

Bennington Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, March 15, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Cleary, David Foster, Thomas James

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Appointments:

6:00 – Chief of Police, Jason LePine was present with Officer Milton. Officer Milton’s family was also present (i.e. Wife, 2 daughters, grand-daughter and grandson). Chief LePine commended Officer Milton for his 20 years of dedication to the Bennington Police Department, presenting him at this time with a badge and promoting him, in title only, as the new Corporal for the Bennington Police Department. Officer Milton’s grand daughter pinned him with his Corporal badge. Chairman Cleary said a few words how Milton has helped many of the younger generation over the years and commended him on his good work.

Minutes: Selectmen reviewed the minutes of February 22, 2022, after a brief discussion and a change to include the wage increases for the highway department are to be retroactive to January 1, 2022, the minutes were accepted.

Financial: Selectmen reviewed and signed the weekly Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers

Old Business:

- **Sawyer Park Rental Agreement** - Sawyer Park Rental Agreement was reviewed, a few minor changes were made and the updated agreement will be available next week for signatures.

- **David Glynn Estate** – It was reported that our assessing firm, Commerford, Nieder Perkins, LLC has worked diligently on the David Glynn Estate property discrepancies. The property has been extensively reviewed and a determination as to who owns what property has been reached. It has been determined, based on a title search done by Hyder Law Offices, that Doris Nelkins and Loucas Tserkezis purchased the property that was incorrectly being billed to the David Glynn Estate. The DGE, further identified as Map 7 Lot 20-1 should not be a lot of record and has been removed. This needs to be reflected on our tax maps as well. Since Both Nelkins and Tserkezis property files have been updated, there is no tax owed on this lot. The tax billing that was sent out will be abated

and there will be no further billings on this Map & Lot. There are maps and deeds in each file which clearly explains what had happened and how this was corrected.

Discussion regarding the sale of David Glynn property and a portion of the proceeds from the sale should be distributed to various organizations within Bennington that was determined by David Glynn. Town Administrator, Deb Davidson will look into this.

New Business:

- **RFP for Auditing Services** – An RFP for Auditing Services was sent out in February, with only two of the RFP's returned, Selectmen reviewed the proposals. Brief discussions followed.

Chairman Cleary made the motion to accept the proposal from Plodzik & Sanderson, P.A. for a 3-year locked in price of \$15,500, if any single audit should be needed the price is not to exceed \$2,000.00. Seconded by Selectman Foster & James. Motion approved.

- **Water Line invoice** – Selectmen discussed an invoice from DJ Blanchette Plumbing & Heating for repairs at 23 Hancock Road. It was discussed with Town Counsel and Primex and they determined the damage was a result of the water line to the house being left in a manner that did not allow water to the house. After speaking to Town Counsel and Primex they stated that the Town is liable for damage if we caused it. And the line should be repaired. The Water Commissioners disagree with this decision. The Water Commissioners stand behind that the Town is only responsible to the curbside, and there was water to the meter to their knowledge. Water Commissioners will be updating the By-Laws to be more up to date. The last time it was updated was several years ago. In the future if there is a problem, it is agreed by everyone, there will be an emergency meeting to discuss what happened and determine the final outcome.

Chairman Cleary made the motion to have Primex pay the invoice to DJ Blanchette Plumbing & Heating for the repairs. Seconded by Selectman Foster. Motion passed.

- **Website Maintenance** – Town Administrator, Deb Davidson discussed updating and making improvements to the Website. It is not very user friendly and many residents have asked if it could be updated. Aaron Treadwell has provided a price for annual webhosting, domain transfer and converting the site to WordPress. Aaron would teach Davidson & Melissa Searles how to update the new website. If Selectmen would like to see some of Aaron's work, Nelson, Greenfield, Frankestown are all towns that Aaron has

built & maintained the websites for. The initial cost for this is \$685.00, years following it would be approximately \$120.00. Ethan Aho currently does nothing to enhance the website but does handle the domain name. He charges \$150.00. Selectmen discussed many residents have expressed that they would like to see improvements to the website.

Chairman Cleary to accept the contract from Aaron Treadwell and to move forward with updates and improvements to the Town Website. Seconded by Selectmen Foster & James. Voted affirmatively. Deb Davidson will notify Ethan and Aaron about this change.

Miscellaneous:

- **Superior Court** – Superior Court granted a clear title to Victor Solod for 186 US Highway 202.
- **Sawyer Field Policy** – Selectmen reviewed and made some edits to the DRAFT Sawyer Field Policy. This will be finalized at the next Selectmen’s Meeting. Discussion of parking at Sawyer field was discussed, various options for additional parking were also discussed. Towards the end of the season of 2021 parking had gotten much better.
- **Appointment** – Tom James read his Oath and was sworn in as a Selectman for 3 years. Chairman Cleary motioned to accept this appointment, seconded by Selectman Foster.

Items for signature:

- **Abatement** - Glynn Estate - \$1,088.90
- **Veteran’s Exemption** – Valley granted
- **Appropriations voted - MS-232** – Selectmen signed the MS-232 for 2022

With nothing further, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. The next scheduled Selectmen’s Meeting is Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator