

Bennington Board of Selectmen

November 13, 2023

Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm

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

Staff: Deb Davidson, Town Administrator

Public: There was no one from the public present

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi.

Appointments:

6:05 – Scott Liljeberg – In accordance with RSA 92A:3II(C) at 6:06 pm Chairman Cleary motioned to enter into a non-public meeting. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi. Motion passed 3-0.

6:25 pm – Motion by Chairman Cleary to enter out of non-public and to resume the regular meeting. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0

Decision: Town Administrator to contact Town Counsel for advisement how to proceed.

6:30 – Jim Creighton & Brian Quinn – Update for Selectmen with activity at the VFW. The post has been very busy. The veterans' dinner was a huge success, they served approximately 60 families.

As far as the plans for updates, Mr. Creighton has contacted two companies, Cobb Hill from Concord and Bear Hand LLC from Deering. Bear Hand is a veteran owned company and spent at least two hours at the building taking a hard look at what is needed. There are no numbers yet but Mr. Creighton does have sketches from Bear Hand. At this time, Fire Chief, David Foster spoke up and commented that the building is capped at 49 people unless it is sprinkled. Town Administrator will verify with the Code Officer, John Kendall as to the number of bathrooms that are needed. Discussion regarding the old kitchen stove followed, the Town Administrator will ask Matt & DJ what happened to the stove. It has likely been disposed of.

Discussion of the ticket window and bubbler followed. These items may be moved but will remain in the building.

The deed and survey were reviewed and discussed. These will be scanned and emailed to Mr. Creighton.

Discussion of contacting Peter Leishman followed. Town Administrator and Mr. Creighton will contact Mr. Leishman.

Mr. Creighton and Mr. Quinn will meet again with the Selectboard on or about December 1, 2023.

6:45 – Fire Chief, David Foster –

- **Sale of 2009 F-550** - Fire Chief, David Foster was before the Selectboard and discussed selling the 2009 F 550 for \$75,000. Foster will provide the Town Office with an invoice for the \$7,500.00, the remaining \$67,500.00 will be put into the Capital Reserve Fund, pending approval from the voters via a warrant article in March.
- **New Fire Truck** – Chief Foster reported the new Fire Truck should be delivered in June or July. The first payment of \$450,000.00 will be paid via CRF, as approved by voters in March 2023.
- **Fire Station Updates** – Chief Foster reported the renovations to the Station are almost complete. All that is needed is to sheet rock, mud and paint. The renovations should be completed by the end of the year.
- **Tahoe** – Chief Foster stated the new Tahoe is almost finished, he said it will be completely finished within the next week or two.
- **AED Options** – Chief Foster discussed options for the AED, one option is to budget \$9,050.00 for 10. Then the Town would be fully outfitted with adequate supply of AED's. Discussion followed. Foster will look into the option of buying 4-5 units and report back to the Selectboard. No decisions were made at this time.
- **Departmental matters** – Selectmen discussed moral within the fire department. Chief Foster said things are going well within the department.

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of November 6, 2023 as written. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0

Financial: Payroll and A/P Registers we approved for the week of November 9, 2023

Other:

- **Budget review** – Selectmen were provided an updated budget
- **Letter from resident** – Selectmen reviewed a letter from a resident regarding the excessive speed on 202. Discussion followed. The Selectmen instructed the Town Administrator to provide Chief LePine with the letter and have him follow up. Selectmen realize this is a State Road, but they also realize that the Bennington Police sit at the Rymes location frequently. It will be encouraged that the officers run radar in alternate locations on Route 202.
- **David Glynn Acknowledgement** – Selectmen discussed and were all in agreement to purchase a plaque, with a photo, acknowledging David Glynn for his generous donation, which allowed the Town to install the Lift and also allowed the building to be sprinkled for fire safety.
- **Grant for signage** – Selectman James discussed earlier in the year he had provided Chief LePine with documentation for a grant to obtain solar speed signs. Discussion followed. Selectmen are hopeful the town could obtain 3 signs and that could help with speeding throughout the town. Selectmen instructed the Town Administrator to follow up with Chief LePine to see what the status of the grant application is at this time.
- **Whittemore Lake** – The State will be testing the lake again this week for the cyanobacteria. Lengthy discussion followed, Selectmen would like to put a warrant article to have all septic on Whittemore Lake pumped every 3 years and a report sent to the Town.
- **Bennington Community Power Plan** – Selectmen reviewed the Plan as presented by the Bennington Community Power Committee. Brief discussion followed. Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the Bennington Community Power Plan as written. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. Motion passed 3-0. The plan will be presented to the Bob Hayden, David Makenzie and Public Utilities Commission as written.

Signatures:

- Selectmen signed the 2023 P2 Tax Warrant as presented. The tax rate had a minor increase. The new tax rate was approved at \$32.15 – the rates are: Town - \$10.63; School - \$18.31; State Education - \$1.97; County \$1.24. The rate increase is \$.50/1000. Tax bills will be due December 20, 2023.

Adjournment:

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator