



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
243 MAIN STREET • JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790
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Village Board

Gregory Deemie, Mayor
Richard Balles, Deputy Mayor
Bruce King, Trustee Martin Meaney, Trustee John Walker, Trustee

Minutes of a Work Session of the Johnson City Village Board held at 5:30pm on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 in the Municipal Building, 243 Main St., Johnson City

Present: Gregory Deemie, Mayor
 Richard Balles, Deputy Mayor
 John Walker, Trustee
 Bruce King, Trustee
 Martin Meaney, Trustee

Absent: None

Also Present: Cindy Kennerup, Village Clerk/Treasurer
 Jeff Jacobs, Attorney for the Village

The Board met with Pat Giblin and Clark Giblin with Harding Brooks Insurance Agency to discuss the Village's insurance program. Harding Brooks is a full service insurance agency. Ms. Giblin and Mr. Giblin would like to discuss the Village's long term and short term goals, review current plans and contracts, review options for plans, rates and items such as wellness programs. Ms. Giblin reviewed the packet of information they provided to the Board regarding health insurance. Mr. Giblin spoke regarding commercial insurance. Mr. Giblin asked when was the last time the Village had the property and casualty insurance reviewed. Mayor Deemie stated a year ago. Mr. Giblin explained the process they would undergo to review the Village's property and casualty insurance and the services that they provide. Mayor Deemie explained that Trustee King is in charge of the insurance committee. Trustee King asked if they would need letters making them the broker of record in order to do their analysis. Ms. Giblin explained that there are 2 different broker of record letters. For the health insurance, they would need an "authorization to release" letter. That does not change them to our broker but will allow them to communicate with Excellus to get the information they need. Mr. Giblin explained that on the property and casualty end, they would not need a letter but our incumbent broker could block every carrier they deal with. In doing an RFP, they could not quote the same companies that our incumbent agent quotes. It is different on the health insurance side. More than one company could have an authorization letter. Trustee King explained that the insurance committee is made up of the union heads and explained what the Village has done in the past when looking at brokers. Trustee Balles asked if they are currently working with any municipalities. Mr. Giblin stated nothing close. There are a couple in the outlying areas. McDonough is one of them, he doesn't know the other ones. They have done quotes for several municipalities. Trustee King asked about the health insurance/Excellus - how many contracts does their company oversee. Ms. Giblin stated that she does not know the number. Trustee Meaney asked if the bonus options under the health insurance are open to us now. Ms. Giblin stated yes. Some of them are free. Trustee Meaney asked if we are taking advantage of this. Trustee King stated that in the past, there were items that were not available to us because of the policy we have. Trustee Meaney asked about the last time a review was done. Mayor Deemie explained that every year Haylor, Freyer and Coon comes in and goes through everything page by page. Mr. Giblin stated that a comprehensive analysis is available at no cost. The Village's health insurance renews June 1st. The PPO for the retirees is calendar year. Property and casualty renews on July 1st.



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

The Board met with Mark Bowers, Peg Johnson and Stephanie Brewer with the Department of Public Art. Their main objective is to improve the public realm through public art. They have been working in the City of Binghamton for the last 4 years. They reviewed projects and neighborhoods where they worked in the City and explained the Mural Fest. This year they want to bring the Mural Fest to Johnson City in and around Floral Avenue Park. Ms. Johnson further explained their projects. They do pay the professional artists a small amount. The Chenango County Arts Council has funded them for the last 4 years. Mayor Deemie stated that two of their panels are on the Victory building. The group reviewed areas in Floral Park that they would put murals on including the bathroom, the storage, and the pool shed. They would also reach out to adjacent property owners to see if they were interested in having murals on their buildings. All of the murals they have done in Binghamton have not been vandalized. They work with the people in the neighborhood from the ground up to gather ideas. Trustee Balles explained that our parks buildings have graffiti proof paint on them and asked about the type of paint they use. Ms. Johnson explained the paint. Mr. Bowers explained the make-up of their group. They are looking for the Board's permission to do these projects in the Village. Ms. Johnson explained that they work with their client on content and themes. They discussed the possibility of doing something in the future with the boarded up building on Avenue B. There is an economic development benefit to this kind of work. Trustee Balles asked about the life span of the mural. Ms. Johnson stated it depends on the material and paint but on average 10 years. Trustee Walker asked if there was any cost to the Village. Mr. Bowers stated no there is not. Ms. Johnson stated that they do have insurance and would write a policy with the Village named as an additional insured. Mayor Deemie asked them to fill out a parks reservation form. Mayor Deemie stated that he does not have any issues with them doing any of the buildings at Floral Park. Trustee Balles asked about security and parking. Mayor Deemie stated that we could work something out. Trustee Meaney asked about a time table of repairing in a mural in case it gets vandalized. Ms. Johnson stated that could take care of it on a timely basis – within a month.

Mayor Deemie spoke to the Board about the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Center for Community Design Research project that the Village verbally agreed to late last year. The Village had decided to not move forward as it was a duplication of work the BOA committee will be doing. The Village received a bill for \$2200.17 from EFS for the work they did even though there was no signed contract. We received a quote but no contract. Mrs. King with ESF asked us to at least pay for one of her trips to the Village (\$86.50) and for the assistant she hired (\$604.00) for a total of \$690.50. Trustee Meany stated he had asked if there was any conflict with anything else when we first proposed this project. Mayor Deemie stated that we didn't realize that the BOA project was going to do the same thing at the same time. We found that out afterwards. Since the Village initially gave a verbal okay to move forward, the Board agreed to pay the \$604.00 for the assistant.

Mayor Deemie explained that he has been speaking to BC Transit about 3 bus stops on Main Street. The Mayor will be asking them to remove the stops in front of Giblin's, the UHS employment office and Traveling Scissors. This will leave bus stops near Save A Lot, the Verizon building and near CVS/the Post Office. Trustee Walker asked why. Mayor Deemie explained that we are having many issues with people waiting for the bus using the storefronts as bathrooms and Chief Dodge said it has become a handful to deal with at times and asked the Mayor if he could do something about it. The business owners have also asked for them to be removed. Trustee Walker asked if that will put a burden on the good people that use the buses that will have to walk further to the stops. Mayor Deemie stated that Main Street is only 4 blocks. Trustee King commented about handicapped people that rely on the buses. Mayor Deemie stated that he rarely sees the bus stops in this corridor being used. Trustee King stated that the buses don't stop if there is no one waiting at the stop. He asked if the



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

county knows how many times they stop at those stops. Mayor Deemie stated that the county said they consistently stop there but they do not have numbers. Grant Writer Dai Korba is looking into putting shelters in at the stops at either end. Trustees King and Meaney stated that the shelters did not work last time they were put in - they were destroyed. Mayor Deemie stated that he does not remember them before. They county will have to post the stops before they remove them. Trustee Meaney asked if we can do it on a 6 or 9 month basis and see what the feedback is. Trustee Walker asked about holding a public hearing on this issue. Mayor Deemie stated that the stops are the county's, not the Village's.

Mayor Deemie explained that regarding the travel requests that were discussed at the last meeting. It turns out that the wrong forms were being used. He sent out the correct forms and updated the amount for meals to \$45.00. Lodging is \$120.00 and it has been for a while. He also took out the breakfasts and dinners and just put in meals. They are going to put the ones that were denied for lunch before back through since they were using the wrong forms. Mayor Deemie told the Board he is looking for feedback. Trustee Meaney suggest taking the word maximum off of the lodging section.

Mayor Deemie stated that he spoke to Tom Augostini about the lights on the Service Road and the Lester Avenue lights. He is supposed to be taking care of that.

Mayor Deemie asked the Board to review the e-mail he sent about the plumbing and electrical licenses.

Library Lease - Mayor Deemie stated that he heard back for a realtor that deals with commercial property. He stated that \$1,000/month is reasonable for a lease amount for that building.

Mayor Deemie explained that we met with Mr. Walikas at this property on Deyo Hill Road to discuss his issue. Trustee Meaney stated that the sewage treatment plant superintendent believes that the Hilltop Nursing Home should be on the GHD and she is going to look into that.

Mayor Deemie asked the Board to think about the issues regarding trash fees and having a dumpster which was brought up in a letter from Mr. Robler (copies of the letter were given to Board in early December).

The Board reviewed the agenda and the resolutions.

Arthur Avenue sewer issue - Trustee Balles explained his feelings on the issue and reviewed the history of the property.

Trustee Meaney asked if the Water Department knows if there is a leak at a residence. Mayor Deemie explained that they don't know if there is an actual leak. There is a high usage report that is printed every quarter. Trustee Meaney asked if there was any way we could communicate with these residents that they are on our high usage report. Mayor Deemie stated that the Water Department was doing that at first but there were so many it would be almost be a full time job. Trustee King stated that the program can show the date and time of the high usage. Mayor Deemie stated that the Water Department would need to go into the home and get a 90 day usage report from the meter. People have the ability to monitor their own usage by watching their meters.

Trustee Meaney asked how much the partial funding was for the Police grant. Mayor Deemie stated that it is half of the cost of the car. Approximately \$15,000.00. Trustee Walker asked if that includes the lights and computers. Attorney Jacobs explained that he believes it is fully loaded. Trustee Meaney



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

asked didn't we bond for a new patrol car that was around \$40,000.00 and was fully loaded. Mayor Deemie stated yes but then he thought we told them to use seizure money for that.

Trustee Meaney asked about the purchase of a new cherry desk for \$900.00. Mayor Deemie explained that was for Bob Bennett's new desk. He moved into the office where the water department was, Mike Sherba moved into Bob's old office and Dai Korba moved into Mike's old office. There was no desk in Bob's new office. Trustee Meaney asked if we had an extra desk in the building and felt that the cost was too much. Mayor Deemie stated that it is a large wrap around desk and it is not really a cherry desk. It is a laminate material.

Trustee Meaney asked about computers purchased for the Police Department and would like a heads up next time before the purchase order comes through. Mayor Deemie and Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup explained that we already approved that - it was a grant. Trustee Meaney apologized.

Trustee Walker asked about the taxes the Village is paying on certain properties - including Town taxes on Village Hall because of the cell towers now on the building. Attorney Jacobs stated that when you engage in a non-governmental function (like a lease to a private company), the assessor can look at the revenue for that and can charge for a portion of that. Trustee Walker questioned the Village paying Town taxes on 2 of our building because of cell towers but we don't pay County taxes. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup stated that yes we do and we have been but going forward that will be exempt because we spoke to the assessor. Mayor Deemie and Trustee Balles stated that issue never came up in all the discussions about putting the cell towers on our buildings. Trustee Meaney asked how Brown Street is exempt - they built a large structure there. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup stated that tower is not on the building - she doesn't know why it is exempt.

Trustee Balles asked about a Bill's Pools and Spas hydrant payment. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup explained that when those companies purchase water, they have to pay in advance. If they don't use all of the water, they are reimbursed for the difference.

Trustee King asked about 2 invoices for the Water Department for work done by Feduke Ford on a vehicle which appear to be the same. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup explained that the work was already in process but once they got into it they discovered that more work was needed. Trustee Walker stated that he was told that we go to the dealership if the vehicle is under warranty otherwise we go to a garage and asked why we went to the dealership for this. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup stated that she does not know. Mayor Deemie stated that it was an extensive issue and may be something that only Ford could fix.

The Board discussed street light issues in parts of the Village. (Part of the discussion was cut off on the recording). Mayor Deemie explained that he will be attending a Town of Union meeting to discuss this.

Trustee Meaney asked about the Gross Receipts tax list. He did not see UHS on the list.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

A motion to enter into executive session at 7:15pm to discuss Planning Personnel was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee King. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

A motion to exit the executive session at 7:27pm was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned at 7:31pm.

Cindy Kennerup
Village Clerk/Treasurer

CK/db

Recordings of the Village Board meetings and work sessions are available for review through the Village Clerk/Treasurer's Office.