

Bennington Board of Selectmen
May 18, 2021 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Cleary, David Hardwick, David Foster

Public: Resident, Jeannette Regis

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Appointments – 6:00 – Scott Liljenberg & Matt Blanchard – Motion by Cleary to in accordance with RSA 91A:3(c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Seconded by Hardwick. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

At 6:15 Chairman Cleary motioned to enter out of the non-public session. Seconded by Hardwick. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Decision: Matt Blanchard will meet with Scott Liljenberg and look at the Bible Hill Road apron and what is needed to level it for easy access. They will also discuss the berm that will be removed and install a ditch line to the brook.

Gazebo – it was discussed, Scott Liljenberg will mow it and care for the property at no expense to the town. The Historical Society and Liljenberg will create and provide the Board with a policy for the use of the Gazebo.

Sound Shed – the location, and possible re-location of the Sound Shed was discussed. This will be revisited at a later date.

6:30 Keith Nason joined the meeting via zoom – Keith discussed the grant that has been approved, paperwork was before the Board for signatures. 100% grant funding for the LED Message Board, approximate funds are approximately \$19,975.00. Though the grant reflects a 50% match, Nason explained the Town is NOT responsible for anything, this is a 100% grant.

The Select Board, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the EMPG as presented in the amount of \$19,975.00 to purchase an Electronic Message Board. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$39,950.00, in which the town will be responsible for a

50% match (\$19,975.00). Further, James Cleary, Chairman of Selectboard, is authorized to sign all documents related to the grant.

Discussion continued about removing the retaining wall on the _____ side of the Fire Station, this may be a location for a small building to store barriers and more for the Fire Department. Keith will meet with Matt to discuss the removal of the retaining wall.

Lastly, Keith and Selectboard discussed meeting with Crotched Mountain Ski & Ride and the Emergency departments, inclusive of the Code Enforcement officer to discuss going forward with security at the mountain. We will try for the week of June 8th at 6:00 pm.

Minutes: May 11, 2021 Select board Meeting Minutes were reviewed, Selectman Hardwick made the motion to change the minutes to reflect Newhall field should be replaced with Sawyer field and the care and scheduling of Sawyer Field, should be consulted with Scott Liljenberg &/or Bethany Craig first. Scheduling is done through the Town office. Seconded by Chairman Cleary, all were in favor. Minutes will reflect this change.

Financial: Payroll Register – May 20, 2021
Water Sewer Fee Schedule & Operating agreement was signed

Old Business: VFW follow-up – Jim Craig has checked out the electrical deficiencies the DOL had identified, all are complete. Mike Young will repair the handicapped ramp. Jarvis Adams Plumbing & Heating will turn the water back on as soon as possible, McGurty Maintenance will clean as soon as possible. The VFW representative has been notified and asked if they want the stove, if not, Matt Blanchard will remove the stove and the hood. After that the building will be useable for the public. Chairman Cleary will see if any local contractors are available to continue with improvements of the building.

Cupola – JAY Contracting, LLC will be asked to provide a quote again and the office will see if there are any contractors interested in the repairs.

New Business: Audit continues to move forward.

County Sheriff Follow-up – Davidson reported she spoke with Chris Connolly he would like a clear directive as to level of coverage, scattered shifts vs. consistent coverage. Discussion about this followed. Deb Davidson will get together with Chief Sullivan and discuss this further.

Dept. Head Updates: Matt Blanchard updated the Board as to how things are going on the highway department. All positive feedback. The town was 90% swept, the core to the sweeper broke, it will be \$680.00 with shipping, Matt was requesting Selectboard approval to purchase

the core and repair the sweeper. Selectmen approved this request. Matt Blanchard further mentioned the backhoe will be needing new tires shortly. Matt also mentioned that John and Dwayne are scheduled to take the Certification for Solid Waste Operator class on June 9th. Matt will come to the meeting next week to follow-up with the Board. He will also provide a weekly project plan to the Board.

Correspondence:

Review/Approve/Signatures: MS-232 – Report of Appropriations was signed by the Board.

7:30 pm with nothing further Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Foster. Voted all in favor.

The next scheduled Selectmen’s Meeting will be Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Davidson, Interim Town Administrator