

Bennington Board of Selectmen

May 1, 2023 6:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman, James Cleary, Tom James, Tony Parisi

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

Appointments:

6:15 Road Agent, Matthew Blanchard – Matt was before the Board to discuss what projects he is planning on working on this summer.

Roadwork - Curtis Homestead to Pine Meadows will be finished – encumbered funds will be used to complete this project.

Advanced Paving will provide a significant reduction of in their price per ton for top coat if we combine roads that are close in proximity. With a price close to \$80.00/ton Blanchard would like to work on Birch Glen, no prep work is needed on this road, The Birches and Dodge Road, no prep work on this road either. Dodge Road will likely need some shoulder work before they can start that road. The prep will be done before it is started with the top coat.

Pricing for these roads: Birch Glenn approximately \$41,935; The Birches \$31,135 with 1 ¾" top coat and Dodge Road was quoted at \$56,637

In 2024 the plan is to do work on Old Greenfield Road, the sides are in tough shape. The culverts will need to be replaced this year, 2023. The road is approximately 3210' and 18-20' wide. An estimated price of \$58,435.00 for 1 ¾". This road needs to be dug up and redone completely so the cost will be more because of the extensive work needed.

2024 will also include sealing some other locations and working from the Transfer Station to Curtis Farm Road. Stagecoach Road will also have some work done on it.

There is no definite start date for the 2023 work, Advanced Paving needs a contract and then the date will be more definite. Blanchard thinks it should be sometime in June.

Selectmen were all supportive of this plan.

Unanticipated Bridge Funds – The Town received approximately \$64,000.00 of unanticipated bridge money in 2022. The funds need to be used on projects before 2024. Blanchard has a plan to use the funds for Guardrails on Old Greenfield Road and at Dan’s Island.

Sidewalk by Library – Blanchard is going to fix the sidewalk by the Library this summer. He will reach out to Webber for a price to address this, discussion followed as far as digging out the concrete and filling it with concrete. There are funds in the Sidewalk CRF that could be used for this project.

Equipment – Discussion followed regarding options for an excavator, repairs to the current backhoe which needs to be cleaned up. It will be steamed cleaned, painted, undercoated and three pins will be changed out. It will be between \$10-15,000 dollars but it will be done correctly. The purchase of a used excavator was discussed. Blanchard explained how an excavator could be beneficial to him and DJ. It will be efficient with ditching, catch basins and more time efficient. Discussion continued. No decision was made at this time regarding purchasing an excavator, more information will be provided about pricing, cost of a trailer and feasibility of this purchase. Selectmen supported and approved repairing the current backhoe as was discussed.

Pressure Washer – Discussion of purchasing a pressure washer followed. This would be a helpful tool to have. Selectmen supported and approved this purchase.

7:00 Chief of Police, Jason LePine –

New Weapons – Chief LePine informed the Board he has finalized and purchased 8 new pistols for the department.

Candidate for employment – A new candidate for part-time officer has applied the written test is scheduled for Wednesday at 2:00 pm. As well as a PT Test, the oral board and psychological evaluation are also being scheduled. Upon satisfactory completion, the candidate will need to complete the Police Academy. Unsure if it will be the part-time or full-time academy at this time. Chief LePine is looking into that and will report back to the board

7:15 pm – in accordance with RSA 91A-3 II (c) motion by Chairman Cleary to enter into a non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. All in favor.

7:50 pm – motion by Chairman Cleary to enter out of non-public. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. All in favor

Decision: Selectmen would like to invite Keith Nason to the next Selectmen's Meeting.

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the April 24, 2023 minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. All in favor

Financial: Selectmen signed the Payroll Register for the week of 4/26/2023, they also signed the A/P Register for the week of 4/26/2023.

Signatures:

Abatement – Reuven Aucoin

Building Permit – Dickenson – Bible Hill Road

Conservation Information – Selectmen discussed they would like to give the Conservation Commission 100% of revenue from the Yield, Gravel and Land Use Tax, a warrant article is needed to increase percentage to the Commission. This will be on the 2024 warrant.

Hazardous Waste Day – May 7, 2023 in Hillsborough

Signage – Town Administrator, Deb Davidson reported to the Board that Keith Nason is making No Alcohol, Dogs on Leash and a sign for Whittemore.

Letter – Sam Cohen sent a letter to the Attorney General regarding ex-officio, conflict of times and Selectmen's changing the date of their meeting. The Attorney General and Town Counsel resolved this matter. No action will be taken.

Elevator – Town Administrator reported updated drawings were needed for the elevator, the engineer updated and signed them. The phone line is set to go. Waiting on the elevator at this time.

Property Sales – Map 12 Lot 12; Map 17 Lot 29 – each are accompanied by costs sheet. Legal fees will be included, if able to find the backup, the information is not in the computer. The properties will be advertised in the local paper, sealed bids will be opened on May 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Hydroelectric Reimbursement – The town has received \$335.39 from Standard Power of America, Inc.

Price for water main – Selectmen had two prices for the work for the water main allowing the installation of the sprinkler system. Prices were JCL \$16,500.00; Gordon Services was \$21,219.12 – A brief discussion followed. Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the price from JCL of \$16,500.00. Seconded by Selectmen James and Parisi. Motion passed and the estimate was signed by Chairman Cleary. JCL will be notified tomorrow.

Appointment for Library Trustees – a letter from the Librarian was presented, the Trustees would like to appoint David McKenzie and Rhonda Davie as Trustees. Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept this recommendation, seconded by Parisi and James.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned Selectmen’s Meeting at 8:07 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator