

**SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**May 31, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Mayor C. Ramsay  
Trustee J. Frank - arrived late      Trustee J. Coburn  
Trustee M. Ashley                      Supt. B. Hallahan  
Attorney G. Ducharme                Chief A. Mulkin  
Clerk/Treasurer S. Noble             Deputy Clerk G. Vesper

**ABSENT:** Trustee S. Kingston

**1. Pay vouchers and transfer funds** – Trustee Ashley made a motion to approve paying of vouchers and transfer of funds, seconded by Trustee Coburn. All in favor. Carries. (Trustees Frank and Kingston absent)

**2. Approval of Kaylee Sprague for Fire Dept. membership** – Trustee Coburn made a motion to approve Kaylee Sprague for Fire Dept. membership, seconded by Trustee Ashley. All in favor. Carries. (Trustees Kingston and Frank absent)

Trustee Frank arrived

**2. River Recreation Park presentation** – Mayor Ramsay turned the meeting over to Brooke James for the River Recreation Park presentation. Ms. James showed before and after pictures of various projects. It is much more than a water project for kayakers. They are planning to do a stream bed restoration, restore fish and wild life, white water rafting, enhance fish habitat and educate. The major construction will change it for the better using local material to relocate big rocks. They designed it with the environment in mind and they will build with spec's that are needed for the area. Brook asked if anyone had any questions from the report she sent out or about the pictures they just saw or something they might have heard in the community.

Trustee Coburn asked if the fish habitat was thought to be poor. They have been told by reputable people that the falls should be on the cascade side where the left side would inhibit fish hatcheries. There is a proposal by Brad Baldwin, a biologist who has joined our group, to put in an educational facility where students from the schools would come down and explore and learn about the life from the stream bed. It could reopen the Canton School defunct fish hatchery program.

Mayor Ramsay asked Brooke what she saw as the next step.

Brooke told the Board that the first thing they needed to do was determine the best natural site. The committee feels the best site is the one between Falls Island and Riverside (Site 3). They also need to make sure the landowners buy in, do fund raising, have a conceptual design, and ensure community participation and awareness.

Brooke told the Board that to connect the corridor they are all in agreement that the Fall Island/Riverside Dr. is the site to pursue. Does the Board want to support this project?

Trustee Coburn expressed support for site #3 with no money attached to the support at this point. The Board concurred and added that they had no issue with the committee moving ahead with talking to the Town for support and adjacent landowners.

The committee is going to move on to the next step and start talking with the land owners.

**3. Friends of the Canton Trail Presentation** – Baylor Johnson spoke on behalf of the people who use the trail. He is here tonight to talk about repair and maintenance of the trail on a regular basis. At the moment the trail is edging into unsafe. It is okay for just walking, but there are deep cracks. Very few skaters use it anymore because it has become an obstacle course and narrow tire bikes are really not safe to ride unless you are really paying attention to where you are going.

Baylor told the Board the committee wants to see the trail repaired and kept up. He told the Board he was willing to start the process and organize a club of users to work with.

He would like a commitment to future maintenance. It hasn't been repaved in at least five years. Now it is going to cost \$90,000 to repave the whole 3.3 miles. If we were doing it on a regular basis we could be repaving a portion ½ mile every year on a say six (6) year rotation. It would maintain it so it would never get in this condition again.

Mayor Ramsay told the Board it will discuss it; there were some good points made tonight. Fund raising has the Boards blessing. Baylor told the Mayor that he thought the fund raising would go better if he could say that the Village was matching or contributing in some manner. Mayor Ramsay told him she would rather have the details worked out with the Street Committee first and brought back to the Board for the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**5. Take action on demolition bids for 3-5 Gouverneur Street and 26 Gouverneur**

**Street** - Attorney Ducharme gave an over view of the law and what action can be taken. Mayor Ramsay spoke with the owner of 26 Gouverneur St. and she told her that she was talking with Shane Barr who might be interested in taking the house down.

She also told the Mayor she is retired, but has been called back into work but she was prepared if she had to, to come up in late July with some friends and take it down herself. The Mayor felt it seemed even iffier than the prior option.

At the Mayor's instruction Rusty e-mailed her a list of three contractors who did not bid, but who took down Vern Greens building for \$7500, considerably lower than any of the bids.

She also spoke with Harriet Stebbins, it was a very difficult phone call as she was in a lot of pain. She asked the Mayor not to call or write her any more, but to communicate with her lawyer.

The Mayor tried twice to convince her to list it as is with a realtor. She is so afraid it will cost her money she wouldn't do it. If nothing is done on it and the taxes aren't paid it will be lost to tax sale in 2012. Attorney Ducharme is not sure she is aware of that.

The Mayor is not ready to accept bids.

Trustee Coburn feels we should write her a letter and send some business cards for realtors and ask for reply by June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Brien explained about the asbestos and what the procedure and costs could be.

Mayor Ramsay asked Rusty about this and he told her the law about this is very hard to understand and he knows of no Department of Labor action against a Municipality, but given the fiscal difficulties of the state we could be the first. Apparently it would be less of a problem if the property owner takes care of it themselves.

Trustee Ashley feels that they need to be held responsible for their property. More assertive action needs to be taken.

Trustee Frank agrees.

Mayor Ramsay asked if the Board would consider accepting the bid for 26 Gouverneur Street.

Trustee Coburn feels he has to side with Trustee Ashley in terms of fairness to the neighbors and taxpayers we need to act on it.

Trustee Frank made a motion to reject the bids, seconded by Trustee Ashley. Vote Carries 3 to 1 to reject all bids. Trustee Coburn voted against. Carries

**6 . Take action on non-contract employee personnel policies and compensation-**

Trustee Coburn made a motion to approve the non-contract employees personnel policies and compensation agreement as presented, seconded by Trustee Frank. All in favor. Carries.

**7. Authorize the Mayor to sign the leachate contract with St. Lawrence County-**

Trustee Coburn made a motion to authorize Mayor Ramsay to sign the leachate contract with St. Lawrence County, seconded by Trustee Ashley. All in favor. Carries.

**8. Street Committee recommendations on parking meters –** The Street Committee recommend the dual-head meters at no cost to the Village.

**9. Lighting Committee Recommendations – ornamental lighting replacement for**

**Main Street reconstruction –** The Lighting Committee recommends that the lighting be extended to Park St. We have 26 lights now and we will need 31 if we extend to Park St. They recommend they be LED's.

Trustee Ashley asked if the DOT was going to be removing trees. The answer was “yes, all of them.” Is the road going to be wider? “No” only at the upper end of E. Main.”

Trustee Ashley made a motion to accept the lighting Committee's recommendation for the ornamental Lighting replacement for Main St.

Trustee Coburn made a motion to go into executive session at 5:20 pm, seconded by Trustee Frank. All in favor. Carries.

Trustee Frank made a motion to come out of executive session at 5:50 pm, seconded by Trustee Ashley. All in favor. Carries.

Trustee Coburn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 pm, seconded by Trustee Frank. All in favor. Carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace E. Vesper  
Deputy Clerk