

Bennington Board of Selectmen

Monday, May 21, 2024

Meeting Minutes– 3:30 pm

Selectboard: Chairman, James Cleary, Tom James

Staff: Deb Davidson, Town Administrator

Absent: Selectman Parisi

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. It was discussed to not have a non-public for the purpose of discussing mediation.

Mediation - This meeting was called to order to discuss the Eversource, formerly PSNH, mediation. Mediation is scheduled for May 22, 2024 via zoom or in person. Selectmen discussed the offer from PSNH, it is unreasonable. They are not talking the expert witness' recommendation into consideration. They are looking to a settlement of \$120,000.00 plus interest. Basically, no taxation for the years being challenged. Discussion followed as to what Attorney, Chris Boldt recommended as an offer. Selectmen authorized the Town Administrator to deliver the authority to Attorney Boldt to offer no more than \$8,000.00. This will be revisited with Chairman Cleary after the mediation is complete or if a counter offer is made. Attorney Boldt will be provided Chairman Cleary's phone number if he needs to contact him during the day.

Whittemore Lake – Chairman Cleary reported the stone and pipes have been laid at the beach. The beach is leveled, rototilled and looks great. The lake looks better than it has in a very long time. The additional gate, will be adding an additional cost of \$975.00, Cleary explained this has to happen.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to purchase the gate and have it installed. Seconded by Selectman James, the only other matter, Selectman James stated NO Trespass signs must be installed also. Motion passed 2-0.

Road Work – Chairman Cleary mentioned that Matt, DJ and Curtis have done a good job on Old Greenfield Road and the top of Lake Road.

Audit – Town Administrator reported the audit should be complete tomorrow. It has gone well so far, the Trustees have not turned over their 2023 records to date.

Trustees have known this was the audit week since February 2024. We are doing the best we can without the records. The audit has discovered ConVal made an error in their payment calculations. The error appears to be a duplication of the State Education payment, causing an over charge of approximately \$253,000. After tomorrow, when the audit is mostly complete, the Business Administrator at ConVal will be contacted. It is likely they will offer to redo our payment schedule and payments will be less. It appears they have charged an extra payment to Bennington.

Selectmen appreciated this information. With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 pm. Seconded by Selectman James. Motion passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Davidson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator