

DRAFT MINUTES
VILLAGE OF ENOSBURG FALLS
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
April 13, 2021

Present: Trustees – Samuel Vaillancourt, Heather Moore, Leonard Charron, Jason Larose, Cindi Miner
Staff – Jonathan Elwell
Guests – Sean Kio, Ben Maddox, Jim Cameron, Margo Sherwood, Ellen Stanley, Sandy Ferland,
Northwest Access Television

This meeting was held electronically via Zoom Meeting.

Meeting was called to order by Samuel Vaillancourt, Chair at 6:36PM.

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

1. Modifications/Changes to Agenda

There were no changes.

2. Public Comment

Ben Maddox requested to make a statement to the Board of Trustees. The Board agreed to hear Ben speak. Ben expressed his anger, and frustration regarding the Vital Village Plan, and the Proposed Perley Block Renovation Project. He questioned the validity of both projects, and overall, feels both projects will hurt parking in the downtown area, and therefore threaten existing businesses. He is adamantly opposed to either one, and stated he feels it was a mistake for the Village to agree to apply for a \$500,000.00 grant to assist with the Perley Block Renovations Project. Margo Sherwood stated she agrees with Ben's statements, and is also upset about the projects.

After discussion, the Trustees thanked Ben for his statements about the projects, but asked him, in future, to refrain from personal attacks toward people involved with the projects.

Jim Cameron also asked to speak with the Board. He gave a brief update on Enosburgh Initiative discussions, and a status report on the Dough Boy statue renovations.

3. Review/Approval Minutes March 23, 2021

Jason Larose made a motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2021 as written. Seconded by Leonard Charron. Unanimous.

4. NWCUD Report/Appointment – Sean Kio, Chair NWCUD

Sean Kio, Chair of the NWCUD gave the Board an update on items being worked on by the Union Communication District. This included several grants projects, 19 "WIFI hotspots" in the region, and the District working toward hiring a Program Manager to take over administrative tasks. He also requested the Village appoint a new person to the District to serve on its committee representing the Village of Enosburg Falls. It was decided a committee appointment would be brought up again at the Board's next Regular Meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES
VILLAGE OF ENOSBURG FALLS
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
April 13, 2021

5. Vital Village Scoping Study Project, Status Report, and MPM Appointment

Jon Elwell updated the Board regarding activities that have taken place on this project over the past month. With the departure of Matt Miner as MPM of the project March 3rd, Jon has since met twice with the D&K Engineering team on this project. A Public Alternatives Meeting is being set up for 6:30pm April 28, 2021 to be held electronically. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit public feedback on proposed alternatives for the project, and will be presented with a slide show by Julia Ursaki from D&K Engineering.

The Board will also need to appoint a new person as Municipal Project Manager (MPM) for the project under the grant source requirements by Vtrans. Jason Larose made a motion to appoint Jon Elwell as the new MPM. Seconded by Heather Moore. Unanimous.

6. SQRP Report

Jon Elwell reviewed the first quarter 2021 SQRP Report with the Trustees. There were no other comments.

7. Manager's Report

Jon Elwell reported on several different items:

-Angela Wright has resigned as Zoning Administrator for the Town of Enosburgh. Her last day will be April 29, 2021.

-The Village phone system conversion has been postponed due to an unforeseen staffing shortage. We are now working toward an end of April date to complete the conversion to a new phone system for Village services.

-The VT Public Utility Commission has, again, extended the electric utility disconnect moratorium. It is now mandated through May 31, 2021.

-Jon reported on two funding endeavors he has been involved with relating to an opportunity presented by the Office of Congressman, Peter Welch. The first was an application the Village submitted to fund the Elm Street/Main Street Water and Wastewater Lines Project. The second was a letter of support Jon sent regarding an application VPPSA submitted to fund a proposed AMI Electric Dept. project. If successful, this would fund AMI for VPPSA members that are interested in converting to an AMI electric and water system for customers.

8. Other Business

Jon Elwell informed the Trustees he heard back from the Town today on potential dates for a Joint Meeting with the Selectboard. The Town proposed May 3rd, May 17th or June 21st. There was a consensus of the Trustees to reply for a Joint Meeting on May 3rd. Jon Elwell will let them know.

Sam Vaillancourt let the Board know he was contacted by an Electric Department customer that has requested the Village Facilities be opened again to the public. The Board discussed the pros and cons of this, along with the need to keep employees safe, and healthy given the pandemic, as well as current state guidelines in place. At the conclusion of this discussion, the Board

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requested staff add language to the signage on the Village Office front door which clearly states Office is closed to the public “or by appointment” for physical access to staff.

9. Executive Session – For the Purpose of Discussing Personnel Items.

Cindi Miner made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Seconded by Heather Moore. Unanimous. The Board entered Executive Session at 7:50pm. Cindi Miner made a motion to re-enter the Board’s Regular Meeting. Seconded by Heather Moore. The Board re-entered their Regular Meeting at 8:37pm.

As a result of discussion in Executive Session, Cindi Miner announced she will be resigning from the Board of Trustees. Her last meeting as a Board of Trustee will be the May 3, 2021 Joint Meeting with the Town Selectboard.

10. Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Board at this time, Leonard Charron made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Cindi Miner. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Elwell
Village Manager

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