

Derby Line, Vermont
Trustees Meeting
September 3, 2019
Derby Line Village Hall

Call to Order:

Present were Trustees Richard Creaser, Lindsay Brainard and Keith Beadle.

Also, present were Lynn & David Bachelor, Nancy Olney, Melody & Andre Ricard, Colleen Sealander, Karen Jenne, Laurie Moss, Clerk & Treasurer and Madeleine Roy, Assistant Clerk & Treasurer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard Creaser at 6:30 pm.

The issue of a sewer backup on Patenaude St. was added to the agenda.

Lindsay moved that the reading of Rules of Procedure be waived. Keith seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2019 Regular Trustees Meeting:

Lindsay made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular Trustees meeting of Aug. 20, 2019 as written. Richard seconded. Motion carried.

Tabled Items:

- 1) Stanstead Sewer Treatment Plant Reconstruction – to be discussed at this meeting
- 2) AT & T Road Access Permit – no new information has been received
- 3) Heating Oil Prices for Village Hall & Garage – to be discussed at this meeting

Old Fire Station/Garage:

Brian Fletcher was unable to attend, but sent word that the old fire station behind the Rural Edge building on Caswell Ave. is in very poor and dangerous condition as well as having several trees and brush growing up around it. He feels something should be done to either repair and clean it up, or demolish it. Lindsay moved to table this issue until Brian can attend a meeting to fully discuss it and go with the Trustees for a site visit. Keith seconded. Motion carried. **Tabled.**

Stanstead Sewer Treatment Plant:

This section of the meeting was held as the Special Informational Meeting regarding the reconstruction of the sewer treatment plant in Stanstead in anticipation of the sewer bond vote on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019.

Richard gave a very comprehensive overview of the need for the sewer plant reconstruction and the finances associated with it. A \$2 million bond was approved by the Derby Line voters for our share of the reconstruction, but in the interim, it appears \$2 million will not be enough. Another \$300,000 will possibly be needed to finish the project. Thus, the need for the additional bond vote.

Keith explained that a new agreement between Derby Line and Stanstead is now being formulated to afford a more active role by Derby Line over the next several decades. The agreement will include safeguards to be sure representatives of both municipalities look at the plant regularly to be sure it is being properly maintained, as well as hiring a professional to inspect it periodically. Paul Guiliani, the village's attorney, has included all the village's suggestions in the agreement and has forwarded the agreement to the bond bank for their review.

Lindsay noted that also to be in the agreement is making sure that the flows from each municipality are each measured and recorded regularly so that costs to each municipality can be set equitably.

Following a question from Lynn Bachelor about a possible problem with the acquisition of steel for this project, Richard explained that the village has received a waiver from the U. S. federal government indicating that steel or iron can be acquired from Canada or the U.S.

Richard explained that based on the reconstruction costs, sewer rates for each Derby Line unit will increase from the \$357.00 annually to \$796.00 annually. If the present plant had been kept up properly over the years, we would have seen small increases each year rather than this large increase all at once.

In answer to Karen Jenne's question as to whether the Trustees have searched for other grants to fund some of

this project, Richard explained that most funding sources cannot be combined with federal grants. He also noted that there are more federal grants available for new systems being built rather than re-builds.

Nancy Olney asked what would happen if either municipality decides that Derby Line is to stop utilizing the Stanstead plant. Keith noted that the new agreement includes a section that Derby Line cannot be shut off until Derby Line can find an adequate alternative to sending sewage to Stanstead.

Karen asked if U.S. standards are stricter than Canada's for phosphorus and other chemicals in the treatment process. Richard explained that Canada's standards are stricter and because Derby Line is discharging in Canada, we have to go by their standards.

It was discussed that possibly higher fire and sewer protection fees might be considered for vacant properties like those owned by people who go away for the winter. These fees were adjusted earlier this year and will be looked at again when the new sewer rates go into effect. It was also noted that we could also add a "Bond Repayment Fee" on quarterly bills.

Sewer Bond Vote:

Laurie announced that the bond vote for the needed additional \$300,000.00 has been warned for Thursday, September 5, 2019 from 9 am to 6 pm. She will be paying the Justices of the Peace who will be manning the sign-in and sign-out tables minimum wage.

Heating Oil Prices for Village Hall & Garage for Winter of 2019 – 2020:

Madeleine provided a spreadsheet of prices quoted by four local oil distributors for consideration. Keith moved that the village buy oil this winter from Oil Supply Corp. based on 1900 gallons total at a price of \$2.30 per gallon. Lindsay seconded. Motion carried.

Friendship Flags:

Laurie advised that she has been asked by Colin Carter of North Country Flag Co. if the village would consider buying his Friendship Flags, which are a combination of the U.S. and Canadian flags. Richard stated that, in concept, they are a good idea, but there are laws that exist on how the U.S. flag is to be presented and flown and this model does not follow the law. The Trustees decided not to buy these flags.

Sewer Backup on Patenaude St:

Laurie advised that Charlie & Barbara Musgrove on Patenaude St. have experienced another slight sewer backup. Brian knows that the problem is located in front of the Chris Hackett trailer. He and the road crew will be repairing it this week.

Business from Trustees, Treasurer and Road Foreman:

Loan for the Caswell Ave. Sidewalk Project: Laurie indicated that she has just been advised that there is no bank assigned to loan the village the needed funds to pay the 20% of the village's portion of this project. The Trustees authorized her to seek quotes from local banks for a loan for this 20%.

Vacant Properties in Violation of Village Ordinance: Keith thanked Laurie for following up on the property next to his home on Pelow Hill. The cellar hole has been filled in and the area has been mowed and cleaned up.

Laurie noted that other letters sent to village residents in violation have been successful. The lawn has been mowed at the Catherine Dubois property on Main St. Melody advised that the car leaking oil on Beauchesne St. is no longer a problem. They have traded that vehicle. Laurie stated that a violation letter is going out this week to the Waters' on Beach St. for several violations.

Smoke Test of Sewer System: Lindsay asked if any word has been received from Denis Ducharme regarding the fix needed at this Caswell Ave. property. He explained that the smoke test was done recently through all sewer lines to find if the system is working properly and if any stormwater is being discharged via sewer pipes rather than stormwater pipes. A major pipe was found on the Ducharme property that was diverting water from a spring into the sewer system and a letter was sent him asking that he change that pipe to divert water to the stormwater pipes. No word has yet been received from him. Laurie agreed to follow-up. **Tabled.**

New Business from the Audience:

Melody noted that they have been keeping the fire hydrant near their home clear of snow in the winter, but she

has been told that this should not be done as the hydrant might freeze. Richard stated that it should not make a difference as our pipes are charged, as opposed to dry hydrants. He agreed to find out for sure and report at the next meeting. **Tabled.**

Karen noted that a manure pit is being built at the Davis Farm on the other side of the I-91 bridge on the way to Holland, and wondered if it is located in the International Water Co. source area. Richard noted that this pit is being built through the Orleans Co. Conservation District/VT Natural Resources Dept. and they should have addressed the water source protection.

Old business from the Audience (5-minute limit unless otherwise directed):

Parking in front of Derby Line Gardens: Colleen asked if the residents and/or the owner of Derby Line Gardens had been approached about the parking in front of that building as discussed in a previous Trustees' meeting. Without Brian or Jaret in attendance, it was not known if they have been approached. Colleen suggested that it might be better if they were to park on an angle rather than perpendicular to the street. The village could paint lines on an angle. Laurie agreed to call Rural Edge (owner) about this issue.

Executive Session: None

Next Meeting: The next regular Trustees' meeting is scheduled for Sept. 17, 2019.

Review and Sign Bank Statement: Yes

Warrants were Reviewed and Signed: Yes

The Last Check Printed: #15210

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeleine C. Roy, Assistant Village Clerk