

Bennington Board of Selectmen

December 18, 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

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:05 pm. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi.

Appointments: There were no appointments scheduled

6:45 – Molly Eppig – Though Molly was not on the agenda, she did stop in to discuss the Rhubarb Festival with the Selectmen. Volunteers were discussed, Molly is looking for volunteers for Tents, Parking, a Volunteer Chairperson, vendor layout, vendors, music, the petting zoo, Food Vendors and roasting a pig were discussed. Selectman Parisi said he would be the parking volunteer, Chairman Cleary will roast a pig, Osienski's are the petting zoo volunteers, and music will be handled by Selectman James. Suggestions as to where asking for volunteers could be obtained was discussed. Any names of possible volunteers should be forwarded to Molly Eppig. The Festival is only going to be one day, June 1, 2024 with a rain date of June 2. Selectmen thanked Molly for stopping in and we will all stay in touch as the festival progresses.

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the December 11, 2023 minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi. Motion passed 3-0

Financial: Selectmen signed the A/P & Payroll Manifests

Other:

- **Budget Committee** – The Town Administrator met with the Budget Committee, the Budget Committee recommended transferring the \$1500.00 from the REC Department to the Library since they will be sponsoring the Rhubarb Festival in 2024. After a brief discussion, Selectmen unanimously agree to keep the

\$1,500.00 of funds for the Rhubarb Festival in the Recreation Budget for the year 2024.

- **Mountain Road** – Selectmen discussed at length the culvert on Mountain Road, which caused the road to be closed. Selectmen instructed the Town Administrator to contact the road agent and instruct him to clean the culvert, everything being pulled out asap. Further instructing the Road Agent, not to go home until the project is finished.
- **Resident Letter** – Selectmen instructed the Town Administrator to send the letter for the resident who disposed of inappropriate waste certified tomorrow.
- **Speed on 202** – Selectmen discussed the speeding on route 202. Selectmen have suggested in the past the police sit at a different location than at Rymes. Signage is being looked into, Selectmen are aware, 202 is a state road and there are limitations what can be done on a state road at a local level, however more patrol on Route 202 has been suggested.
- **JP Pest** – The Town Administrator is waiting to hear back from JP Pest. She will contact them again tomorrow.
- **Matt Harwood** – Selectmen discussed wanting the rug stripping removed before the January 5, 2024 concert. Also, the Town Administrator will request a rubber threshold for the lift before the January 5, 2024 event. Lastly, if Matt could remove any bat guano in the middle isle of the cupola or attic area before Life Safety installs the final sprinklers, it would be greatly appreciated.
- **3rd Full-Time Officer** – Selectmen briefly discussed their thoughts about a third full time officer. Placing it as a warrant article was discussed in an effort to let the voters decide. Selectmen would like a copy of the stops, calls and tickets for each current officer. Town Administrator was instructed to get this information from Chief LePine for the last three months and have it available for the next meeting.

Adjournment:

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm. The next Selectmen's Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 at 6:00 pm.