

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

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

Motion by Chairman Cleary to open the meeting at 6:02 PM

Appointments:

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of November 1, 2022 as written, Seconded by Selectmen Foster & James.

Financial: Selectmen signed the Payroll Registers for the weeks 11/17/22, 11/17/22 FD, 11/10/22

Selectmen signed the A/P Registers for the weeks 11/10/22,11/10/22, 11/03/22

Old Business:

Chairman Cleary discussed what to do about replacing Co-Chairs Jim & Bethany Craig for the Recreation Commission. Discussion followed between the board regarding options.

Chairman Cleary moved to appoint Jessie Crews, appointment to be effective January 1, 2023, as the new Recreation Coordinator. Seconded by Selectmen James & Foster. After brief discussion motion accepted. The appointment will be prepared and Jessie will be notified.

New Business:

- **Music Event Update** – Selectman James updated Selectmen Cleary and Foster of the upcoming event, Friday, November 18, 2022. Withered on the Vine is the band. Anticipating a successful event. Selectmen signed a letter regarding alcohol is not encouraged and if anyone shows signs of intoxication, the staff in charge will take appropriate action to have the person safely removed. The previous event had no incidents, this is a precautionary letter only.
- **Keno** – This needs to be a warrant article on the 2023 warrant for voters before anyone can move forward on this. Attorney Courtney will work with Town Administrator to write the proper verbiage for the warrant article.
- **Life Safety Proposal** – Selectman Foster presented a proposal from Life Safety for sprinkling the Town Hall Building. The proposal is \$78,000.00 to do all the building. The entire building must be sprinkled to allow additional capacity to the building. To hook up

the water main to the building will be a separate price. Zack Anderson will provide a price to the Town for that cost. Further discussion followed.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the proposal as written, and to further pay the cost in its entirety out of the David Glynn Capital Reserve Funds. Seconded by Selectmen Foster & James. Motion was accepted. Chairman Cleary signed the proposal which will be returned to Life Safety.

- **Veale Deeding** – Town Administrator, Deb Davidson reported to the Board that the deeding of the Veale property is moving forward. The deed will be finalized after the first of the year.
- **Signage** – Selectman James discussed installing signage at Sawyer Field about No Alcohol and also a Carry In/Carry Out sign, violators will be fined. Selectman James also mentioned a resident who makes signs and has offered to assist with this. Discussion followed. Selectman Foster mentioned Keith Nason also does signage, usually at no cost to the residents. Foster will report back at the next meeting.
- **Alarm & CardX** – Selectman Foster discussed he is getting prices for replacing our current alarm & card system. Discussion followed. No decision at this time. Foster will report back to the board what he finds.
- **Fire Department Renovations** – Selectman/Fire Chief Foster discussed that the Fire Department was not awarded the grant funding for the renovations that have been discussed. He further asked if the Board of Selectmen would authorize the Fire Department utilizing the Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Funds to go forward with the necessary renovations. Discussion followed. No decision was made at this time. It was clarified the funds can be utilized, but the Town needs a quote before the project moves forward.
- **Newsletter** – The Town Administrator provided a DRAFT of the Newsletter for the Selectmen to review. Selectmen read and discussed the newsletter, minor changes were made, adding some information. After discussion, it was decided the newsletter will be included with the tax bills when they are mailed out.

Dept. Head Updates: Highway weekly update was reviewed.

Executive – Town Administrator reported the training with the auditor was very beneficial for both the Town Administrator and the Administrative Assistant.

Correspondence: NHDES – M16, L 2 - More information has been requested, the property owner is providing the information to the DES.

Review/Approve/Signatures:

- **Policies** – DRAFT policies, per auditor recommendations, for Selectmen’s review and accept at a later date were provided.
- **Land use Change Tax** – Mazolla and Dickenson
- **Preliminary Tax Rate** - Selectmen reviewed the preliminary tax rate. Discussion followed. Motion by Chairman to accept the preliminary tax rate. Seconded by Selectmen James & Foster. Town Administrator will notify the DRA, once the rate is accepted by the DRA it will become public and tax bills can be mailed out.
- **Antrim Water & Sewer Rates** – Selectmen accepted the increase of rate charges to \$90.00/hour as presented.
- **Building Permits** – Selectmen signed the following building permits -
 - Desaulniers – New Home
 - Mazzola – New Home
 - D’Olimpio- Renovations to the 6 Main St. property
- **Permitting** – The Town Administrator reported that Code Officer, John Kendall asked if the Board needs to approve all Solar building and electrical permits. A brief discussion followed. Selectmen do not see the need to approve these permits, the Code Officer is qualified.
- **Stipend** – The Code Officer asked if rather than do mileage reimbursement, could he charge \$30.00/month for a stipend? This is done in other Towns he is Code Officer in. After a brief discussion, Selectmen agree to authorize a \$30.00/month stipend for mileage rather than pay a set amount/mile reimbursement.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the Selectmen’s Meeting at 7:20 pm. Seconded by Selectmen Foster & James. Motion passed.

The next scheduled Selectmen’s Meeting will be held on November 29, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator

