

Bennington Board of Selectmen
August 9, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman, James Cleary, Selectman, Tom James

Absent: Selectman, David Foster

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Appointments:

6:30 – Road Agent, Matt Blanchard, - in accordance with RSA 91A:3, II (a) Chairman Cleary motioned to enter into a non-public session. Seconded by Selectman James. All in favor.

6:40 – Motion by Chairman Cleary to enter out of the non-public session, Seconded by Selectman James.

Decision: Selectmen have removed the probationary status of Road Agent, Blanchard.

While the Road Agent was present he discussed what work has been accomplished as of recent.

- Rogers Rd., Culverts are replaced and completed. Still working on culverts throughout the town.
- Birches – the ride side of the road has been ditched all the way through to the pond. They are changing the culvert and cleaning the ditches to the bottom of the road on the left side.
- Brush or Roadside cutting will be done in the next week or two
- Discussed the emergency at the Library with the toilet breaking and water being in the basement. Though the previous Road Agent had installed a sump pump, it was never completely finished being installed and did not work properly. Matt & DJ worked to straighten that out, get the water out of the Library basement and redirect water if there is a future problem
- The additional bridge funds of \$67,000 was discussed. Matt will call the DOT and discuss the trestle and the importance of getting this repaired. Matt will find out who the person from the State that was present in 2015/2016 and discuss the future of bridge work in Bennington. It was discussed that the State would cover 80% of the cost to repair the bridge with the town covering the other 20%.

Minutes: Chairman Cleary motioned to accept the minutes of July 26, 2022 with a minor change. Seconded by Selectman James.

Financial: Selectmen reviewed and signed the following Payroll Registers and A/P Registers – Payroll 8/4/22; 8/11/22 and A/P Register – 7/28/22

NH Public Deposit Investment Pool (NHPDIP) – The Town Administrator provided Selectmen with information for the NHPDIP program for municipal investments. The current Investment Policy was also provided. Discussion followed regarding the PDIP is currently offering an interest rate of 2.14%, further discussion. Selectmen will look into this opportunity a little further.

Highway Block Grant & Bridge Funds – The Town of Bennington is receiving an additional \$67,293.00 for Bridge Funds and an additional \$37,355 for Highway Block Grant Funding. They have until 2023 to use the funds, options were discussed. Road Agent, Matt Blanchard will contact the DOT and discuss options for the repair/replacement of bridges in Bennington.

Old Business:

- **Monument Cleaning** – Town Administrator has a verbal quote from Kaufhold of \$2,850.00, they said they need two months lead time. They will hold the quote if they cannot get to it this year.

New Business:

- **Trestle** – Selectmen discussed the continuous tractor trailer's hitting trestle by Alberto's. not only is it causing damage to the trestle, the trucks are damaging the driveway at Alberto's. It seems to be a 2- 3 time/week situation. Selectmen instructed Town Administrator to contact the DOT, see why GPS takes trucks this way and see if they can be rerouted, maybe get some additional signage.
- **Dept. Head Updates:** Road Agent weekly report was reviewed
- **Birch Drive:** A resident from Birch Drive sent an e-mail concerned that nothing has been done to the road. Discussion between Selectmen and the Road Agent ensued, this is a private road. The Town has never maintained Birch Drive.

Review/Approve/Signatures:

- **Questions about Farmers Market** – Selectmen discussed a question about the Farmers Market not being successful and wondering if the Men's Soft Pitch Team can use the field on Tuesdays. Selectmen indicated that the status will remain as is for this season.
- **Building Permit** – Schoel

- **PB Ex-Officio** – Deb Belcher asked the Town Administrator if the Ex-Officio will be attending Planning Board Meetings. Chairman Cleary is the PB ex-officio, he said he would make it as often as he can, but he doesn't think he will make too many meetings. Town Administrator will let Deb Belcher know this.
- **Tax Deeding** – The Tax Collector was before the Board to discuss deeding of properties. Most people have worked out payment. There are only three properties left, with the effort of the local police, one is being attempted to be reached. Selectmen discussed the other two properties and at this time no deeding will be done. It will be discussed again if any properties will be deeded, if not the Board will sign a waiver.
- **Vacation** – Town Administrator will be out 8/25-9/1.

With nothing further the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. The next scheduled Selectmen's meeting will be Tuesday, August 23, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator