

# Bennington Board of Selectmen

Monday, August 5, 2024

Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm

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

**Staff:** Deb Davidson, Town Administrator; Catherine McGillicuddy, Administrative Assistant

**Public:** Melissa Clark

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James.

## Appointments:

**6:00 – Mike Munhall** – Mr. Munhall was in to discuss the flowers that Selectman Parisi weed wacked along the sidewalk by Mr. Munhall's fence. Mr. Munhall explained these were his flowers and that he has spent ten years building that perennial garden. He expected an apology from Selectman Parisi, not an email from the Town Administrator.

Selectman Parisi apologized, he explained he was helping the DPW, like he often does. Parisi stated if they don't come back he will make it right. He did not do anything malicious, the flowers were encroaching on the sidewalk and Parisi was cleaning up the sidewalk.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Munhall indicated he would follow up in 9 months with Selectmen. Again, Selectman Parisi apologized and stated he would replace the flowers if they don't come back and further stated he did not have any malicious intention.

Mr. Munhall left the meeting at this time.

**6:10 – Dave Allwine** – Santec – Mr. Allwine had to cancel due to a COVID exposure. He is available for a phone conversation if that is acceptable. Selectmen agreed this would be a good idea, Town Administrator called Mr. Allwine and put the call on speaker. After introductions, Chairman Cleary commented that this has been 30 years

of regulating and testing this site, further asking how much longer will the testing take.

Mr. Allwine stated it is uncertain, 5 years is likely not enough, indicating that it could take 10 – 15 years before it is completed.

Selectmen thanked Dave for his time and will move forward with the contract as presented.

**6:15 – Fire Chief, Dave Foster** – In accordance with RSA 91:A 3 II a (Personnel Matters) motion by Chairman Cleary to enter into a non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James.

**6:30** – Motion by Chairman Cleary to come out of the non-public session and to further seal the minutes. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi.

**Decision:** It was a 2-1 vote, not to reappoint David Foster as the Bennington Fire Chief. One Selectman chose to abstain at this time.

**6:35 – Melissa Clark** – Melissa asked if she could speak to a couple of items.

- **Historical Society** - An ice cream social will be held on September 1, 2024 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. It will be held at the Gazebo. White Mountain Rounders will provide music.
- **Cemetery Trustees** – Ms. Clark reported that the Trustees have been looking for someone to do repairs to the stonewall at Evergreen Cemetery. The only person who has responded is Zeth Kenney, Graceline Stoneworks, from Hillsborough. He has stated he would repair the wall for FREE providing we put something in the paper and take photos. Selectmen supported this recommendation from the Trustees.
- **Recreation Committee** – Ms. Clark reported the Recreation Committee is having their first Committee meeting on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 7:00. The meeting will be held at the Town Hall Conference Room. Melissa has started a Facebook page for the recreation committee.

**6:45** – In accordance with RSA 91:A 3 II a (Personnel Matters) motion by Chairman Cleary to enter into a non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to come out of the non-public session and to further seal the minutes. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi.

**Decision:** In accordance with RSA 91A:3 II a (Personnel Matters) Selectmen will hold a meeting on Thursday at 4:00 pm at the Town Hall.

**Minutes:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the July 15, 2024 minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen James and Parisi. Voted affirmatively 3-0

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

**Other:**

**Abatements-** Water billings with adjusted reads – Map 7 Lot 86, Map 7 lot 50

**Commercial Power** – Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept .10/kwh for 2 years through Standard Power for the Town of Bennington electricity. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. Voted affirmatively 3-0.

**Antrim Contract** – Chairman Cleary made the motion to accept the contract with Antrim as agreed. Seconded by Selectmen James and Parisi. Voted affirmatively 3-0.

The agreement reads that the Town of Antrim will cover Bennington for a minimum of 6 months or less, depending on the situation in Bennington. The Town of Antrim will be compensated for 40 hours per week, \$25.00/hour, \$1,000/week. This is a temporary situation until Ms. Minahan completes the full-time police academy and is ready for field training.

**Adjournment:**

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

