

# **Bennington Board of Selectmen**

**Monday, December 2, 2024**

**Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm**

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

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

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**Public:** There were no public present

## **Appointments:**

**6:00 – Officer, Bret Sullivan** – Selectmen had invited Sullivan into the meeting to discuss the Police Department situation. (i.e. one full time officer and Chief LePine retiring in March).

At 6:02 in accordance with RSA 91A:3 II (a) Chairman Cleary motioned to enter into a non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0.

6:25 pm – motion by Chairman Cleary to enter out of the non-public session and to further seal the minutes. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0

**Decision:** No decision was made

**6:30 – Melissa Clark** – Melissa was before the Selectboard to mention that the work at the cemetery on the wall, the work has been finished. It is time to put an article in the paper for Zeth as we said we would. Melissa will contact Jessica Timmons from the Monadnock Ledger and Leigh Bosse from the Messenger to get an article in both papers.

Melissa has tried to contact Andrew Grant to cut trees at the cemetery with no luck. She will keep trying.

Melissa asked Zack Andersen about Fire Trucks for Sunday's parade? Zack said he will work on getting additional trucks for the parade.

## 6:45- Fire Chief, Zack Andersen –

- **New Members** - Chief Andersen discussed there are two new members that were voted on Sunday. Jeff & Theresa Cody, she is currently on the auxillary. Selectmen approved these new memberships.
- **Update on Fire Truck** – Zack provided a photo of the new truck as built so far to the Board of Selectmen. Review of the Warrant Article & Budget for the truck was discussed. The warrant article authorized \$420,000.00 for the down payment for the truck. There may be additional funds utilized from the CRF to make an additional down payment. The interest on the payment schedule has increased. Deb and/or Zack will reach out to Keith to get the contact for Bancorp and see if we can lock in at the rate originally quoted. Selectmen have concerns, there was never a purchase order presented to the Board of Selectmen, they have not signed any purchase orders or change orders. Selectmen have not been kept up to date with any details of this purchase.
- **CRF** – Selectmen mentioned increasing the amount put towards the CRF in the budget to \$40,000.00
- **Warrant Article** – discussion followed regarding a warrant article for the sale of the truck and proceeds being placed in the Capital Reserve Fund for the truck.

**7:04 – DJ Wing** – Selectmen invited DJ to come in and speak with them.

At 7:06 in accordance with RSA 91A:3 II (a) Chairman Cleary motioned to enter into a non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0.

7:24 pm – motion by Chairman Cleary to enter out of the non-public session and to further seal the minutes. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0

**Decision:** Selectmen promoted DJ Wing, Jr. to the Road Agent position, effective immediately. DJ wage will increase to \$27.04/hour, effective immediately.

**Minutes:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of November 18, 2024 as written. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0

**Financial:** A/P & Payroll Manifests were signed

**Other:**

**Quotes:** Hauling & Disposal quotes have not been presented yet. Matt had looked into this prior to his vacation.

**Resignation:** Selectmen accepted the verbal resignation submitted by Matt Blanchard. The Board is still waiting for his written resignation.

**Followup** – Building Inspector, John Kendall reported with the Town Administrator he has spoken with Mr. & Mrs. Beck regarding the shed that is not up to code. They indicated to Mr. Kendall they will make plans to remove the shed.

**Vacation** – Town Administrator reminded Selectmen of her vacation scheduled the end of December. Everything should be ready for the public hearing before she leaves.

**Building Permit refund** – Building Inspector, John Kendall asked if the Town would consider a refund to David Blanchette for his building permit. Kendall suggested \$7,500.00 refund, the original permit was for \$12,000.00, the new owners would make up any difference. After a discussion. Selectmen approved this request after the new owners pay for their permits.

**Transfer Station –**

- **Help Wanted** - Selectmen discussed advertising a position for ½ transfer station ½ highway department help.
- **Baler** – A brief discussion followed regarding a baler for the Transfer Station. Selectman James stated though it would be a good opportunity for revenues, it would also entail needing to purchase a container to store the bales.

**Newsletter** – Selectmen reviewed the DRAFT newsletter and made some suggestions.

**Adjournment:** With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Cleary further mentioned the next meeting will be a work session only with no appointments to be scheduled. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator