

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**January 11, 2022 6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** James Cleary, David Foster

**Budget Committee:** Tyler Howe, John Charlonne, Judy Heddy

**Absent:** David Hardwick, John Baybutt

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

**Appointments:** 6:00 PM – Librarian, Leslie McGregor – Library Trustee, Molly Eppig

Molly Eppig thanked everyone for inviting Leslie to the meeting and asking questions about the budget. Leslie opened with providing a written document, this provided answers to the questions regarding the library.

**Building Maintenance** - Leslie addressed the building maintenance line where she has added \$500.00 for cleaning services. She suggested reducing building maintenance and utilizing “as needed assistant” funds to pay for the cleaning service.

**Copier** – Leslie explained the library has no printers, only the copier which is used as a fax, copier, scanner and is a very big service for residents. They acquire their copier through LGC and in March the price will be reduced. Ink and maintenance are included in the cost.

**Book Budget** – Leslie explained there is an increase in costs of books. Budget Committee Member, Tyler Howe asked if there was a possibility of reducing the amount of books purchased. Leslie explained there are currently 28,000 books at the library, if they get old, dirty, musty etc. they are removed. Antrim, Hancock, Bennington and Greenfield work together to sell each others books. Discover Books will review them and will often buy up lots of them. The revenue from book sales goes into the Library checkbook and is overseen by the Trustees. It does not go back to the general fund. Trustees are overseen by the State of NH Library rules and regulations. Leslie continued by discussing the inter-loan library program and how it works, it saves a lot of money on the purchase of books. The philosophy as to how they decide what books to choose was explained.

**Computer** – the computer line was briefly discussed, it was explained the \$500.00 is in the event something happens to the computer.

Molly Eppig discussed they will be using Monadnock Pest Control to try to combat a mouse problem in the basement.

**Grounds Maintenance** – Chairman Cleary mentioned that line item can be brought to a zero, the highway department is going to be taking care of the grounds maintenance for the town areas, excluding the cemeteries. Leslie was glad to hear this.

**Conferences** - Leslie said that she is hoping to continue conferences via zoom.

Selectmen thanked Leslie for coming in and discussing these items with the Board.

On another note Leslie reported a sinkhole by the library corner. It was explained there was a leaking pipe, it is believed to have been repaired. She is concerned the sidewalk collapsed and it could cause problems for the fire hydrant.

**Minutes:** Chairman Cleary voted to accept the Minutes of 1/5/2022 as written. Seconded by Selectman Foster. Minutes accepted.

**Financial:** Payroll Register  
A/P Register –

**Insurance:** - Motion by Chairman Cleary to switch from School-Care to HealthTrust for our health insurance purposes, this will become effective July 1, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Foster. Brief discussion followed, there will be a presentation for employees when it gets closer to July to help them understand this transition and help to make it happen smoothly. Nothing further, motion to switch insurance carrier was passed.

**Budget:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the budget as presented today and bring this budget forward to the Deliberative Session. Seconded by Selectman Foster. Voted affirmatively.

**Review/Approve/Signatures:** Audit Report for each Selectmen was presented.

**Other:** Selectman Foster asked if Deb Davidson could ask Matt Harwood to look at the bottom of the front door to see what can be done to repair the gap on the door, which is a huge heat loss area.

**Adjournment:** With nothing further, Motion by Chairman Cleary to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. Seconded by Selectman Foster. The next Selectmen’s Meeting will be on January 25, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

