

Derby Line, Vermont  
Trustees Meeting  
September 1, 2020  
Derby Line Village Hall

**Call to Order:**

Present were Trustees Richard Creaser, Sarah Webster and Keith Beadle.

Also, present were Jaret Judd, Karen Jenne, Nancy Olney, Melody Ricard, Pat Fisher, Charles Gross, Laurie Moss, Village Clerk and Madeleine Roy, Assistant Clerk.

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

Two additions were made to the agenda: 1) Old fire station/garage; 2) Gas tank removal/possible soil contamination at that location.

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

**Approval of Minutes of Aug. 4, 2020 Regular Trustees Meeting and Minutes of Aug. 25, 2020 Special Meeting:**

Keith made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular Trustees meeting of Aug. 4, 2020 as written. Richard seconded. Motion carried.

Sarah made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of Aug. 25, 2020 as written. Keith seconded. Richard briefly explained the reason for this special meeting was to set the new year's tax rate. The rate is higher because of the new Paving Roads Fund that was approved at the annual meeting. Pat Fisher voiced her dismay with the increase in her tax bill, especially since her street is not paved. Motion carried.

**Tabled Items:**

- 1) Stanstead Sewer Treatment Plant Reconstruction & MOU – no new information on this project.
- 2) Ditch along Maple St. – Jaret stated that a representative of the State of VT was supposed to come and look at this issue last week, but never showed up.

**Select Chair of Board of Trustees and Set Meeting Dates & Time:**

Keith made a motion to appoint Richard Creaser as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Sarah seconded. There being no other nominations, the motion was carried.

Keith moved to keep the Trustee meeting dates and time as the first and third Tuesdays of each month starting at 6:30 pm. Sarah seconded. Motion carried.

**Set Date & Time for Employee Evaluations:**

It was agreed to hold employee evaluations just prior to the Sept. 15, 2020 regular Trustees meeting at 6 pm. Motion carried.

**To set Water & Sewer Rates:**

Laurie provided a chart of the amounts yet to be billed for the balance of this fiscal year of \$66,201.90 for sewer and \$102,517.12 for water. Based on the number of users in each category, the quarterly charges figure to be \$81.00 for sewer and \$92.00 for water for a total of \$173.00. The Trustees agreed to set the water and sewer rates at a total of \$173.00 per quarter for each of the next two quarters. Motion carried.

**Manhole Cover and Sewer Backup on Caswell Ave:**

Jaret reported that the village road crew was set to repair the manhole cover on Caswell Ave. nearest Pelow Hill that was discussed in a previous meeting. However, two days prior, a sewer backup was reported near that location which had to be fixed immediately. In so doing, a second manhole was discovered near the library that no one knew existed, which is about 400 feet beyond the first manhole. After the backup was repaired, they ran a camera down through the line to be sure it was clear, but the camera cable is not long enough to check that entire 400-foot length. This is all old clay pipe that has joints every 18 inches making it difficult for the camera to be run through. Repairing the first manhole and repaving around both manholes will take up most of this year's budget for Sewer Repair. Jaret indicated that he has been planning on creating an up to date record of all manholes and water and sewer shutoffs at each property in the village but has not yet had the time.

**Old Fire Station/Village Garage & Gas Tank Removal/Soil Contamination:**

Keith explained again that he had been contacted by Matt Becker of the VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) about the need to test the soil near the old village garage on Ducharme Dr. even though the old gas tank and several truckloads of soil had been removed 25 years ago and stored in the proper manner. Becker stated that he still needs to drill in at least one place on Ducharme Dr. to be sure there is no contamination. This will cost the village anywhere from \$1,500 to \$5,000 for which there are no grants available at this time. Keith stated that we have two options. We either appeal to the Director of the Agency of Natural Resources because of the burden this will place on our small village. Or, we go ahead, have the work done and pay the bill. Jaret stated that he had spoken with Denis Ducharme who thinks there is a pipe where that old gas tank was removed through which a soil sample might be taken. He will pursue that further. Keith will call Gonyaw Environmental Services of Newport, VT for information on their cost for drilling a well. He also agreed to call Brian Smith or other state legislators to see if they can help us to convince ANR that we cannot afford this extra work.

Keith also reported that he has been contacted by someone who is interested in purchasing the old fire station/garage, although no specific amount was discussed. Karen provided the town's most recent valuation of that property, which shows \$23,200 for the land and \$18,200 for the building. This seems very high as the land is not easily accessible and the building is in very poor shape. It will be advisable to have it appraised before any sale is considered. Jaret again brought up the issue that they will have to find some place to store all the village's picnic tables, trash cans, etc. if they no longer have this garage available.

Richard noted that before anything concerning sale of the property and possible building of something for storage is considered, we need to deal with ANR and the soil contamination issue.

**Business from Trustees, Treasurer and Road Foreman:**

Paving: Jaret stated that they are still waiting for the paving company to come and pave and patch on Caswell Ave. and Baxter Ave.

Flushing of hydrants: Jaret also stated that they do plan on flushing this fall as usual. Announcements of times will be made public.

**New Business from the Audience:**

Trees that appear to be diseased: As he agreed at the annual meeting, Charles Gross reported that he did look into the reason for some of our trees appearing to be diseased. He found that a fungus is causing the trees to look diseased, most likely because of this summer's high heat and humidity. Hopefully it will be gone by next year and the trees rejuvenated.

Oil Price for Village Hall & Garage: Madeleine reported that Oil Supply Corp. will be supplying heating oil this winter for \$1.50 per gallon as opposed to last winter's \$2.30 per gallon.

Property Tax Increase: Nancy Olney asked, for this year only, if a payment plan could be set up by residents who are burdened by their tax increase and waive the usual penalties. Richard said this certainly can be considered at our next meeting.

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

Melody Ricard asked if there was any new information on ATVs. Jaret indicated that the three streets open now are being used, but one ATV was caught by the local sheriff going up Caswell Ave. recently. This is not one of the streets they are allowed to use.

**Executive Session:** No

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Sept. 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm preceded by an Executive Session at 6 pm for employee evaluations.

**Review and Sign Bank Statement:** Yes

**Warrants were Reviewed and Signed:** Yes

**The Last Check Printed:** #15853

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeleine C. Roy, Assistant Village Clerk