Present: Trustees – Samuel Vaillancourt, Heather Moore, Leonard Charron, Jason Larose, Cindi Miner

Staff – Jonathan Elwell, Gary Denton, Brian Ovitt

Guests – Jim Cameron, Sandy Ferland, Ellen Stanley, Sean Kio, Ken St Amour, NW Access Television

This meeting was held electronically via Zoom Meeting.

Meeting was called to order by Samuel Vaillancourt, Chair at 6:48pm. This was due to technical difficulties getting all Board members logged into the Zoom meeting.

Samuel Vaillancourt took roll call, and read the Electronic Meeting Disclosure.

1. Modifications/Changes to Agenda

There were no changes.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

1. Review/Approval Minutes April 13, 2021

Jason Larose made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Heather Moore. Unanimous.

1. Delinquent Tax Collector Request to Retain Attorney – A. Beaulieu

Andy Beaulieu was not present. Jon Elwell informed the Board that Andy has been having difficulties with his phone and internet service. It is possible he is not able to log on to the meeting due to these reasons. Jon directed the Board to a letter from Andy Beaulieu as Delinquent Tax Collector requesting permission from the Village Trustees to retain attorney Vaughn Comeau for the purpose of conducting a tax sale in the near future. A motion to approve the request was made by Jason Larose. Seconded by Leonard Charron. Unanimous.

1. Wastewater Clarifier Replacement Project, Bids

Brian Ovitt, Chief Operator for the WW Treatment Facility was present to discuss attempts made by the department to attain bids for the clarifier project. Despite efforts, only one supplier responded to the requests. A copy of the bid from Laramie Water Resources for $43,315.58 is in the Board’s packet. Brian was also asking for the Board to waive the 3-quote requirement in the Village’s Procurement Policy due to the lack of response from known suppliers in the region. The Board agreed the department had made a good faith effort to get multiple bids. Heather Moore made a motion to waive the 3-quote requirement, and to approve the bid from Laramie Water Resources. Seconded by Jason Larose. Unanimous.

1. NWCUD Committee Vacancy

There were no volunteers from the Board to join the NWCUD Committee. Sam Vaillancourt asked Sean Kio if he would represent the Village in this capacity given, he was already the appointee to the Town of Enosburgh? Sean agreed he could also represent the Village on this committee. Cindi Miner made a motion to appoint Sean Kio to represent the Village on the NWCUD Committee. Seconded by Heather Moore. Unanimous.

1. Trustee Vacancy

The Board is aware there will be a vacancy after May 3rd on the Board with the resignation of Cindi Miner. The Board will need to appoint a resident to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Election. Board members had expressed an interest in discussing a process for considering residents who would be interested in serving in the position. It was decided by the Trustees that they will require a written letter of interest be sent to the Village by either email or regular mail from residents interested in filling the vacancy. The Board will then consider any submittals received, and discuss the candidates in executive session, making their decision when they return to regular meeting. The letters should be received in the Village Office no later than noon May 7, 2021. The Board asked Jon Elwell to have a notice requesting the letters of interest with due date posted on the Village website, Facebook site, and Front Porch Forum.

1. Manager’s Report

Jon Elwell reported on several items:

SQRP Annual Report 2020 – The Village Electric Department was over its baseline numbers for Customer Average Interruption Duration performance measurements according to the DPS. As a result, the State might have been able to assess a penalty to the utility, but there is a tariff which eliminated the penalty if we hit benchmarks in tree trimming maintenance during the year. The Village has met those maintenance requirements, and so will not be penalized.

S.60 – There is currently a bill circulating through the Legislature (known as S.60) which would allow rate flexibility for public electric utilities in VT. Jon will keep the Board apprised as he is able regarding the bill.

Meetings Reminder – There are two upcoming Trustees Special Meetings; April 28th for a Vital Village Scoping Study presentation, and a Special Joint Meeting with the Town Selectboard on May 3rd.

Energy Committee – The Board had asked Jon to speak with Dave Westcom to see if he would be interested in being appointed to represent the Village on the NRPC Energy Committee. Dave asked Jon to thank the Board for considering him, but personal commitments at this time would prevent him from attending most meetings. He has respectfully declined the request.

1. Other Business

Heather Moore said she noticed an increase in traffic tickets being given by the Sherriff’s Department report. She is appreciative of the effort by law enforcement to be more aggressive on this issue.

Cindi Miner asked when the electronic flashing speed limit signs purchased last autumn were going to go up. Jon Elwell said he would talk with Gary Denton, Director of Public Works, and staff would report back to the Board on this.

1. Executive Session – For the Purpose of Discussing Personnel Issues

Heather Moore made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Seconded by Cindi Miner. Unanimous. The Board entered Executive Session at 7:19pm. Cindi Miner made a motion to re-enter the Board’s Regular Meeting. Seconded by Leonard Charron. Unanimous. The Board re-entered its Regular Meeting at 7:52pm. There was no action taken as a result of Executive Session.

Jason Larose announced he is resigning from the Board of Trustees effective at the conclusion of this meeting. The Board thanked Jason for his service to the community over the past several years.

1. Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Board at this time, Leonard Charron made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Jason Larose. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Elwell

Village Manager

*These minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Trustees at a Regular Board Meeting.*