

Bennington Board of Selectmen
November 16, 2021 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Present: James Cleary, David Hardwick, David Foster

Appointments: 6:30 John Kendall – John was before the board to discuss a property on Switzer Rd. & a driveway on Onset Rd.

- **Switzer Rd.** - There is a one-acre lot on the Class VI section of Switzer Rd. that is selling, the closing is Friday. John referenced RSA 674:41 regarding Private Roads. The new owner would like to build a home on the lot. John is asking for guidance as to the requirements. The last house on the Class V is the Parker residence. Discussion followed.
 - Must be brought up to Class V standards, it is currently a non-conforming lot, must meet the setbacks.
 - Must meet setback requirements
 - Variance will be required, if the lot is a 100' x 100' it is not a buildable lot.

Selectmen cannot vote on this at this time.

- **Onset Rd** – The resident has a composting toilet, John has inspected it.
 - There is no water on the site and the generator is a noise concern.
 - Driveway Bond - John said he would support returning the driveway bond at this time. The work that was done on the driveway was done well, however it is only in two feet in. John Kendall indicated it will not impede the flow of rain, sleet, snow onto the road. It does not meet driveway standards; the culvert needs to be lowered and the cut of the driveway needs to be redone. However, at this time the bond can be returned, but if/when a building permit is applied for, the Town will require a new bond and the driveway **MUST** meet driveway regulations. Selectmen agreed to return the \$1500.00 bond at this time. A letter will be written and sent to the property owner
 - Rymes – a resident reported two propane tanks have been delivered to this site, no permit was applied for. John will go look at them and a letter will be written to the owners of Rymes.

- Nearby Driveway – a resident on Onset Rd. had concerns about his driveway and the side of the road washing into his driveway. Both Kendall and Road Agent, Matt Blanchard have inspected and it is not because of the Town Road, it is the driveway itself is built in such a way the washdown flows into the driveway.

7:00 Town Clerk – Deb Belcher was present to discuss her 2022 budget proposal. Deb mentioned there are three elections in 2022, she needs a new printer. There were a few items that were reduced. Deb did request a wage increase for both herself and her Deputy, Karen Belcher. She has requested her wage increase to \$20/hr., she has 25 years and has been a very loyal employee. Karen has worked for the Town for 16 years, she is making \$11.00/hr., and could take over any part of the job if necessary at any time. She is a very efficient worker and very loyal to the town, Deb asked that the Board of Selectmen consider \$15.00/hour for Karen’s position.

Discussion followed. Selectmen will get back to Deb Belcher with a decision about Karen’s wage and further thanked Deb for her time.

Minutes: Motion by Selectman Hardwick to accept the minutes of November 9, 2021 with some minor changes. Seconded by Selectman Foster. Motion passed.

Old Business: Cupola – Guyer & Sons the completed the job and the is roof no longer leaking. Selectmen discussed options for the lift needed to remove the old siren and have the new one installed. Selectmen Cleary will talk with Roblee and report back to the Board.

VFW – Paving and the handicapped ramp will begin this Thursday, November 18, 2021. 2022 we will budget for new doors at the VFW.

New Business:

- **Credit card policy** – Selectmen are reconsidering the credit card option. Discussion followed. This item was tabled.
- **Town of Bennington Properties List** – addresses need to be included

Miscellaneous:

- **Benevolent Trust** - Benevolent Trust donation recommendations for a resident to apply the funds towards their tax bill were discussed. Deb will contact the recommended resident.

- **Preliminary tax rate & Revised Revenues** - were discussed and approved. Tax increase of .95 cents. The largest portion of this increase in the ConVal School District with an increase of .75 cents. The Town increase is .12 cents, County increase of .10 cents and the State education was decreased by .02 cents.
- Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the tax rate as presented. Seconded by Selectman Hardwick. All in favor. The tax rate is set for \$30.34, a total increase of \$95.
- **T/H Rental Keys** -discussion regarding T/H rental and keys followed. The decision was made to have the police let those renting the space in and then again verify that everything is copasetic.

Review/Approve/Signatures: Selectmen signed an Intent to Cut for – M10 – Lot 47 & 47A.

Health Insurance - Selectmen discussed options for Health Insurances, no decisions were made. Deb will provide Selectmen three options for the next Selectmen's meeting.

Highway/Transfer Station – Selectmen briefly discussed options of a split position. Deb will provide Selectmen with costs associated to this for the next meeting.

Proclamation – Selectman Cleary reviewed a proclamation for School Choice Week, this item will be tabled until next week.

With nothing further, the next Selectmen's Meeting will be Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator