

DRAFT
VILLAGE OF ENOSBURG FALLS
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
December 14, 2021

Present: Trustees -Sam Vaillancourt, Heather Moore, Sandra Ferland, Eli Gabuzda, Leonard Charron
Staff – Jonathan Elwell, Abbey Miller, Gary Denton
Guests –Ward Heneveld, Ellen Stanley, Jim Cameron, David Tryhorne, Sally Tryhorne, Amy Brewer, Jesse Bugbee, Kim Airoldi, Gerald Varsey (NWTV)

Meeting was called to order by Sam Vaillancourt, Chair at 6:30pm.

1. Modifications/Changes to Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

2. Public Comment

Jim Cameron requested an update on the Vital Village Project. Village Manager Jonathan Elwell stated that things have not progressed from the last update. The Village of Enosburg Fall's Grant is being reviewed and closed out for the Scoping Study. Jim advised of a new grant opportunity for an engineering study may be available and requested that it be put on the agenda in early January.

3. Review/Approval Minutes Special Joint meeting November 23, 2021, Regular Meeting November 23, 2021

A motion was made by Sandra Ferland to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Eli Gabuzda. Unanimous.

4. Welcome Signs, David Tryhorne

David Tryhorne stated he has been working with the Lions Club over replacing the current Welcome Signs and presented the Trustees with a couple of design options and was asking for their commitment for financing two of the four signs. David said he was also taking the request to the Enosburgh Selectboard. The Trustees stated they supported the updating of the Welcome Signs and would commit to financing two of the signs. They also acknowledged David's plan meant joint ownership of the signs by the Town and Village. The signs would no longer be owned by the Lions Club.

5. Access Permit Request 311 Missisquoi Street

Public Works Director Gary Denton was present to state staff supported the Access Permit request for 311 Missisquoi Street and did not see any issues with the proposed plan.

A motion was made by Eli Gabuzda to approve the permit request. Seconded by Sandra Ferland. Unanimous.

6. Revised Traffic Speed Limit Ordinance

Village Manager Jonathan Elwell reviewed the proposed new Traffic Speed Limit Ordinance. It was determined that some corrections needed to be made and this would be brought up again at a later meeting.

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7. Noise Ordinance Amendment, Vehicles

After reviewing the proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment for Vehicles, it was decided to table this discussion until the Speed Limit Ordinance was updated so both could be discussed and approved at the same time.

8. Pearl Street Sidewalk Construction

The discussion continued regarding the extension of the sidewalk on the north side of Pearl Street to the Armory building with the Town of Enosburgh moving into the building sooner than originally anticipated. After discussion, it was decided to include the sidewalk extension in the 2022 Budget and to not do the flashing beacon crosswalk across Pearl Street the new Town Office.

9. Manager's Report

Electric Speed Signs – Public Works Director Gary Denton is proposing storing the signs for the Winter months rather than relocate them at this time. After discussion, the Trustees support this decision.

ISO New England Press Release – ISO New England issued a press release on December 6th discussing their prediction for a harsh winter in New England. They outlined potential consequences to the New England Electric Grid. This is based on worse-case scenario and there are too many variables to predict the weather with absolute certainty. Village Manager Jonathan Elwell advised Trustees to not panic if they reviewed this memo discussing the potential for rolling blackouts. In a worst-case scenario, utilities with automatic switching and 24x7 control room save the first line of regular power. This would not apply to the small municipalities. He stated that it is likely if we do have a colder winter that it will decline the natural gas supply chain and will put upward pressure on the electric market, and therefore potentially rates.

VT Energy Plans – The Department of Public Service has released its draft Comprehensive Energy Plan for review. Comments are due December 20th, and VPPSA will be submitting comments on behalf of its members. Also, the State of VT's Climate Council will be releasing their draft Climate Action Plan sometime this month.

10. Other Business

Heather Moore stated that the Youth Project has posted positive messages reflecting the 2020 Survey results in the form of lawn signs throughout the Village.

Public Works Director Gary Denton provided an update on the status of the Electric Department's vehicles. The Bucket Truck parts came in sooner than anticipated and the work to install the new parts is taking place this week and should be done by the end of the week. We were able to obtain the documents necessary to put our Digger Truck back in service.

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Trustee member Sandra Ferland left the meeting at 7:40pm.

11. Executive Session – For the Purpose of Discussing Negotiations in Which Premature Public Knowledge May Compromise the Position of the Municipality.

Eli Gabuzda made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations in which premature public knowledge may compromise the position of the Municipality. Seconded by Leonard Charron. Unanimous. The Board entered Executive Session at 7:50pm. Amy Brewer entered Executive Session at 7:50pm. Amy Brewer exited Executive Session at 8:15pm and Jesse Bugbee entered Executive Session at 8:15pm. Sandra Ferland returned to the meeting at 8:42pm. Jesse Bugbee exited Executive Session at 9:10pm. Eli Gabuzda made a motion to re-enter the Board’s Regular Meeting. Seconded by Leonard Charron. The Board re-entered their Regular Meeting at 9:14pm.

There was no action taken as a result of discussion in Executive Session.

12. Adjourn

Having no other business, Eli Gabuzda made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Sandra Ferland. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abbey Miller
Director of Finance

These minutes were approved by the Board of Trustees at a Regular Board Meeting on January 11, 2022.