

# Bennington Board of Selectmen

Monday, October 28, 2024

Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm

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

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

**Public:** Melissa Clark

## Appointments:

**6:15 – Temple Elementary School Study Committee** – Gail Cromwell and Pam Kingston were present, both are representing the TES Study Committee. They opened with explaining they were tasked with exploring alternate options to closing elementary schools. They have been sharing their findings with other communities within the ConVal School District.

They are asking all towns to form their own committees to study their particular town. Chairman Cleary mentioned that Bennington has a committee, the contacts for the committee will be provided to Ms. Kingston & Ms. Pierson-Cromwell.

Ms. Cromwell provided enrollment data to the Board. Enrollment is not even at 50% capacity for the entire district. It appears there are alternatives to simply closing schools.

Discussion followed as to alternate options for elementary schools, enrollments are significantly down. And it would be very feasible to move 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> grades to the high school, combine elementary schools or send 5 & 6<sup>th</sup> grades back to elementary schools.

November 5 - ConVal has scheduled the vote on the 44-million-dollar bond for November 5. This seems a bit surreptitious, it is also the day of voting and many won't be able to attend the ConVal meeting due to being ballot counters, selectmen, other elected officials. This will apply in all 9 towns.

November 20 – ConVal is having an open house in an effort to show all the improvements they are wanting to make if the bond should pass.

Pam Kingston discussed the co-curricular programs, and other savings in a variety of places that could be made to reduce the ConVal budget. It was discussed that the Schoolboard could work harder to save funds for the district.

**Minutes:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the October 21, 2024 minutes as written. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi – passed 3-0

**Financial:** A/P Manifest was signed. P/R was not yet finished.

**Signatures:**

**NHDES Grant** - GSCF Amendment to the grant – The need for the amendment to the Clean Fleets grant was discussed and the following motion was approved:

**Motion:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the amendment to the GSCF Grant, authorizing the Town Administrator authority to enter into the CG Clean Fleets Grant Agreement with the NH Dept. of Environmental Services, Air Resources Division, which is a reimbursement project.

Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi. No discussion.

Voted: Approved 3-0

**Letter of accommodation** – The Selectboard signed a letter to be presented to Gregory LeBlanc at his upcoming Eagle Scout award ceremony.

**Building Permits Application** – Selectmen signed building permit applications for the following properties:

Map23 Lot 12 Garage; Map 23 Lot 1-6 Garage; Map 12 Lots 22,23,24 (merged)  
New Home

**T/H Rental Agreement** – Selectmen signed a Town Hall Gymnasium rental agreement for the Library to host a holiday celebration on December 6, 2024 between the hours of 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

**Other:**

**Budget Work** – Selectmen worked on the 2025 budget, they will continue with review next week at the Selectboard meeting.

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** – Town Administrator reminded Selectmen that a minimum of one Selectman must be at the polls on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 must be present to count ballots.

**Estimate** – Newhall Field, Pineview Excavation estimate was reviewed and approved. Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the bid from Pineview Excavation for necessary work at Newhall Field. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi. Motion passed 3-0

**TTF Key Fob** – The Town Administrator asked if Selectmen would reconsider the access to the Town Hall for TTF via the side door. A brief discussion followed. Selectmen authorized the FOB for the TTF to enter via the side door, there should be no access to the central office. FOB entry will be monitored by the Chief of Police.

**Adjournment:**

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm. The next Selectmen’s Meeting will be on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Davidson".

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator