ago which was the last time the Village mailed the reports. No further comments/questions.

Pat Hayes, Moderator summarized the voting tally sheet:

52 votes cast.

Leonard Charron – Reelected Board of Trustees

William Spears – Reelected Board of Trustees

Adam Goss – Elected as a “write in” for Trustees

Andre Beaulieu – Village Clerk/Treasurer

Pat Hayes – Reelected as Moderator

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Comeau. Seconded by Mike Larose.  Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Lynch, Minute Taker

***These minutes were approved as written at the March 24, 2015 Trustee Meeting.***