

Bennington Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Cleary, David Foster, Thomas James

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

The meeting opened by opening the one bid that was submitted for the repairs to the Cupola on the Town Hall. The sole bid was from Matt Harwood from Hancock. With a price of \$15,000 – \$20,000, this price allows for unforeseen damage.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the bid from Matt Harwood, Second by Foster & James.
Motion passed

Appointments:

Minutes: Selectmen reviewed the minutes of 05/17/22, Chairman Cleary motioned to accept the minutes as written, second by Thom James. All in favor

Financial: Selectmen reviewed and signed the following:

Payroll Register: 5/19/22

Payroll Register: 5/26/22

Payroll Register – 6/2/22

A/P Register: 5/19/22

A/P Register: 5/26/22

Old Business:

- **Sawyer Park** – Fence & Plaques request will be tabled to be discussed another time. Selectmen discussed asking insurance again, about the fencing.

Selectmen discussed making additional parking. They need to go look at the area and see how exactly they would do it. Chairman Cleary indicated he would talk to some local people and see who could get this done for the town.

New Business:

- **Edward French Scholarship Fund** - The Town Administrator, Deb Davidson reported the TTF met and suggested three options for this fund, these suggestions would be in lieu of the TTF doing fundraisers to try and establish funds for this account. Suggestions were:
 1. Selectmen organize and work towards a fundraising goal for the account
 2. The account be closed and turned into a CRF, allowing voters to put funds into the account on an annual basis.
 3. Close the account and put funds into the general fund annually.

Selectmen discussed these three options, all three are good suggestions. After discussion, Chairman Cleary motioned to close the account and turn it into a CRF. Second by Selectman James. Voted unanimously.

- **Hiring for Beach** – Logan Burnum has shown interest in the life guard position for the summer. He has worked at the beach in the past. Discussion followed resulting in approval of the hire. Town Administrator, Deb Davidson will notify Bethany Craig that she should extend the offer for him to work this summer, wage would start at \$15.00/hour.
- **Advanced Excavating Proposal** – Road Agent, Matt Blanchard provided Town Administrator, Deb Davidson with a revised proposal for the asphalt from North Bennington Road to Curtis Farm Road, the increase is approximately \$6,000, for a total cost of \$50,544.00. The reason for the increase is due to increase pricing of asphalt and oil. Selectmen approved the increase, Chairman Cleary signed the revised proposal.

Miscellaneous:

- **Tri-Town** - Tuesday June 14 tentative is scheduled for Eastern Analytical Inc. to take some additional samples of dioxine carbonators at the Tri-Town site.
- **VFW – Conservation Commission** - Town Administrator, Deb Davidson reported the Conservation Commission purchased the plant for the Bruce Edes memorial rock and will plant it.

Selectman James mentioned that the Conservation Commission would like a report of all town properties that have easements. This is something the Conservation Commission is supposed to track, he has asked Town Administrator, Deb Davidson to research the

properties for the Conservation Commission. The obvious were cemeteries, well houses, railroad tracks, parks

VFW Trap Door - Chairman Cleary mentioned the trap door in the mechanical room needs to be fixed. It is unsafe. Discussion followed. Deb Davidson was instructed to contact Mike Young and see if he can fix it.

- **Highway** - Chairman Cleary reported he spoke with Road Agent, Matt Blanchard earlier this week and the mowing is going well. Matt & DJ have a good system and schedule for the mowing.

Rogers Road needs a culvert replaced and a new one installed across the road, Matt is aware of this and it will be done this summer.

- **Rhubarb Judges** - Molly Eppig was present, she asked the Selectmen if they would be judges at the Rhubarb Pie contest? Chairman Cleary is unavailable, Selectman James said he would, Selectman Foster said he doesn't care for rhubarb but he would find a fireman who does to judge. Molly thanked the board.
- **Potential Fireman** - Selectman Foster took his Selectman's hat off and put his Fire Chief hat on...he presented an application for a fireman, John Plourde. He is in the Army Reserves, has no fire training but is willing to do the training. Discussion followed. Selectmen James & Cleary approved the application.

Items for signature:

- 1st issue Property Tax 2022 Warrant - \$1,981,104.00
- Abatements – Adam Schwehr

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 pm. Seconded by James & Foster.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator