

Bennington Board of Selectmen

March 21, 2023 6:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

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

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Others Present: Bethany Craig, Haley Tramposch, Jessie Crews

Appointments: There were no appointments scheduled

Minutes: After reviewing the minutes, Chairman Cleary motioned to accept the minutes of March 7, 2023. Seconded by Selectmen Foster and James.

Financial: Payroll Registers for the weeks of 3/12/23; 3/19/23 were signed
A/P Registers for the weeks of 3/9/23; 3/16/23 were signed

New Business:

- Veterans Exemptions –Selectmen signed a veteran exemption for Kyle Press, Map 19 Lot 14
- RFP for assessing services Selectmen reviewed the proposals for assessing services. Two were received, Avitar and Commerford, Nieder & Perkins, LLC. After discussion, Chairman Cleary motioned to award the services with CNP, LLC. Seconded by Selectmen Foster and James.
- Driveway Permit for Map 22-Lot 3 – Dickenson was approved by the Board.
- Investment Policy, Selectboard Guidelines & Procedures, Fund Balance Policy were presented to the Board. They will take them home, review them, and come back with any recommended changes.

Old Business:

- **Policies –**

Personnel Policy – Selectmen reviewed their recommended changes to the Personnel Policy. The changes will be made and a clean copy available at the next selectmen's meeting for additional revisions. If there are no more revisions the updated Personnel Policy will be accepted.

Sawyer Field Policy – Selectmen reviewed Sawyer Field Policy, they also had the Town of Hancock & Town of Greenfield policies to review. Selectmen discussed that Bennington recreation and local residents will always take precedence in Bennington when using Sawyer Field. Discussion followed regarding requesting a roster for the softball team. A flat fee vs. hourly rate for use of the field, parking for the rhubarb festival and other high impact events was discussed. Bethany Craig had some helpful suggestions such as, categories of usage for fees, month to month rental vs. reserving in advance for 6-8 months. Intended use of the field could determine costs for use (Bethany shared an example that certain events could pay less than a private function). Selectmen made no changes at this time to the policy, they will review it amongst themselves and come back as a Board with their recommendations within the next two weeks.

Miscellaneous:

- **Conval** – Selectmen reviewed an e-mail letter from Tim Grossi regarding Pierce School Usage Fees – discussion followed regarding the recent invoices for maintenance when the town has used the school. Selectmen authorized payment for the maintenance at this time, though they disagree with the charges, as ConVal had originally indicated the Town would never pay anything for the use of the multi-purpose room. In the future, the town will be using the Town Hall for larger meetings.
- **Fire Department renovations** – Selectman Foster recused himself at this time from Selectboard and further presented a proposal from Mike

Anderson for the Fire Station renovations. The total cost was \$10,800.00. The other prices were significantly higher. Discussion followed. Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the proposal from Mike Anderson of \$10,800.00. Seconded by Selectman James. The bid was signed by Chairman Cleary.

- **Fallen Tree** – Chairman Cleary reported that due to the recent storm and some trees had fallen on the Town Hall, they were removed. Robblee Tree Removal did the work and will be submitting a bill for payment.
- **Highway** – It was reported that as a result of the last storm, there was some damage to the orange truck, loader, and a fence that will need to be reported to Primex.
- **Fishing Derby** – Advertising the Fishing Derby was discussed. The date, time and contacts for the event were also discussed. Deb was given two names to contact for further details.
- **Mary & Richard Mathews** – Selectmen reviewed and discussed a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Mathews expressing interest in a property the town owns, further identified as Map 12, Lot 12. Discussion followed. The property would need to be reviewed by realtors for a fair market value. The property would also have to go out to public bid. The Town Administrator will contact Mr. & Mrs. Mathews and let them know how we need to proceed.
- **JLMC** – Selectman James expressed an interest in being a member of the Joint Loss Management Committee. Deb and Dave explained what the committee is. James would like to sit on the committee.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator