

Bennington Board of Selectmen
October 18, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

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

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

Appointments: No appointments were scheduled for this meeting

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the October 4, 2022 minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen Foster & James.

Financial: Selectmen signed the Payroll Registers for weeks 10/20/22; 10/13/2022
Selectmen signed the A/P Registers for weeks 10/13/2022; 10/06/2022

Old Business:

VFW – Town Administrator asked if we should close the VFW for the winter? Selectmen discussed this and unanimously agreed to keep the VFW open during the winter as it is used by more and more organizations on a regular basis. 4-H, Girl Scouts, VFW, Papermill Union, Music Group and Conservation Commission all use the building during the winter.

JLMC Policy – The Selectmen were presented with an updated Joint Loss Management Committee Policy. Chairman Cleary signed the Policy.

Cupola – Town Administrator discussed she met with Matt Harwood regarding the Cupola. He is having a hard time getting the products he needs. With weather getting colder he asked if he could put it off until spring, he will make Bennington his first priority. Selectmen agreed to this request. Town Administrator will let Matt know that Selectmen are ok with this.

Chair lift vs. Elevator – Town Administrator met with the sales representative, Ciara Robillard from National Seating & Mobility, previously All-Ways Accessible and Matt Harwood to discuss options of installing a chair lift or elevator. The presentation was provided for the Selectmen. Discussion followed, it was decided that an elevator would be the best option as the chair lift is not ADA compliant. The cost for the elevator is approximately \$30,000.00, the cost of the chair lift is approximately \$20,000.00. Ciara reported to Town Administrator a more finalized quote and an engineered design will be provided to the Town within two weeks. Town Administrator reported, there is up to a 27 week build time for the elevator. It is made in the USA, but the construction of the elevator itself, could take up to 27 weeks before we receive it after the approval is received by the National Seating & Mobility company. Matt Harwood will get a price for the construction portion of this project. This will be installed with the code officer,

John Kendall overseeing the project. Discussion followed regarding installation of a sprinkler system. Selectman Foster will get prices for the sprinkler system. Prices for mini-splits throughout the building will also be researched. Discussion regarding the handicapped ramp followed. Prices for a ramp and a handicapped door opener will be obtained and provided to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the proposal for the elevator and begin the process of installation. Seconded by Selectman James & Foster.

Discussion followed – Town Administrator was instructed to contact the elevator company and get the project started.

Motion was voted in the affirmative.

New Website – Town Administrator informed the Selectmen the new website is live. Melissa Searles has done a fabulous job, though it will need some tweaking here and there, she will continue to work on the site and make improvements. Selectmen are encouraged to look at the site and make any recommendations that they would like to see. Photos of employees are forth-coming.

New Business:

Trees at Town Office - Selectmen discussed the three trees in front of the Town Office. One is dead, the other two are not doing so well. Discussion followed. Chairman Cleary motioned to allow the removal of the three trees and install three new ones in the spring. Seconded by Selectmen James & Foster. Motion was approved to remove the trees. A resident, who has offered to take care of this will be contacted.

Crotched Mtn Ski Area – Selectmen were informed that on October 22, 2022 between 12:00 – 3:00 pm a community cookout, corn hole, Henniker Brewery, live music and a job fair will all be sponsored by the Ski Area. They offer this to the entire town to show appreciation for all the support from the town during the last couple of years.

Correspondence: Selectmen read a resignation from Bethany & Jim Craig, they will be stepping down as co-chairs of the recreation committee effective December 31, 2022. Selectmen would like to invite them both to the next meeting to thank them for their years of service and to discuss their resignations. Town Administrator will contact Bethany and Jim via e-mail and invite them to the next meeting, November 1, 2022.

Review/Approve/Signatures:

Building Permit - Hardwick, Motta

Electrical Permit- Crabtree

Cemetery Lot - Lemieux

2022 MS-1

Town Clerk - Notice of warrant & voting location

HealthTrust packet – Selectmen were provided a packet from Health Trust which has the 2023 prices for Health Insurance. There is a 17.9% increase. Though this is huge, it is still less than School Care.

Agenda – Town Administrator asked if we can have the cut off for agenda appointments be the Monday before meetings at noon? Discussion followed. Selectmen approved this request. Town Administrator will get the word out.

JCL reminder – The town received a reminder to have the highway garage septic pumped. This appointment will be scheduled as soon as possible. Selectman James indicated the toilet at the highway garage needs new guts. Discussion followed. Town Administrator was instructed to notify Matt Blanchard of this and he is to repair the toilet.

Heat – Town Administrator discussed the price of fuel. Selectmen would like a policy, asking all town employees to assure they turn the heat down to 55 degrees at the end of their shifts.

Tax Deed Property – The Board of Selectmen discussed, property identified as, Map 21, Lot 13-1. After a lengthy discussion motion by Chairman Cleary to instruct the Tax Collector to begin the deeding process. Seconded by Selectmen Foster & James. Motion passed. Tax Collector will be informed of this vote.

Conference Room Computer – It was brought to Selectmen Foster’s attention that the computer in the conference needs to be replaced. Nothing fancy, a certified pre-owned should be sufficient.

Cruiser – It was brought to the Selectmen’s attention that the old cruiser needed a new fuel pump. It was taken to Bennington Garage for repair.

With nothing further, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. The next scheduled Selectboard meeting is Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

Respectfully,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator