

Bennington Board of Selectmen

August 7, 2023

Meeting Minutes

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

Motion by Selectman James to open the meeting at 6:01 pm Seconded by Selectman Parisi.

Appointments:

6:15 – Diana Ramirez-Beam – Ms. Beam did not show up

6:30 – Carey Holter – Mr. Holter did not show up

6:45 – Ben Mowatt & Keith McLellan – Scenic Rail Explorers, LLC – Selectmen opened this portion of the meeting discussing there are some concerns from residents regarding the use of the VFW (a.k.a. the Depot). VFW, Conservation Commission and the Girl Scouts use the building on a regular basis. The contract is too limited for the town use and Selectmen aren't comfortable giving up their control of the building. A lengthy discussion followed. At this time, the contract does need to be amended before Selectmen will consider signing it. The following items were discussed:

- Rent vs. building improvements or both
- Access of VFW for Town to the Building
- Segregation of an area in the building for Town vs. SRE, LLC
- Gift shop
- Storage of bikes
- Brochures
- Link from website
- SRE, LLC to visit transfer station and educate residents of the project
- Public meeting for residents
- Number of attendants at the site for rides on bikes (10-15 to start, no more than 25 in the future)
- Seasonal events

Minutes: Motion by Selectman James to accept the minutes of July 24, 2023 and July 31, 2023 as written. Seconded by Selectman Parisi.

Financial: Selectmen signed the Payroll Registers for the weeks of 7/27/23, 8/3/23 and further signed the A/P Registers for the weeks of 7/27/23, 8/3/23.

Other matters discussed:

PUC 2022.04 Compliance - Motion by Chairman Cleary to change the name of the BEST Committee to Bennington Community Power Committee. The purpose of this change is to comply with the PUC requirements. Seconded by Selectmen James and Parisi.

Clean Fleets Grant – The grant will be applied for, waiting for quotes for a truck. The Backhoe is a 2011 and does not qualify for replacement.

Transfer Station Update –

- **Surveillance Camera** – The Town Administrator explained that the access to the monitor should be read only and can be accessed by one employee. IT (Twin Bridge) did NOT recommend having the dept. head or an employee of the Transfer Station having access. IT also recommended a policy be written and adopted. Discussion followed. Motion by Selectman James to allow, the one town employee be Chief of Police, Jason LePine. And to further have the Town Administrator write a policy for adoption. Seconded by Selectman Parisi. Motion passed.
- **Help** – Tom James discussed he has no help at the Transfer Station. He is going to be taking a vacation in the near future. He has a former employee who has indicated she may be able to help on two days, but there is no other help at this time. He has asked two other former employees who may be able to fill in on the weekends, there is no definite answer at this time though. Discussion regarding options followed. Selectmen discussed that on a temporary basis, DJ and/or Matt will fill in on Wednesdays until someone can be hired. Selectman James will contact Matt Blanchard on August 8, 2023 and let him know of the decision for he and/or DJ to help out on Wednesdays.

Decision Template – Selectmen reviewed and discussed a decision template that was recommended by resident, Michael Munhall. Discussion followed regarding this suggestion, Selectmen are not interested in using this. They make decisions in the best interest of the community and this does not appear to be a valuable tool for decision making. Motion by Selectman Parisi not to use the template when making decisions. Seconded by Selectman James & Chairman Cleary. Motion passed.

Cemetery Rules & Regulations DRAFT Update – Selectmen reviewed the DRAFT document. They would like to see the old regulations at their next meeting before making comment.

Girl Scouts – An application from Colleen Allen for Girl Scouts usage of the VFW was reviewed and approved.

Handicap ramp – Selectmen discussed the ramp and when it will be installed at the Town Hall. They would like Matt Harwood to provide a drawing of possibilities and a cost associated, if necessary they would like Matt to come to a meeting. No decisions were made.

Elevator – The contractor and electrician have completed their punch list. We are now waiting on the Elevator Company to finish their part and for the State of NH to provide a license. Both have indicated it could be a few weeks.

State of NH Easement Amendment – The State of NH has requested a letter of approval to amend the easement for the Antrim well location. This is providing an additional 10-20 feet of space for the well to be relocated. Selectmen signed a letter and it will be sent to the State.

Friday Music – Tom James requested Selectmen consider a letter of sponsorship for the support of Friday Night Music. There is currently no funding in the budget for this, Selectmen supported sending out sponsorship letters. Tom is looking for volunteers for Marketing, set up/Clean up, food etc.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm. The next Selectmen's Meeting will be on August 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator