

Village of Derby Line, Vermont  
Trustees Meeting  
October 17, 2023  
Derby Line Village Hall

**Call to Order:**

Present were Trustees Richard Creaser and Sarah Webster.

Also present were Kevin Simoneau, Karen Jenne, Chris Blais, Frank Davis, Denis Ducharme, Dennis Kelley, Jaret Judd, Road Foreman, Laurie Sanville, Village Clerk and Madeleine Roy, Assistant Clerk.

The regular meeting was called to order by Trustee Sarah Webster at 6:30 pm.

**Additions or Deletions to the agenda:**

- Chris Blais Sewer Backup
- Easement for Caswell Ave Retaining Wall Property

Sarah made a motion to waive the reading of Rules of Procedure. Richard seconded. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes of the Oct. 3, 2023 Regular Trustees Meeting:**

Since Dustin Horne was unable to attend this meeting, this issue was tabled to be voted on at the next meeting.

**Mutual Aid Agreement:**

Richard and Sarah agreed that the Mutual Aid Agreements, as completed by Laurie since the last meeting, should be sufficient to meet the needs of the village and the Towns of Derby and Holland. However, he did suggest adding the inclusion of hourly and equipment rates that would be charged by the Village of Derby Line to these towns. Laurie agreed to make these additions to the agreements and to send copies to the Chairs of each of the Town of Derby and Holland Selectboards.

Sarah made a motion to authorize the Trustees to sign the Mutual Aid Agreements with the Towns of Derby and Holland with the above-mentioned additions. Richard seconded. Motion carried.

**Old Village Garage on Ducharme Drive :**

Since the State of Vermont has confirmed in writing that there is no contamination from underground fuel tanks at this site, the village is now able to sell this property. Laurie agreed to ask Keith Beadle for the State's letter confirming this as he oversaw this project over the years. Richard noted that the town's grand list value of this property is \$23,200 for the land, which is 1.2 acres, plus \$18,200 for the building for a total of \$41,400. It was discussed that the village should probably engage a local realtor to list the property and oversee the sale of such, thus relieving the village of all the showings to potential buyers and the paperwork involved.

It was agreed to table this issue until the next meeting when Dustin can be present and to continue the discussion in Executive Session at that meeting.

**Monitoring the Tank Level at the Reservoir:**

A quote has been received from Champlin Associates of Essex Junction, VT of \$5,467.19 for a wireless alarm system and accompanying equipment for monitoring the level of water at the reservoir. Presently, Jaret is checking on the reservoir every other day to avoid the emptying of the reservoir as happened a few weeks ago. Richard noted that since the reservoir is owned by International Water Co. (IWC) this quote should be forwarded to them. Laurie agreed to forward to them with an explanation.

**Update on International Border Issues:**

Frank Davis stated he had had a conversation with Todd Phillabaum, the Customs Port Director in Derby Line, regarding the buildings on Main Street that the government has purchased. Phillabaum stated that GSA now owns them, but town and village records show that Customs and Border Protection owns them. However, Phillabaum did confirm to Frank today that he has found out that Customs does actually own them. Frank has contacted Senators Welch and Sanders' offices for clarification. They confirmed that there are no plans to purchase any other properties other than the blue apartment building, the old Caswell building and the Brown's Drug Store building, and that these three are to be demolished for better traffic flow. Even though they stated that there are no plans for additional purchases, Dennis Kelley stated that he has been approached three different times by different government agencies about possibly selling his house to them. He is frustrated by

Customs as they are making it very difficult for him to use his own driveway by putting up cones for traffic flow coming up the hill from Canada. They have also mentioned putting up a fence which would make his driveway narrower than it already is. A discussion followed regarding Customs' placing cones in the road that is owned by the village, as well as the sidewalk, and, in effect, keeping people from being able to park in those parking spaces. Frank and Laurie have estimated that the loss of tax and water and sewer revenue from the three buildings is about \$10,000 per year. Frank will continue his conversations with all parties to hopefully find a solution that is beneficial for the village.

**Chris Blais Sewer Backup Issue:**

The Sept. 14, 2023 letter received by Chris from VLCT states that the village's coverage would be in excess of Chris' homeowner insurance coverage. Chris stated again that she does not want to submit this claim to her homeowner's insurance as this is the second time this problem has happened in less than a year, and her insurance premium will most likely go up as a result. Her insurance has a \$1,000 deductible. She also reminded everyone that the village Trustees did state at a previous meeting that since the problem causing the damage in her home was in a village sewer line and not on her property, the village would pay for the damage. Bills for the damage at Chris' home have been received: Fred's Energy for \$1,069.92 and Restoration Unlimited for \$2,068.00 for a total of \$3,137.92. Chris expects a higher electric bill for the several days she had to run fans.

Sarah made a motion to authorize Laurie Sanville to pay out a total of \$3,500.00 for the Fred's Energy and Restoration Unlimited bills with the balance to Chris Blais for higher electrical costs, such funds to come from the village's Sewer budget. Richard seconded. Motion carried.

**Easement for Caswell Ave Retaining Wall:**

Laurie submitted a draft of a Warranty Deed of Easement received from the village attorney that has questions to be answered or blanks to be filled in. Richard stated that after reading this lengthy document, the section about utilities can be removed as there are no utilities where the retaining wall will be built. Laurie has received a copy of the property owners' deed as the attorney has requested and it was agreed that this easement should be recorded at the Town of Derby.

**Quotes for Replacement of Roofs on Village Salt Shed and Garage:**

One quote has been received. Laurie has advertised in the local paper requesting bids, but nothing more has been received. The ad states that bids will be accepted up to the end of the business day on November 7, 2023.

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

Village of Stanstead Invoice: Laurie has received a reminder invoice in the amount of \$252,706.03, which includes interest of \$621.58. The Stanstead Board had agreed that Derby Line does not owe this full amount as it is over and above the amount agreed upon in the Memorandum of Understanding, Laurie has paid them the final \$97,402.60 this week. She agreed to contact Stanstead's office to remind them of this.

Storm Drain Covers: Kevin noted that a storm drain grate needs to be replaced on the north end of Main St. It was agreed that two should be purchased and have one on standby.

Flushing of Hydrants: Jaret confirmed that flushing will start this week.

Baling of Leaves: Jaret also stated that baling has started, and good bales will soon be available for those wanting to buy them.

Class II License Classes: Jaret stated he has started Class II license classes for water systems.

Village Truck Mechanical Issues: Jaret noted several issues they have had with Northpoint with needed repairs to the village truck causing a two-week hiatus of not being able to use the truck. There was a supply chain issue on the recalled wheel studs and fuel pump for which there was a serious supply chain issue. The truck also needed new brakes. All repairs have now been done.

**New Business from the Audience:**

Karen asked if the IWC annual meeting has been scheduled since it is always held in November. No meeting has yet been scheduled. Laurie agreed to contact Stanstead.

**Old business from the Audience (5-minute limit unless otherwise directed):** None

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting will be on November 7, 2023, in the village hall at 6:30 p.m.

**Executive Session:** None

**Review and Sign Bank Statement:** No

**Warrants were Reviewed and Signed:** Yes

**The Last Check Printed:** #18154

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Madeleine C. Roy, Assistant Village Clerk