

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**November 9, 2021 6:02 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** David Hardwick, David Foster

**Absent:** James W. Cleary

Selectman Hardwick called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**Appointments: 6:02 Dennis McKenny** was present to represent Waste Water Commission. Dennis discussed the 2022 budget & ARPA Funds. –

- Proposed budget will include the S Bennington Rd., bridge project requiring the relocation of the existing waterline via a horizontal boring process, this is an estimated \$20,500, this should be included in the proposed budget as a separate line item. A high priority for the sewer mains is inspection by video camera. The amount of \$10,000.00 will allow 50% of the system to be done. Being a high priority with the goal of identifying any problems in advance of them becoming a crisis.
- SWSRF21 ARPA Pre-Application Update – the Town has received ½ of the ARPA Funds, the intention of these are for improvements to the water meter infrastructure. The estimated cost of the improvements is \$152,000 and will be paid, in full with this grant money. The estimated annual savings will be \$3,000.00/yearly. This will be reviewed in more detail with the Selectmen who have the final say.
- The Board will be asked to increase water and sewer rates as was done in 2019, 2020 was skipped due to the uncertainty of COVID-19. It is recommended to increase the rates in 2022 and 2023 with the goal of getting rates more current with the market and placing heavier reliance on the customers of the system to pay the annual operating costs.
- Water Bill Warrant for Commissioners to sign was presented and signed by Dennis, Tyler and/or John will stop in tomorrow to sign it as well.

Lastly, the Commission would like a standing of unpaid water bills, as well as the revenues for 2021 so far. Selectmen thanked Dennis for this presentation of the 2022 budget proposal.

**6:30 – DPW, Matt Blanchard** – to discuss 2022 proposed highway budget –

- Matt opened with discussing possibility of hiring a 3<sup>rd</sup> full time employee who would split time ½ with highway, ½ with transfer station. This was tabled until next week. Mowing for the town was discussed, Matt thought it would take a day. The highway would not do

the cemeteries. Increase in maintenance and repairs line item, it has been over spent the last few years so Matt suggested increasing it \$3,000 for 2022, increase in paving of \$5,000, increase in plowing/sanding of \$5,000. A new contract for winter hire, this line hasn't increased in three years. Salt prices has been exhausted in the last year, asking for \$25,000.

- Solid Waste – Matt suggested a rate increase for Tom to equal what Matt was making when he left the Transfer Station.

Selectman Foster discussed fuel discount prices potentially being offered by a local vendor. Discussion followed, no decision at this time. Foster further discussed the Road Schedule. Matt indicated that there will be more ditching in 2022 and they will start to rebuild roads. Matt has a Road Plan that he was given and will provide it to the office. Locating the master plan and utilizing this road plan will be beneficial to the town. Durgin is now done, next is Pine Meadows to Curtis Farm, then Old Greenfield Road. Old Greenfield Road needs a lot and will be very expensive once it is started. Selectmen thanked Matt for his presentation.

**7:00 – Steve Lord** – Mr. Lord was present to discuss a rededication of Capt. Butler portrait that will be done at the State House on Friday, December 3 at 3:00 pm. He invited Selectmen to attend, and if they cannot attend he hoped the town could be represented. Mr. Lord discussed Capt. Butlers connection to the Town of Bennington. Capt. Butlers father was the first person to make paper in NH, he was one of three to receive the Red Star flag. Ford left a book that has a lot of history regarding Capt. Butler and hoped the Town would accept it. Selectmen thanked him for his time, they will see if they, or a representative can attend the event on December 3.

**Minutes:** Motion by Selectman Hardwick to accept the minutes of October 26, 2021 as written. Seconded by Selectman Foster. Motion accepted.

**Financial:** Payroll Register  
A/P Register

**Old Business:** Cupola – Guyer & Sons have finished the repairs.

**VFW** – Water tank has been set, Jim Craig Scheduled to do the electrical work

**New Business:**

- Credit card policy – Tabled until next week.
- Town of Bennington Properties List was provided to the Selectmen

**Miscellaneous:** Benevolent Trust recommendations was discussed – Tabled until next week.

**Review/Approve/Signatures:** Abatement for Healey water bill - \$31.50 was approved.

With nothing further the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson