

# Bennington Board of Selectmen

February 22, 2022 6:00 PM

## Meeting Minutes

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

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

**Appointments:** 6:00 Conservation Commission – Joe MacGregor & John Manley were present as a result of the deliberative session. Chairman Cleary expressed the importance of working together, he assured the Conservation Commission the Board will not be a deterrent of their article.

Conservation Member, Joe MacGregor suggested having a handout available at voting explaining the intent of articles 18 & 19. MacGregor further explained, the article was not late, just because of the timing of the Conservation Commission meeting and the deadline for the submission it overlapped Selectmen having an opportunity to discuss it. The wording came directly from the Department of Revenue and in such, will not need to be on the warrant annually.

Conservation Member, John Manley discussed the importance of protecting the water resources of the Town and it is a priority. The aquifer must be protected for the future generations of the town.

Chairman Cleary mentioned the water resource protection area is already protected, and lots of the water is currently protected in Bennington.

Discussion of the problems Antrim has had with wells. The account for the Conservation Commission is a good option if land comes available it is nice to have the ability to purchase lots, and not just to be used as a water protection but also for other resources. MacGregor discussed they have worked closely with the Planning Board and River Management creating a natural resource map. They would like to present a package for residents regarding this in the future.

A brief discussion followed regarding Monadnock Paper Mills and the fact that it is currently a big asset to the community now and will be in the future.

Selectmen thanked MacGregor and Manley for attending the meeting and discussing the warrant article.

**Minutes:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of 02/09/2022 were accepted as written. Seconded by Selectman Hardwick.

**Financial:** Payroll Register  
A/P Register  
Proposal for Auditing Services

**Old Business:** Gymnasium – Matt Harwood has completed the bat remediation, removal and installation of new insulation, efforts are in place to keep bats from re-entering the building, gym ceiling is repaired and painting of the entire room is complete. Deb reported, Matt did a great job, he would like to sit down with the Selectmen at some point and go over being the keeper of the buildings in an effort to alleviate such deterioration, due to deferred maintenance of the buildings in the future.

**New Business:** Deb provided Selectmen with information on establishing a Keno venue. This is something that needs public hearings and needs to be voted on by residents before going forward.

**Applicant for Transfer Station:** Selectmen approved the application for the transfer station, the process to get a background check will be implemented.

**Items for signature:**

- Appointment: Shelly Griswald, to Budget Committee
- 4 abatements – 2 for Zabriskie, 2 for High Bank Properties
- Intent to Cut – Hardwick Map 3 lots 1, 2, 5; Map 11 lot 16
- Building Permit – Margo & Rob Horn

**Other matters:** Shelly Griswald asked Selectmen why was a Tahoe the choice for a new police cruiser. Selectmen discussed the reasoning and explained why the Tahoe was chosen. She expressed concern that it is a big vehicle, gas prices will be going up and this may be an expensive choice.

- Preventive Maintenance: Selectmen discussed preventive maintenance of all vehicles. Selectmen would like to have Chief LePine in to discuss the preventive maintenance schedules.
- Fire Station Expansion: Selectman Foster discussed he is meeting with Matt Harwood next Tuesday at 5:00 pm to look over the fire station expansion ideas.
- Tires: Selectman Foster reviewed bids he received for new tires for the fire truck, rims, and disposal costs. Selectmen discussed the bids. Discussed the possibility of a local logger taking the tires rather than pay for disposal. The tire size is 12/R – 225 – Selectmen agreed it is not necessary to get new rims.

**Adjournment:** With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

*Debra Davidson*