

Bennington Board of Selectmen

September 18, 2023

Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm

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

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

Appointments:

6:02 pm – in accordance with RSA 91:A3, II (c) Chairman Cleary motioned to enter into a non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James.

6:10 pm – motion by Chairman Cleary to enter out of non-public. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James.

Decision: The employee will have a modified schedule for two weeks.

6:15 Ben Mowatt, SRE – Ben Mowatt & Keith McLellan were present to be updated and discuss options regarding the Scenic Rail venture. Chairman Cleary explained the plans the VFW discussed with the Board. The Board has made the decision to put the SRE on hold for now.

Mr. Mowatt asked if they should reach out to the VFW? Selectmen suggested he could speak to Jim Creighton who is a State Rep and active VFW member.

Concerns of the rail bike storage and security were discussed. With containers, structures over the tracks, locks and surveillance they feel confident they will be safe. The structure over the track with a lock will not be more than 1' – 2' over the tracks, it is not anything that is big and bulky.

Chairman Cleary mentioned the Board wants to talk with Conservation Commission before they move forward in any direction. The Conservation Commission uses the building on a regular basis.

Mr. Mowatt was provided some alternative options, and he will look into those.

Selectmen thanked Mr. Mowatt & Mr. McLellan for their time.

Minutes: Chairman Cleary made the motion to accept the September 11, 2023 minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James.

Financial: Selectmen signed the Payroll Registers and A/P Registers for the week of September 14.

Signatures:

- **MS-1** - 2023 MS-1
- **Building Permits** – John Charlonne, Garage; Terry Gray, pole barn; Hardwick, Chicken Coop

Other:

- **Increase line items** – In accordance with GASB accounting regulations, at the advice of our auditor, Kyle Gringas from Plodzick and Sanderson and a motion by Selectmen to accept an anonymous gift, account 01- 4520-2-439 shall be increased by \$2500.00. Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the anonymous gift of \$2,500.00 and to further increase the appropriate account as determined. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. Motion accepted.
- **Job Applicants** – Review (1 Crossing Guard; 1 Transfer Station) – Selectmen approved these applicants. At the recommendation of the Chief of Police, the Crossing Guard position will be awarded to Candi Michaels, the pay is \$10.00/hour. The per diem Transfer Station position will be awarded to Robert Kinney, Jr., the pay for this per diem position is \$13.00/hour.
- **Clean up corner of Bible Hill** – This was discussed previously in the year, the Conservation Commission wants to beatify the area, this was approved by the Board earlier. It is questioned when the trees will be taken down, Matt Blanchard has reported that Robblee will be addressing the trees on Tuesday, September 19, 2023
- **Hours at Transfer Station** – Town Administrator asked how Selectmen would like to get the new hours, effective October 1, 2023 advertised. Brief discussion followed, it will be on the LED sign, the Facebook page, the website and in the paper. The new hours will be Wednesday 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Friday 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm and Saturdays 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Trash will need to continue to be bagged.
- **Resignation** – Selectmen received the resignation from Tyler Howe from Budget Advisory Committee, the regretfully accepted his resignation.
Transfer Station hours – change?

- **Gym Floor** – Rodney Thompson, Jr. looked at the floor and will be providing a quote for a new floor. Mr. Thompson does not think the floor can be refinished as it has been done too many times. Building Inspector, John Kendall will have his flooring specialist look at the floor for a second opinion.
- **Fire Department** – Selectmen asked Town Administrator to have the Fire Chief come to the next meeting for an update on the department.
- **Vehicle Mileage** – Selectmen discussed keeping mileage logs on all town vehicles. After further discussion, Selectmen instructed the Town Administrator to provide each department with logs for every vehicle, asking them to be completed daily and a copy be provided to the office on a monthly basis.
- **Cheshire Fence** – The Town Administrator has contacted Crowe Fencing several times. There has been no reply from Crowe Fencing regarding the fence repairs and the new fence needed for the playground. Cheshire Fence will be contacted during the next week for a price.

7:51 – Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator