

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**May 8, 2023 6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

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

**Appointments:**

**6:00 – Mike Munhall** – Mike was here representing the Conservation Commission with regards to Map 17 Lot 29. Discussion followed. Clean-up will be part of the sales agreement with verification of clean up.

**6:00 Jim Creighton, State Legislator and VFW/American Legion Representative** – Mr. Creighton opened by discussing how the VFW and American Legion are trying to include more veterans, they are wanting to reach out to more men and women and become more active. There are currently approximately 8-10 regulars who meet once per month for an hour or two. The American Legion has discussed co-locating with the VFW. They meet approximately 1 hour per month. They would like to build some storage. Selectmen discussed the building is currently being used by recreation, conservation commission and the VFW on a regular basis. Discussion regarding relocating the bathrooms and creating a uni-bath at the end of the building followed. No decisions were made.

Mr. Creighton asked Selectmen what they would like him to bring back to the State as concerns. Lengthy discussion followed regarding property taxes and the impact that Education has on municipalities. Creighton discussed currently towns get approximately \$3,900.00 in State Education funds, it recently increased to approximately \$4,600.00. Creighton agrees property taxes need addressing, 80% of tax money goes to education. Mr. Creighton assured Selectmen he will sit down and discuss this concern with other legislators. Final discussion was Conval tuition is approximately \$28,000.00/student, operating budget is \$54,000,000. He will discuss concerns with Ann Fitzgerald and will also send the Selectmen the new law that was recently passed.

Selectmen all thanked Mr. Creighton for stopping in and look forward to updates on both matters discussed.

**6:30 Gregory LeBlanc** – Selectmen met with Mr. LeBlanc who has an interest in the Lifeguard position for Whittemore Beach. Has lifeguard certification, was a lifeguard at Manahan in Hillsborough. Provided references, is willing to fulfill beach attendant duties as well. Wages, hours and what is expected was discussed. Selectmen thanked Mr. LeBlanc, they will discuss this position and be in touch with Mr. LeBlanc in the morning.

Selectmen discussed the position, they will offer \$15.50 per hour, 30 hours per week with some Saturdays. There is not enough money in the recreation budget to fully fund this position, the line item will likely be overspent.

**6:45 Keith Nason, Emergency Management Director –**

At 6:47 in accordance with RSA 91A 3II (c) Chairman Cleary made the motion to enter into a non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to enter out of non-public at 7:05pm. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi.

No Decision was made.

Selectmen asked Keith about the inmate program

**Minutes:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of May 1, 2023 as written, and further accepted the non-public minutes of May 1, 2023, Seconded by Selectman James.

**Financial:** Selectmen signed the account's payable and payroll manifests for the week of 5/4/2023

## Signatures:

**ZBA Appointments** – Selectmen signed appointments for Chris Clough and also Alternates: Peter Martel, David Hardwick, Sr.

**Sawyer Park Rental** – Men’s Slow-pitch Softball park rental was signed.

## Other:

**Property Sales** – Map 12 Lot 12; Map 17 Lot 29 – Notice of bid in the paper

**Map 10 Lot 2** – Exemption for garden space to town was discussed. Marie Plummer indicated she has always received a \$500 adjustment on her assessment in exchange for allowing flowers be planted on her property. She did not notice the adjustment for the last tax bill. If she doesn’t get the adjustment, she does not want flowers planted there and would tar the spot. Selectmen discussed this, no recollection of this exchange. Town Administrator will check with assessor to see if he has any idea of this adjustment and take appropriate action once a decision is reached.

**Hazardous Waste Day** – Selectman James reported that 8 people took advantage of the Hazardous waste day on May 7, in Hillsborough. Though there were only 8 people, they had a lot of waste. Overall, it was a successful event for Bennington.

**Raft & Buoys** -Selectmen discussed the raft and buoys, Jim has a boat that can be used. Town Administrator will ask Matt when in May will they be set out.

**Whittemore Lake Road** – Discussion followed regarding the road to Whittemore Lake being in rough shape, it is a public boat launching area, the State of NH, Fish & Game will be notified of these concerns.

**Rhubarb Pie Contest Judges** – Selectmen all will commit to being judges for the Rhubarb Pie Contest at 10:00 am on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Edward E. French Scholarship** – Applicants Hayden Kaltsas & Allison Hodgen

**Timber Cut** – There was a questionable cut on North Bennington Road, the DRA went out and found nothing questionable, if anything the property owner is cleaning up the woods, making walking trails.

Selectmen discussed meeting bi weekly meetings. It was determined to start meeting bi-weekly. The next meeting will be Monday, May 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Davidson".

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator