

Bennington Board of Selectmen
December 20, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

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

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Appointments:

6:15 - Bennington Road Agent, Matt Blanchard –

- **Road Work Quotes** - Matt presented the Board of Selectmen with a variety of quotes and contracts to do road work in 2023. His first proposal was for Curtis Farm Road to Pine Meadows, he would like to encumber the remainder of Tar and Patch and paving funds to allow this project to go forward. The total cost is \$81,081 with a 2.5" binder. Encumbering \$67,151.00 would only use approximately \$13,390.00 of CRF to finish the project.

Matt continued and discussed options for Old Greenfield Road, having a price between \$72,000-\$78,000, culverts and piping would be additional. If the road was skimmed with 1-3/4" would be \$58,435.00.

Options for Dodge Road and Birch Glenn Drive were discussed. Dodge Road having a 1.5 – 1.75" Advanced Excavation was quoted between \$56,000 - \$57,000 with Birch Glenn being quoted at \$41,985.00 if two projects are completed at the same time, Advanced Paving indicated we could save approximately \$1.00/ton.

Old Greenfield Road and Dodge Road being top coated would be approximately \$115,072, with Birch Glenn Drive and Dodge Road being quoted at \$98,622.

Matt presented these quotes to allow the Selectmen to consider what priorities should be given. Matt recommended doing Dodge Road and Birch Glenn Drive in 2023, scheduling Old Greenfield Road for 2024. Selectmen will take this recommendation into consideration.

Chairman Cleary made the motion to enter into a contract with Advanced Excavation for the year 2023, and further encumbering the remaining \$67,151.00 of the tar/patch & paving funds. Seconded by Selectman Foster. Motion passed to encumber the remaining funds for use in 2023 with Advanced Paving. Chairman Cleary signed the contract with Advanced Excavation.

- **Bridge Money** – The unanticipated funds were discussed. The amount we will receive by year end is \$67,293.16. Matt is getting prices on replacing guardrails. DRA will be consulted if this is appropriate use of the funds.
- **Culvert replacements** – Matt discussed the culvert on Bible Hill Road, near Newhall Field needs to be replaced, it is approximately \$3,000/pipe and 3 pipes are needed.

Matt reported there were a few breakdowns during the storm, DJ lost the wing pin but it was able to be repaired. Both DJ and Matt got approximately ½ the town cleaned up and are hoping to finish tomorrow 12/21/22.

Selectmen reminded Matt that the shoveling for the Fire Department, Town Hall, Library and Church needs to be done during each storm.

Selectmen asked about the new truck, Matt reported it has been ordered and is getting put together, it should be ready in the spring.

6:40 – EMD, Keith Nason –

- **Emergency Services** - Emergency Services during power outages was discussed. Keith reported there were approximately 500 residents that were without power. Selectman James indicated that there were a few residents that went to the Transfer Station and asked what to do during the outage. Keith explained how the process works. Normally residents would either call the police or go to the fire station. If it is an extended amount of outage they are prepared with generators for the Town Hall, Fire Station and/or VFW. There are cots, blankets, water, food, cell phone chargers etc. that will be made readily available. This is part of the Emergency Services during an extended power outage and the EMD is well prepared. Selectman James asked how does this get to the public. Keith said we can give out his cell phone number, Facebook and we will put it in the next newsletter as well. The police could check on the higher risk residents. It was discussed that Keith and Deb will get a list together (Keith thought Kristie used to have one, but no one has located it). Selectman James brought up safe houses, residents can do what they choose, but it is a big liability and not encouraged for the town to encourage. The VFW, Town Hall and Fire Station are our first options. It was discussed that PES and Crotched Mountain Ski Area could be alternate warming stations if necessary. Discussion as to the excellent service from Eversource. Keith further discussed the priority lists via Eversource. Discussion of the rain and freezing this weekend followed. Keith again reassured the Selectmen they are prepared to help anyone at anytime, there are a lot of plans in place. Very accurate weather program was discussed.

Minutes: Minutes of 12/13/22 were accepted

Financial: Selectmen signed the Payroll Manifest for 12/15 and 12/22
Selectmen signed the A/P Manifest for 12/15

Recreation: Selectmen discussed an email from Jessie Crews discussing the 2023 budget and going forward. At this time they do not want to make any changes, and they would like Bethany Craig and Jessie Crews to attend the next meeting, December 27, 2022.

At 7:33 pm with nothing further, the Selectmen adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled Selectmen's meeting will be Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Davidson
Town Administrator