

Bennington Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Cleary, Thomas James

Absent: Selectman Foster arrived at 6:45 pm

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Appointments:

6:15 Jeff Danforth – to discuss vacation time – Officer Danforth was present to discuss though he did not negotiate vacation when hired, he needs a week off. He has some personal matters coming up, mother is moving & his wife has family coming from South America to visit. He couldn't remember what was specifically discussed, minutes from when he was hired reflect his salary and benefits. Benefits were not specifically identified. Chairman Cleary stated Chief LePine should discuss this with the Selectboard directly, the Board will get back to Danforth after they speak with LePine.

Cleary asked Danforth how things were going. Danforth indicated being a new officer to Bennington and the change of season are an adjustment. Discussed upcoming personal events, indicating overall things are going well.

6:40 Dennis McClure – Sawyer Park - Mr. McLure was before the Selectboard to discuss the ball team and use of Sawyer Park. The following items were discussed

- **Stage** - moving the stage off the playing field at Sawyer Park – no definite decision was made at this time. Selectman James and Mr. McClure will meet tomorrow (April 6, 2022) at 9:00 am at Sawyer Park to discuss the stage and where the best location for this will be.
- **Lighting** – with 8 teams this year, Friday night practice & competitions of "Tournament Teams", interested co-ed teams - they would like to install lighting at the field. Discussion followed. Selectmen did not approve this request at this time.
- **Electronic Scoreboard** – they would like to set up and install and electric scoreboard. Discussion followed. Selectmen did not approve this request at this time.

- **Fencing** – They would like to install fencing around the field, this would keep the game central and contained. Discussion followed. Selectmen did not approve this request at this time.
- **Brush Cutting** – Mr. McClure was asking Selectmen permission to cut brush and some poplars. Discussion followed. Selectmen indicated the boundaries need to be clearly identified and Alan Wilson should be consulted as well. The board supports clearing some brush at this time.
- **Roadway** – Mr. McClure discussed the road is deteriorating badly. The store owner pushes snow across the road, and it is deteriorating the road. The main water line is there and there is a possibility of damage. The Store driveway permits were discussed and the entrance for the store should be on 202 not Sawyer Park Rd.
- **Loam** – the team has a donor for loam for the park, this donor also has offered to help with equipment. This could be turned into a nice ballfield, but need the Board of Selectmen to support the improvements.
- **Insurance** – Selectmen reminded Mr. McClure that a Certificate of Insurance is required. \$1,000,000.
- **Parking** – Parking was discussed, everyone is aware of the limited parking, options were discussed.
- **Farmer's Market** – Mr. McClure was informed that the field will not be available on Tuesday's, there is a Farmer's Market on Tuesdays from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm., The field has been reserved every Tuesday from May through October.
- **Swing set**- Mr. McClure informed the Selectmen the swings are broken and need to be fixed. Town Administrator will notify Bethany and they will be repaired or replaced.

With nothing further, Selectmen thanked Mr. McClure for all his input at this time.

Minutes: Selectmen Cleary & James reviewed the minutes of 03/29/22. Cleary motioned to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by James. So moved, motion passed

Financial: Payroll Register was signed
A/P Register was signed

Old Business:

- **Sawyer Park** - Sawyer Park Rental Agreement & Policy were reviewed and will be tabled until next week when Selectman Foster is available for input. Selectman James discussed signage at Sawyer Park, similar to what is at Whittemore. This will be tabled until next

week. Insurances for the park were discussed and it is in the policy and agreement that liability insurance, in the amount of \$1,000,000 will be required for any outside organization prior to renting Sawyer Park. There will be no exceptions.

- **S Bennington Rd. Bridge** – Construction of this project will begin in July; there will be a pre-construction meeting in Swanzey (we are invited), the State will advertise via press release in the local paper & road signage will be set out beginning in May. The bridge will be closed for 4 weeks – 1 week for the water department and 3 weeks to replace the bridge.

New Business:

- **PTO** – Ashley Sunderland, PTO representative asked if the school children could do clean up at the Bruce Edes forest, there is no date yet set. Selectmen approved this request. Deb will notify Ashley.
- **Highway work schedule** – Selectmen discussed the highway crew working 4/10 hour days. Chairman Cleary had discussed with the Road Agent, Matt Blanchard that many eyes are on them. Matt indicated he understands this, and stated that they are working hard. Discussion followed. Motion by Chairman Cleary to authorize the road crew to begin working 4/10-hour days beginning the week of April 11, 2022. Seconded by Selectman James. All in favor – motion passed.
- **Trust Funds** – Town Administrator asked where copies of all the original documents that describe the various Trusts and how they are to be used could be found. Discussion followed. Deb will look into this further.

Miscellaneous:

- **Highway** - Highway weekly report was reviewed.
- **Police** – Selectmen discussed removing the board off the town office side door and get signage identifying the police entrance.
- **Transfer Station** – The Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday, April 17, 2022 in observance of Easter.
- **Chairman Position** – Selectman James made the motion to appoint James Cleary as the Chairman of the Selectboard. Seconded by Selectman Foster. No discussion, motion passed.
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Items for signature:

- **Gravel Tax Warrant** – 21-041-01-E & 21-041-02-E
- **Intent to Excavate** – Francestown Sand & Gravel 21-041-03-E

- **Intent to Cut** – Hardwick – Hardwick 21-041-01-T
- **Audit Documents** – Additional documents needing Selectmen’s signature were presented
- **Farmer’s Market** – Selectmen discussed the Farmer’s Market and the various towns where they are held.
- **Donations** – If the ball team wants to make various donations to the town, public hearings will need to be held to accept the donations.
- **Bandstand** – Selectmen discussed the bandstand, location, etc. amongst themselves. No decisions were made. The Sawyer Field property card and deed were reviewed. The deed specifically outlines the purpose of the donation of the field was for a “children’s playground”.
- **VFW Plant** – Selectmen discussed the bush at the VFW and will look into getting the replacement.

Adjournment: With nothing further, Chairman Cleary made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Seconded by Selectman James. All in Favor

The next Selectmen’s Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator