

Bennington Board of Selectmen

January 29, 2024

Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm

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

Staff: Deb Davidson, Town Administrator

Public: There was no public present

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:02 pm

Appointments:

6:05 – Conservation Commission, Mike Munhall – to discuss map 18 lot 3-3, 237 North Bennington Road, the Conservation Commission has some concerns regarding possible contamination to the wetlands. Selectmen all agree (3-0) a letter will be sent to the NHDES.

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the January 22, 2023 Selectboard minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the non-public minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the budget hearing minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James.

Minutes were accepted 3-0.

Financial: Selectmen signed A/P & Payroll Manifests

Other:

- **Abatements** – Map 7 Lot 30 – water read error; Map 7 Lot 71 – water read error were signed.
- **FD Handicapped bathroom** – A social media post was discussed regarding there being no handicapped bathroom at the fire department. Discussion followed. Selectmen understand the need for the specialized washer/dryer, town counsel will be consulted regarding this matter.

- **Assessment** – Town Administrator is working with the assessor regarding a property that was not assessed in 2023 and should have been. It was discussed if the assessor should refund some money to the Town. No decision has been made at this time, more information is needed before a decision can be made.
- **Map 3 Lot 33 & 33A** – A letter was sent to the property owner regarding a building that was erected without a permit, too close to the shoreline. Options for the property owner were provided in the letter.
- **New Truck** – The funds have been received from the TTF, a check will be prepared and ready Thursday for the truck to be picked up.
- **Heat Lamp** – Selectmen discussed installing a heat lamp at the VFW that would have an indicator light, providing a notification if heat is out in the building. Town Administrator will ask Road Agent to get one and have it installed as soon as possible.
- **School Closing Coalition** – The Town Administrator discussed a conversation she had with Scott Heath of Frankestown. This committee has backed off as a result of some push back and accusations of electioneering. Frankestown does have a School Study Group that is a private resident group, that is discussing thoughts about Frankestown. It was relayed to Town Administrator that a Bennington resident had asked if she could attend the meeting. Town Administrator assured Mr. Heath that this is a resident only and not representing the Town of Bennington.

Adjournment:

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. The next Selectmen’s Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm. No appointments will be scheduled that evening. The Deliberative Session will follow at 6:30 at the town hall gymnasium. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator