

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**August 24, 2021 6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** James Cleary, David Hardwick, David Foster

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**Appointments:** 6:00 PM – Road Agent, Matt Blanchard, & DJ Wing were present to discuss the Highway Department progress. Selectmen welcomed DJ.

- Working with Gary & Fran, learning new things daily, projects they have been working on:
- Storm Clean Up
- Repairs
- Pipe on Gillis Hill Road
- Culvert on Durgin Road is going to be next. Discussed the options for the culvert such as go down at least 1' and lay down some gravel, lay fabric, spray with liquid calcium, reclaiming the crown, possible pave over for approximately \$58,000. The Town will do the culvert change over, Advanced Paving will do the rest of the work. The fabric will keep the water out, liquid calcium will bind it all together.

Pierce Road needs to be paved

DJ has gotten his medical card, he is preparing for the written test, then the driving test. Matt will let Selectman Foster know when the State will be on sight for the driving test, to include firemen at the same time.

DJ will be working on the pick up tomorrow, it being an inspection month it needs some work to pass. The other truck also needs a few items before inspection.

Matt was reminded to mark out the VFW for Dig Safe to come. Matt will call Chairman Cleary in the morning between 7:30-8:00 to meet at the VFW.

Matt has received some bids for the Fire Station retaining wall, \$5,800.00 – discussion as to what is needed followed, resulting in likely a reduced bid.

6:15 – Meredith & Dave Desaulniers – to discuss property on Switzer Rd., Mr. & Mrs. Desaulniers discussed if they could use frontage on Switzer Rd., providing they upgrade and access the property via Deering. They also asked who would respond for Fire/Rescue? Mrs. Desaulniers

referred to a similar agreement the Town had made with Dave Parker, and wondered if they could do the same. The Town would not have to maintain the road, they realize that.

Selectmen indicated that an agreement could likely be met, there was a precedence set with Dave Parker. Selectman Foster said he would get in touch with Antrim Fire/Rescue and Deering Fire Chief to see if perhaps they could reach an agreement to share the responsibility with Deering, Bennington and Antrim. Foster indicated he is aware of other situations that are similar and agreements were able to be met. Of course, if the physical driveway is on the turnpike it is likely the address would be a Deering number. If they are able to upgrade a few hundred feet of Switzer Road, that would provide the road frontage for Bennington, allowing for a Bennington address. Foster stated he would get in touch with the Desauliners after he speaks with Deering and Antrim. They exchanged phone numbers, Selectman Foster will be in touch with Mr. & Mrs. Desauliners.

6:30 – Keith Nason – Update with BOS - Whittemore Lake closure was discussed. Selectmen discussed two of the three had no idea what had happened. It shouldn't be brought to the Boards attention when something happens in town via Facebook or phone calls from residents. Keith went over what happened, in the future he will be sure to notify all three Selectmen if something major should happen. Keith verified there was no harm to residents who live on the lake, which appeared to be one concern. The State told Keith there is no danger and the beach was opened up again. Keith didn't think it was appropriate to knock on doors at 12:30 am. Selectmen understood. Keith did contact the Health Officer at 12:30 though, so he was aware. Discussion continued about possibly starting an Emergency Contact List. Discussion followed. No decision was made, all thought it was a good idea.

School Bus Drop-off was discussed. Keith reported the Pierce School Principal discussed with him that they don't have a good drop-off location and would like to use the Town Parking lot twice a day for about 20 minutes. Selectmen said that it would be fine with them. Keith will get in touch with the Principal and update her.

Keith discussed the State Warehouse and their cleaning out the warehouse, he was able to receive PPE, cots, chairs, and more for FREE.

WiFi was switched to TDS, the town no longer is using ComCast for any buildings needs. TDS is running great. Discussion if using TV services was advantageous to the town. No decisions were made. Dave Foster will look into what the total cost for this would be.

Chairman Cleary asked that Keith be sure to update the Emergency Management Director page on our website and have Jason Powers be listed as the Deputy EMD. Keith indicated he would take care of this.

**Minutes:** Accept August 17, 2021 minutes with minor changes.

**Financial:** Payroll Registers -  
A/P Registers –

**Old Business: Cupola** – Proposal from Guyer Roofing, not yet received. Deb will continue to call on a daily basis until she gets the proposal.

**VFW** – Piano removal was discussed, Selectmen agree it probably can be removed and disposed of, however before this happens the Selectmen would like to ask around and see if there is any historical value to the Piano.

The VFW roof has had some damage, which is causing the leak in the building. The Veterans have offered to do the repairs.

The VFW also needs to doors replaced. Mike Young is going to take care of that, as he is also going to take care of the handi-capped ramp upgrade.

**Cleaning Services** – McGurty will not re-adjust their bid – McGurty \$7800.00/year; Pat Long/Becky Lambert - \$5,760.00 and town employees. Selectmen discussed the cleaning services. Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the bid from Patricia Long & Rebecca Lambert, \$18.00/hour, they will be part-time employees of the Town. Effective start date will be September 1, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Hardwick. Motion accepted. Town Administrator will notify all parties of this change

**New Business:** RSA 31:95b, a Public Hearing is needed to accept the ARPA funds. Sept 7, 2021 at 6:00 will be the hearing date. The funds will be used to update the water meters, and used for infrastructure improvements.

**Dept. Head Updates:** Code Officer, John Kendall regular office hours, Thursdays 5:30-7:00 begin September 1, 2021;

Transfer Station – Application for a new part-time employee was discussed. Selectmen approved this request. Jeannine Oullette will be hired, \$13.50/hour.

**Correspondence:**

**Review/Approve/Signatures:** Building Permits – Liljenberg & Hardwick

Tax Collector Conference – October 14/15, 2021 – Selectmen approved Cathy McGillicuddy and Deb Davidson attendance at this conference.

At 7:44 pm with nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting. The next scheduled Selectmen's meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitte,

Town Administrator, Debra Davidson