

Bennington Board of Selectmen

October 23, 2023

Meeting Minutes– 6:00 pm

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

Staff: Deb Davidson, Town Administrator

Public: There was no public present for this meeting

Appointments:

6:15 Road Agent, Matt Blanchard – Monthly update on DPW

- **Backhoe** - Discussion on replacing backhoe with new or used ensued. The current has been broken, with many repairs for the last 10-12 months. CAT has been on site 3-4 times and cannot figure out what is wrong with the current piece of equipment. It will just stop working, the computers have been replaced and many other electrical updates. The Backhoe works fine and then just limps along. All the breakdowns this summer have caused a lot of down time for the highway department and have slowed down progress of road work. A rental limped the town along, but it was expensive.

Matt has two prices, both are through Milton Cat. One is a used 2016, 420 with 1500 hours on it. It has the extension and a digging bucket. All of the attachments we currently have will work with this piece of equipment. The cost is \$100,000.00. The second is a new 2024, 420 the cost is \$149,000.00. This has a front bucket and all the attachments needed. Matt is looking at what Cat will give for a trade price. 2024 Budget, staffing and updates on equipment was discussed.

Both pieces of equipment come with a warranty, the difference is the 2016 would most likely have a 1-year warranty. The new backhoe would have a warranty that covers breaks downs and repairs for a longer period, but currently there is no estimated date of delivery.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to authorize Matt Blanchard to talk to Milton Cat for the purchase of either new or used backhoe. And to further use ours as a trade if they will offer \$15,000.00 or more. If the new one could have a delivery within 4 weeks, that would be preferred. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0.

- **CV Truck** - Selectmen discussed the new CV and asked what the estimated delivery is, Matt said they are anticipating delivery before Thanksgiving.
- **Road Work** – Selectmen discussed washouts –

Old Greenfield Road - Selectman Cleary stated that Old Greenfield Road looks good, but there are a few places that still need work. Mostly clean-up at this time.

Mountain Road Bridge – Discussion that the highway crew needs to get as much of the debris out from under the bridge as possible as soon as possible, this will keep the bridge from being washed out. Discussion continued as to ways of cleaning out the debris.

Edging – Matt reported that all the edging for the roads will be finished this week, though washouts have been the priority.

Bible Hill Rd. Culvert – The culvert that was reported earlier in the year has been built up and has worked very well throughout the season. There is no overflow onto the property in which the complaint came from.

Lawn mower – It was discussed that in 2024 Matt could look into a mower with a bagger on it.

2024 Budget – The proposed 2024 budget was briefly discussed.

Bridge Funds – Projects for these funds was discussed. It will be discussed with the DRA what are some appropriate uses of the funds.

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of October 16, 2023 as written. Seconded by Parisi & James. Voted 3-0

Financial: Payroll Register and A/P Registers for the week of October 19, 2023 were signed by all Selectmen.

Other:

- **Fencing update** – Chairman Cleary discussed his meeting with Mike Crowe of Crowe Fencing on Thursday, October 19, 2023. Crowe Fence & Deck Supply will provide a quote to replace the damaged sections of Newhall Field and Whittemore Lake. A quote for a fence in front of the swing area at Sawyer Field will also be provided. Discussion followed that before the fence could be replaced at Whittemore Lake, there is brush that needs to be cleaned up. The bounds of the property will be identified, if necessary abutters will be notified.
- **Elevator update** – Everything was finalized last week, we are waiting for the State of NH to come and do their inspection.
- **Transfer Station hours** – Brief discussion followed regarding the change of hours at the Transfer Station. Selectman James reported he has only had positive feedback. Town Administrator reported she received one phone call from a resident who expressed a dissatisfaction with the new hours. All Selectmen agree the new hours will remain.

Signatures:

- **Building Permit Applications** – Caisse, Map 11 Lot 6
- **Intent to cut** – Map 17 Lot 25 – Antrim Precinct

Adjournment:

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm. Seconded by Parisi and James. Motion passed 3-0.

The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, October 30, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator