

# Bennington Board of Selectmen

May 22, 2023 6:00 PM

## Meeting Minutes

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

Motion by Chairman Cleary to open the meeting at 6:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectmen James and Parisi.

### Appointments:

**6:00 – Open sale of land bids** – Selectmen opened the sealed bids for the following properties that were taken by tax deed and have been put out to bid. All bids needed to have a 10% deposit and the winning bid will present the balance paid to the Town of Bennington within 7 days in the form of a bank check.

- **Map 12 Lot 12** – There was one bid for this property. The bid was accepted as presented. Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the bid of \$30,010.00 as presented. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. Discussion followed. Motion was accepted.

The winning bid was from Mary Baska-Mathews & Richard Mathews Jr. in the amount of \$30,010.00, the Baska-Mathews included a check for \$3,001.00 representing 10% of their bid. The Town Administrator will notify the Mathews of the Board's decision to accept the offer of \$30,010.00. Reminding them the additional funds need to be presented within 7 business days.

- **Map 17 Lot 29** - There were two bids for this property. Bids were opened, one was for \$3,000.00, the other was for \$5,000.00. Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the \$5,000.00 bid as presented. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. Discussion followed. Motion was accepted. The winning bid was submitted by Scott Liljeberg, the bid was accompanied with a bank check of \$500.00, representing 10% of the accepted offer. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. Discussion followed. Motion was accepted. The Town Administrator will notify Mr. Liljeberg of the Board's decision to accept the offer

of \$5,000.00. Reminding Liljeberg shall present the additional fund within 7 business days.

**6:15 - Road Agent, Matthew Blanchard –**

- **Advanced Paving contract** – Matt presented the final contract for the paving projects. By bundling the roads in town (Dodge Rd., Birch Glenn and Curtis Farm) it saved a significant amount of money, utilizing the encumbered funds the amount to tax payers is approximately \$113,000.00. Paving is all set and they will start paving tomorrow, May 23, 2023. Beginning at Curtis Farm and they will go forward until finished.
- **Buoys** - Discussion as to when the buoys will be taken care of followed. They will not be installed before Memorial Day, however Selectmen James & Parisi offered to help Matt & DJ put them out when the time is decided to set them out.

**Minutes:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of May 8, 2023 as written. Seconded by Selectman James. Motion approved.

**Financial:** Selectmen signed Payroll Registers for May 11 and May 18, they further signed the A/P Registers for May 11 and May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Signatures:**

- **Appointment** – Water Commissioner, Dennis McKenney
- **Building Permit** – Curtis Farm Homestead
- **Timber Tax** – David Hardwick

**Other:**

**Trees** – Acceptable trees to plant out in front of the Town Office was discussed. Selectmen mentioned that Dogwood is what needs to be planted.

**Flowers for Bridge** – Discussion followed as to who takes care of this going forward. Mrs. Manley used to do it and is unable to care for them this summer. At this time, no one can do it. Motion by Chairman Cleary to not have the hanging flowers on the bridge this summer. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Brief discussion followed. **Decision:** No hanging flowers will be on the bridge this summer.

**HB529** – Selectmen reviewed the document from Jim Creighton with regards to HB529 and the recent vote that would provide additional aid to school districts with low-income students.

**School Consolidation/Reconfiguration** – Selectmen briefly discussed the press release from ConVal regarding establishing a committee to investigate consolidation/reconfiguration of the elementary schools for ConVal.

**RSA 76:11** – Selectmen, Tax Collector and the Town Administrator discussed advantages vs. disadvantage of putting the newsletter with tax bills. Selectmen did not realize that nothing is supposed to be in the tax bills unless it is tax related, unless voted on by the Board. Discussion followed.

Chairman Cleary made the motion to provide the newsletter in areas around town and not include the newsletter in the tax bills. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed.

Decision: the newsletter will not be included in the tax bills and will be made available at various places in the Town of Bennington such as the Library, the Town Office, Transfer Station, Alberto's, Sunoco Gas Station and the Bennington Garage if the businesses will allow.

**Policies** – These were tabled at this time. They will be reviewed at a later date.

- Recreation Committee Bylaws
- Internal Controls Policy
- Uncashed Check Policy
- Cash Receipts

**NH Housing Tax Check** – The town has received a \$40,000.00 check from NH Housing on behalf of a resident. All but approximately \$9,000.00, primarily interest, will be paid. The resident has indicated a payment plan for the remainder will be agreed to.

**Bats** – The sprinkler workers reported there are approximately 200 bats that have returned to the attic area of the Town Office. Discussion followed. Matt Harwood is putting a sonar sound device in the third floor in hopes of deterring the bats. After a brief discussion, the Town Administrator was instructed to contact Primex and Fish & Game. Fish & Game will be contacted on Tuesday.

**Sprinkler System** – JCL has reported the POD that has been delivered for the sprinkler system supplies needs to be relocated before Wednesday when they will start the water main. Acre Street residents will not have any water for a short time on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, while the water main is redone. This has been noticed on the website and on Facebook pages.

**Transfer Station Closure** – Selectmen discussed closing the transfer station on Sunday, May 28, 2023 with Monday being the holiday. Tom James indicated many residents expect the Transfer Station to be closed on Sunday. After a brief discussion it was agreed by Selectmen Parisi & Cleary with Selectman James recusing himself from the vote, to close the Transfer Station on Sunday. It will be noticed on Facebook and the website.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi.

The next Selectmen’s Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 5, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator