

Bennington Board of Selectmen
Monday, December 16, 2024
Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm

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

Staff: Deb Davidson, Town Administrator;

Public: Melissa Clarke

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Appointments:

6:15 – Walter Turner – Election matters & other –

- **Supervisor of Checklist** – A new computer is vital, though the laptop works, they need a computer, the one they currently use is so old it barely will turn on. Selectmen stated, this is already in the budget for 2025, the first of the year it is going to be addressed.
- **Locking File Cabinet** – Walter requested a locking, two drawer file cabinet. One will be provided. A two drawer has lasted 20 years, so a 2-drawer cabinet will be all that is needed.
- **Raises** – Walter explained the election years, they are a 1, 3, 1, 4 cycle and meet that number of times depending on what cycle they are in. Next year they are on a 1 meeting cycle. They work on an average 10 – 15 hours/election/cycle. Walter requested raises for the election workers from \$15.00/hour to \$20.00/hour.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to increase clerical wages for election workers from \$15.00/hour to \$20.00/hour going forward. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. All in favor, motion passed 3-0.

- **Starrett Road & Trucks** – Walter discussed the history of the trucks using Starrett Road in the past years. Discussion that something has changed with GPS, now the trucks seem to be going up Bible Hill and being directed to turn

down Starrett Road. It is a potentially very dangerous situation. A lengthy discussion followed.

It is agreed by all that the signage by the school needs to be improved, seeing how to change GPS was also discussed. Though the State has been notified multiple times for years, they will again be notified to see if the State can put improved signage by PES.

The trestle was discussed and options for that situation where truck cannot fit under the trestle. The State hasn't been helpful, discussion of lowering the road or the possibility of removing the unusable trestle was also discussed.

Action: Town Administrator will contact the State regarding the Trestle, GPS and the signage for Antrim Rd.

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of December 9, 2024. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0.

Financial: A/P & Payroll Manifests were signed.

Other: Map 3 Lot 15 - .46 acres non-developable land on a Class VI Road – interest in purchasing from Stephen Stockwell – Selectmen discussed this offer from Mr. Stockwell, at this time they have no interest in selling Map 3 lot 15. Mr. Stockwell will be notified.

Contract with MDS – Chairman Cleary signed the Contract for two years with MDS.

Lease Rates - Rates from Municipal Leasing and The Bancorp were reviewed and discussed. Interest rates are at 6.3% with Municipal Leasing and 6.5% with The Bancorp. Discussion followed.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to utilize \$540,000 from the Fire Truck CRF to put down on the new fire truck. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi. Motion passed 3-0.

Discussion followed regarding financing, the additional expenses and how to pay for the additional expenses. The Town Administrator will obtain pricing for 4 & 5 year payment schedule for the new fire truck with utilizing \$540,000.00 for the down payment. When the old truck sells, the funds from the sale will be put into the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. A Warrant Article will be made for voters to authorize this.

The new Fire Truck is anticipated to arrive up north on January 8, 2024, the truck will be inspected and the Town can take ownership by spring. Selectmen would like the Fire Chief to advertise the old truck as soon as possible, contingent upon the possession by the town of the new fire truck.

Work Session: Budget – Selectmen reviewed the current budget to date. No changes were made at this time.

Adjournment: With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday December 23, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator