

Bennington Board of Selectmen

September 25, 2023

Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm

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

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:00 pm, seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James

Appointments:

6:15 Fire Chief, David Foster & EMT Director, Keith Nason – Selectmen invited Chief Foster and EMD Nason to the meeting in an effort to obtain an update of the Fire Department.

- **Monthly Meetings** - Selectmen will be inviting each department head to Selectmen's Meetings on a monthly basis. It is important to the Board to be updated on each department on a regular basis.
- **New Fire Truck** - Selectmen asked about the Fire Truck that was seen a few weeks ago, is it the Town's new one? Chief Foster & EMD Nason reported it was a demo truck, allowing the firemen/women to become familiar with the truck. The new Fire Truck is right on schedule to be received in the fall of 2024.
- **Tahoe** - Chairman Cleary asked what the status of the Tahoe was? Nason & Foster reported graphics are still being worked out. The wrap on the front bumper is being assessed, graphics should be on it this coming week. Chief Foster presented a sample of the graphics. The goal is to have it ready for Halloween.
- **Inspections** – Zack Anderson, is state certified and is getting all the fire/rescue vehicles ready for inspections.
- **Fire Tec** – Chief Foster presented an agreement to advertise through Fire Tec. Fire Tec does take a 10% or \$750.00 for a satisfactory sale of equipment. The truck is currently advertised with Muni bid. If Muni bid sells the equipment, we do not owe Fire Tec anything.
- **Mileage logs** – Selectmen discussed wanting all departments to use mileage logs. EMD Nason indicated the department has started using them and will submit them on a monthly basis.

- **Antique Fire Truck** – Town Administrator asked if any assessment has been completed at this time. Chief Foster said they had not found a good appraiser yet, this will remain on the list of items to take care of.
- **Fire Station Renovations** – Renovations are coming along. Framing and cabling is completed. The contractor has been busy so he hasn't been able to return.
- **Emergency Management** – Keith Nason had nothing to report.

6:30 – Peter Throop – Monadnock Conservancy – Mr. Throop was present to discuss the Comeau Property located at 24 Old Coach Road in Bennington. Mr. Throop is the project manager for this project. He provided maps of the property and discussed the qualifications for LCHIP and a drinking water source fund that protects water supplies. This property appears to meet all the qualifications for these funding sources. Mr. Comeau is wanting to put the property into a conservation easement. Mr. Comeau owns the farm with 50 acres, he would like to purchase the 6.3 acres which abuts the farm and include this into the easement. 3 acres will be held out for the barn and the area around the homestead. There are lots of funds for farm land, not as much for forestry land. Currently the property is used for grazing and haying. The farm has downsized and currently is only working 9 cows, however eventually they would like to have 40 cows. At this time, Mr. Throop is looking for a letter of support from the Selectmen. Mr. Throop presented a letter for Selectmen to review. After a brief discussion, Selectmen signed the letter so Mr. Throop could have it for his project.

Joe McGregor & Mike Munhall from the Bennington Conservation Commission were present to hear about the project. Mr. Throop mentioned he will be attending the October Conservation Commission meeting to discuss this further and looking for a letter of support from the Conservation Commission.

Mr. McGregor asked if Mr. Throop or someone from the Monadnock Conservancy could do a presentation for the Conservation Commission to discuss the topic of Conservation Easements. Mr. Throop indicated that there are very limited resources, the funding for the programs has been reduced, as has the staffing, however Mr. Throop will look into the coalition and see what is available. He will get back to the Town with his findings.

Discussion followed regarding the wells at the condominiums and the impact that if not properly preserved this property could have on the wells.

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cleary to amend the minutes of September 18, 2023 with a typographical error. The transfer station hours on Saturday should read 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, not 6:30. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. Motion accepted and minutes will be updated.

Financial: Selectmen signed the Payroll Register and A/P Register - 9/21/23

Other:

- **Town hall update –**

 - **Gymnasium bathroom** – simple handicapped, wains coating, paint

 - **Elevator update** – still waiting for the elevator inspection

 - **Handicap ramp** - waiting for engineer/architectural drawings

 - **Painting** – hallway, bathroom, office – Selectmen would like at least one written quote for this

 - **Cupola** – providing it is good weather, Matt Harwood anticipates finishing up on Tuesday. Chairman Cleary mentioned for the Town Administrator to mention to Matt Harwood the cupola needs to be sealed off inside.

- **Fencing update** – Crowe Fencing and Cheshire Fence has not returned calls or emails. Chairman Cleary will contact one of the owners of Crowe Fencing.
- **Trunk or Treat** – A brief discussion about Trunk or Treat followed. At this time there is no ability to have an event in 2023.
- **Meeting Agenda** – A discussion followed regarding having the agenda posted on Fridays at noon. Any appointments requested after Friday at noon will be first for the following week meeting.

Signatures:

- **Cyclical Reval Contract** – Selectmen reviewed and signed the cyclical reval contract with CNP. The signed document will be forwarded to the assessing company, CNP.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. 2nd by Selectmen Parisi and James. The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be Monday, October 2, 2023 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be followed by a meeting at Pierce Elementary School at 7:00 pm to discuss consolidation and/or the future of the Conval Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator