

Bennington Board of Selectmen
September 20, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman, James Cleary, Tom James, David Foster

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:01 pm.

Appointments: Hearing for unanticipated funds was postponed until October 4, 2022 to assure proper posting.

6:00 – Joe MacGregor – Mr. MacGregor was before the board with questions about the discoloration of the water. He presented samples of water that came from his faucet. He also brought in a used filter from his water filtration system. Mr. MacGregor did say he understood that Bennington has been on the Antrim well for several weeks. He also has been working for weeks to figure out what the problem with his water was, he is very upset about this. He has concerns about his hot water tank and washing machine.

It was discussed if it was posted the town was switching wells and if it was, when and where. After receiving a text, it was not posted. The water commission does not have to post work that is being done on the wells unless service is to be interrupted. Bennington has been on the Antrim water for 77 days.

Chairman Cleary indicated the Selectboard will meet with the Water Commissioners and in the future encourage them to send out letters to those on the water system. Selectmen discussed when the hydrants are cleaned everyone on the system should be notified. Selectmen think the system should be flushed before it goes back on line. Cost of postage for these mailings was discussed.

Mr. MacGregor would like to know why there was no notification, what do the reports for the water look like, is the manganese level acceptable, what is the manganese read.

Selectmen thanked Mr. MacGregor for bringing this to their attention.

Selectmen took some time discuss the water concerns. Selectmen would like to invite the Water Commission & Matt Miller to the next meeting to discuss the water situation.

Discussion regarding State/Federal funds that may be available for water upgrades. No decisions

Education Funding: Selectman Cleary discussed his concerns regarding the educational funding from the state. The State has taken 4% from the district each year, very concerned that before long there won't be any funding from the State for education and it will be absorbed by the local communities. Selectmen discussed contacting our State Rep. and discussing what they are going to do to address this matter.

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of August 23, 2022 as written. Seconded by Selectman James. Motion passed

Financial: Payroll Registers –weeks 9/1/22; 9/8/22; 9/15/22; 9/22/22; 9/22/22 (Fire Department)

A/P Register – weeks 9/1/11; 9/8/22; 8/25/22;

Old Business:

- **Cupola** - Matt Harwood – Selectmen revisited when Matt would be repairing the Cupola. Town Administrator, Deb Davidson will reach out to him tomorrow. She will also ask him about elevator installation. Once the gym has some improvements, this would be a great spot for Town Meeting.

New Business:

- **Mini Split** – Selectmen discussed installation of mini-splits in the Town Office

Review/Approve/Signatures:

- Year to Date Budget review
- Letter to DOT – Charles Corliss re: Trestle
- MS-535
- Building Permits: Nunes-Garage; Bishop-Renovations; Ricupero-Garage; Sopko-Deck
- Cemetery Plot
- Driveway Permit - Clough

Miscellaneous:

- **Release of Claims** – Settlement with Rymes has been implemented by Michael Courtney. The release will remain on file once executed by all parties. A check for \$41,000.00 will be forthcoming for the payment of damages to our highway vehicle.
- **Signage** - USW request to place signs on town property near the papermill. Selectmen discussed this, if the signs are on town property they are ok with the placement for no more than two weeks. There is limited town space by the papermill.

- **Spiders** - Spider issues on the Town Hall – Selectmen declined to have JP Pest do the spider remediation, the highway crew is to be instructed to take care of this.
- **Pierce Elementary School** - Pierce Elementary School would like to do a run to raise money for their new playground, they are working with the Police Department to keep the run safe. Selectmen approved this fundraising event.
- **Hazardous waste** – Selectmen discussed 2023 and cooperatively holding Hazardous Waste opportunities for residents.
- **Conservation Commission** – Selectman James discussed the Conservation Commission would like something in writing indicating that the Conservation Commission be noticed if/when town property is sold. Selectmen agreed to this request. A copy of the letter will be placed in each property file.
- **Solar Panels & mini splits** – Selectmen discussed solar panels & mini split units. No decision was made.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm. The next Selectboard meeting will be Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator