

# Bennington Board of Selectmen

January 15, 2024

Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm

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

**Staff:** Deb Davidson, Town Administrator

**Public:** Bethany Craig

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:03 pm

## Appointments:

**6:15 – Mike Anderson** – Chairman Cleary opened the meeting with Mr. Anderson stating the Selectmen invited Mr. Anderson to the meeting to provide the Board with an update on Fire Department contract for renovations.

Mr. Anderson indicated he would begin working on the offices full time next week. There is a week or so left until the offices are finished; there is dry wall, mudding and taping. There has been no problem with the electrical work, however the CAT5 or CAT6 (whichever needed to be installed) was a hold up. The wiring is completed, done very well, but that did slow the job down.

There has been a lot of mis or lack of communication. Mr. Anderson would like to see if Jim Craig could get the electrical boxes for each office installed as each office gets finished, rather than all at once. Mr. Anderson will reach out to Craig Electric and discuss this with Jim.

The doors are there, they need to purchase two more. Mr. Anderson indicated he would like to be out of there by the first week in February. Mr. Anderson further stated there are some extras with the mini-split heaters on the walls, there will be no tubes outside of the building. He does have support of some of the fire department members with the drywall. There have been no other hold-ups. Again, Anderson stated he will get the offices finished by the first week in February and then get the heating system installed.

Selectmen thanked Mr. Anderson for coming in and providing the update.

**Minutes:** Chairman Cleary accepted the January 8, 2023 minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0

**Financial:** Selectmen approved the weekly A/P & Payroll Manifests

**Signatures:**

- **Crowe Fencing** – Chairman Cleary signed the quote from Crowe Fencing for the replacement of damaged fencing at Whittemore Lake and new installation for safety fence at Sawyer Field, this safety fence was requested by Primex, our liability insurance carrier.
- **Jarvis Adams Plumbing** – Chairman Cleary signed the invoice from Jarvis Adams Plumbing for the plumbing for the bathroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the gymnasium.

**Other:**

- **Riche Colcombe** - Riche Colcombe was unable to attend the Selectmen's Meeting, she will meet with us at a later date when there is more to report regarding the school funding court decision, which has been appealed. The means of payment for this is being discussed in legislature, nothing has been finalized at this time though.
- **Gymnasium Bathroom** – Jarvis Adams has been here and done what plumbing needed to be done to move forward.
- **Life Safety** – Life Safety will be here this week to finish the install. Then we will need Amer Electric and Fire Chief, David Foster to sign off on the system.
- **Roads** – Town Administrator let Selectmen know she had received a few texts from a resident with concerns about the last storm and the resident felt the roads weren't properly taken care of. Chairman Cleary said he was out plowing and he felt Matt, DJ and Curtis did a good job, considering the storm. Selectman Parisi respectfully disagreed. He did not think the plows had been out soon enough. Someone went off the road on Curtis Farm Road, he didn't understand why the roads were not pre-treated and then plowed. Chairman Cleary stated the car off the road on Curtis Farm Road lost their 4-Wheel Drive, it didn't go off the road because of the road condition. Chairman Cleary did mention he found the roads to be slippery on Sunday morning, though DJ had treated them

twice. Selectman Parisi did mention the roads need to be driven again after treatment and assessed. It was felt Matt needs to be more diligent, this will be discussed with Matt at the next Selectman's Meeting on January 22, 2024.

- **Tri-Town** – Documentation was found from April 1, 2019, Matt & Deb will go over this, they will report to the Board the exact findings. It appears Frankestown has almost exhausted their amount of the first phase of the removal. They will be responsible for the majority of the reclamation.

**Bethany Craig** - Bethany Craig asked if she could speak to the artwork, though she supports the artwork, she has concerns that it could get damaged during 4-H and Girl Scout usage. She tried to put it on the stage, but it is too heavy and she was concerned it could get damaged. Selectmen all agreed the artwork will remain in the gymnasium until after the 26<sup>th</sup> Friday Night Music event. The paintings will be placed in the middle room during the Girl Scouts and/or 4-H usage of the gymnasium. Bethany further asked if the middle room would be available for her to hold meetings in. Selectman James stated that he would like to not see that space be used, except for storage of the chairs. He feels taking the chairs up/down from the stage is a liability and he believes someone will get hurt eventually. This has not been discussed amongst the Board yet, though this is how Selectman James would vote. Bethany further asked about the key for the lift. She did have a parent who could have used the lift recently, but it was locked and inaccessible. A key will be left in a neutral location. Town Administrator will let those who use the gymnasium space know where the key is. The key should always be put back and the lift should only be used by those who need it. Children cannot be on the lift without adult supervision.

**Adjournment:**

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. Seconded by James and Parisi. Motion passed 3-0. The next meeting will be Monday, January 22, 2024 at 6:00 pm, followed by the budget hearing at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Gymnasium.

Respectfully submitted,

