

Bennington Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Cleary, David Foster, Thomas James

Motion by Chairman Cleary to open the meeting at 6:01pm, seconded by Selectmen Foster & James.

Appointments:

6:01 pm – Bid Opening - Chairman Cleary mentioned there was one bid for the sale of Map 22 Lot 11D. The bid received was from David & Kenny Desaulniers. Chairman Cleary opened the bid which was for \$8,000.00 and they will pay any fees associated with the sale. Selectman Cleary motioned to accept the bid as written. Seconded by Foster & James. Motion accepted. Deb Davidson will notify Mr. Desaulniers and Town Counsel will have the deed prepared as soon as possible.

6:15 - Dennis McClure – Mr. McClure was present to discuss Sawyer field and the fence that was requested to be installed. Chairman Cleary indicated they have not made a decision at this time.

Farmers Market – Mr. McClure indicated he had a few questions about the Farmer’s Market. He asked what Bethany Craig is selling at her farm stand at the farmers market? He further commented that he has only seen three tents and ½ dozen people, wondering why she needs the entire field? Last, he commented that he has a problem with Bethany Craig using her power for profit, it is a conflict of interest. There are two hundred people who want to use the field and it is being used by 12-15. Parking on the playing field is also a big concern Mr. McClure has.

Selectman James replied that Bethany is selling eggs, milk and produce. He further commented that she is not profiting from anything, the funds go to the 4-H group who is actually the vendor for the sale of those items. James continued that the Farmer’s Market is just getting going and it is only fair to let them have a fair try. Lastly James commented that the Board is trying to accommodate many different opportunities, not just the ball team.

Mr. McClure reiterated he does not understand why Bethany needs the field and can’t hold her market elsewhere.

Mr. McClure closed with asking if the outhouse could be moved to the edge of the forest, up near the swing set. Chairman Cleary indicated they will consider this request to move the outhouse.

Mr. McClure left the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Selectmen discussed options for a relocation of the farmers market. NO decision was made at this time. They will see how it goes the next few weeks. Maybe the Farmers Market and the MSP can work together?

Deb Davidson was instructed to contact PJD and have the port a potti relocated. Matt can put a cone where it should be placed.

6:30 – Police Chief, Jason LePine –

- Open/accept bids for Police Cruiser – LePine reported he recieved 17 bids, 2 dealers, CarFax and Munic-i-bid, and a private bidder. The winning bid was for \$8,600.00 from Cruzn Transport out of Pennsylvania. The new cruiser will be ready on Friday, we will receive it on Monday, May 23, 2022. This is the first Tahoe to be utilized as a cruiser and it had some brackets missing for the cage, the running board lights weren't in yet either. A bank check will be given to the Town Administrator on Friday by noon for the old cruiser.

Selectman James asked after the old cruiser is stripped what happens to the parts? Chief LePine said we can give them to a department that could use the parts.

- Vacation time for Lester Milton – Chief LePine discussed that Lester Milton works enough hours on a regular basis that he qualifies for vacation. Chief LePine indicated because of the number of years that Milton has worked for the Town of Bennington, he actually qualifies for four weeks of vacation. Chief LePine discussed how difficult part-time employees are to find. He has a couple of potentials, but nothing is solid at this time. Lester is a good employee and LePine would like to see some consideration given to his time with Bennington. It is Chief LePines goal to have no open shifts in Bennington, he has not had to use the State Police in 7 months, he would rather not utilize the State Police due to the response time.

Chairman Cleary responded that he was always under the impression that Milton was part-time, but didn't work so many hours that he qualified for benefits. This years budget was not prepared for 96 hours of vacation time. At this time Chairman Cleary made the motion to offer one week of paid vacation time to Lester Milton. Seconded by Foster & James. Brief discussion followed. Motion was accepted and passed.

Minutes: Selectmen accepted the minutes of 05/03/22 as written.

Financial: Payroll Register: 5/5/22

Payroll Register: 5/12/22

Payroll Register: 5/19/22

A/P Register: 5/12/22

A/P Register: 5/5/22

Old Business:

- **Sawyer Park** – Fence, Plaques No decisions were made at this time regarding the fence or plaques. Selectmen discussion followed regarding foul pole pads. They are 4 x 4 – 6’ high. Alternative options were discussed to be researched.
- **VFW Plant** – Selectmen discussed the plant hasn’t been purchased because the Conservation Commission was going to look into possibly raising the Bruce Edes memorial rock.

New Business:

- **Bennington/Greenfield town line** – The Town of Greenfield asked if the Board would set up a meeting with The Town of Greenfield to discuss property near railroad tracks/Bennington town line – Discussion followed. Chairman Cleary will contact the property owner and determine what exactly is needed.
- **Cemetery Lots** – Deb Davidson presented the Board with an e-mail from Karen Belcher discussing the Cemetery Trustees consideration of an increase in the cost of cemetery lots. Discussion followed. Chairman Cleary will try to make the next Cemetery Trustee meeting. No decision from the Board of Selectmen was made regarding this matter.
- **Cupola Repair** – Selectmen discussed repairs to the Cupola. Deb Davidson was instructed to put the repairs out to bid. Bid’s will be opened on May 31st.

Miscellaneous:

- **Insurance updates** – The only update is all employees have their enrollment forms submitted and the process is moving forward. A couple of employees had many concerns about the change.
- **Facility Use Fee** – Selectmen briefly discussed that other neighboring communities charge either an hourly or a flat fee for the use of their fields. No decision was made at this time.
- **Signs for Graduates** – Deb Davidson informed the Selectmen that Melissa Clark asked about doing a tribute to the Seniors, placing signs for them all on the memorial triangle? Selectmen approved this request.

- **Sidewalk plans** – Deb asked the Selectmen if they knew where the sidewalk plans are located? There has been a request for them and they haven't been found in the obvious locations.
- **Building Permit** – Selectmen signed a building permit for a deck on Map 17 lot 16.

Items for signature:

- **Multiple timber tax warrants** – Selectmen signed timber tax warrants for multiple
- **Stantec proposal for 2022** – Chairman Cleary signed the 2022 proposal for the monitoring of the wells.
- **Pre-Construction Meeting** – Deb Davidson reminded Selectmen there is a Pre-Construction Meeting tomorrow, May 18, 2022 at 9:00 am to discuss the S. Bennington Bridge with the DOT, DES, Zach Paight, the Supervisor of the project and the Wetlands Bureau. Selectmen are invited as is, the Town Administrator, DPW Director and the Police Chief.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be on May 31, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Davidson, Town Administrator