

NORTH BENNINGTON WATER BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
4 October 2023

**PRESENT:** David Shaughnessy, Arla Sampsell, Steve Goodrich, Joe Herrmann, Ted Fela, Doug Buggee, April Paulin and Dave Harris of Ti Sales

David called the meeting to order at 5:57 pm

**MINUTES**

Steve moved to approve the minutes of 6 September 2023, as presented. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**WARRANTS**

Steve moved to approve the payroll warrant for 7 September – 4 October for \$9,526.12. Arla seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve moved to approve the monthly warrant for 7 September – 4 October for \$23,090.31, Check #'s 10472-10487 and 2 debits. Arla seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Doug handed out the balances as of 30 September.

There had been a question while discussing the warrant as to why the phone was over budget. Ted felt that the internet was being charged to the phone category instead of office expenses. Doug suggested moving a portion of the budget from office expenses to phone expenses to represent the expenses more adequately.

The quarterly withholdings for payroll taxes that caused a penalty was a misunderstanding between Mary and Paydata during the transition. That issue has since been fixed.

There is no new information yet on the US Bank charge that is being looked at. Mary will get the past US Bank information to Doug and if they still can't figure it out Doug will talk with Community Bank to do a chargeback.

Doug had a meeting with Community Bank to go over our accounts and they now have joined a third party provider that can streamline a couple of our accounts and we can take advantage of some higher rates on our larger accounts. They will be money market accounts so the money can still be easily moved. Doug will work on this over the next couple of weeks.

Doug hasn't spoken to the Town of the Bennington yet regarding who they use for the audit. He'll have that answer for next month's meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dave Harris was present to discuss different options for new residential meters. The salesman, Sam Cavallaro, joined the presentation via zoom.

Dave began with a brief explanation of the cloud based software, N360 from Neptune, which is a meter management program. The program transfers the meter reading information with a cell phone or tablet into the program. Ted would be able to identify high/low readings, meters that may be running backwards etc. It would flag any high usage which could help find leaks within a house sooner. Because of the process 740 meters could be read in 2 hours saving the guys a tremendous amount of time. An audit can be done every month, and the records can be saved for 2 years.

Sam joined via Zoom and showed how the dashboard of accounts works and what information was available such as data logs, high usage flags. The program also does a 96 day comparison for individual accounts. A snapshot of the accounts can be set up by customer and can even be set up by roads to look at consumption in a certain area.

The program is a yearly subscription and works very close with the NEMRC billing software that we currently use. Pete Elwell is the IT guy that comes over and sets everything up and is the continued IT support at no charge as long as we are a Neptune customer. N360 contacts NEMRC for the transfer information and is tested before going live.

Currently the readings are in 1000-gallon increments but could be done in 10-gallon increments which is better for data logging.

Meters that are 10 years old or newer can just add a radio box. The box has a 20-year warranty on the battery and can be put on old and new meters. There are two different style of radio readers available. Dave highly recommends the T10 meter. There is continued support for repairs or issues and there is a loaner program for the Bluetooth boxes if they need to be taken back to the office to be repaired. The loaner boxes will hold the information until the original is repaired and returned to service. There are also financial options available.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The meters have been read and the bills have been mailed. The bills are due 6 November. Ted and the guys are following up on the meters with low or no reading and replacing as needed.

Joe joined Ted at the first of three AMP meetings. Ted emailed the information they received to the Board members. Ted said it was very informative and essential in helping to develop the AMP. Ted is still adding data to the spreadsheets and there is a small list of valves that need to be added to the GPS.

Bennington Cooling and Heating have removed the humidistat and mounted it on the wall. When they ordered the new dehumidifier, they did not realize that the humidistat was on the unit and not separate.

The intake will be drained and cleaned once the leaves are down and water levels allow.

The flushing hydrant has been purchased for installation on the end of the main on Harlan Road. He is just waiting for a date from Matt Morse for the installation.

On 21 September the hydrant on Harvest Hills was replaced and not without issues. Digging was a little more difficult because of the high water table and the sides were constantly falling in causing more excavation. Once the old hydrant was removed the pipe with the isolation valve pushed out of the tee on the water main causing a massive leak and requiring the shutdown of the whole development. The tee was plugged and after looking things over it was discovered that less than 2" of the pipe was inserted and it should have been at least 5". It ended up taking 18 hours over 2 days to complete the job. More equipment and material was needed resulting in a higher bill. The original quote was \$1800 but the final bill was \$4833.50.

There was an 13.88% cost increase in the Blue Cross Blue Shield in coverage for next year.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mary has let David know that she finally has the story on the \$41,000 from the USDA loan that is supposed to be paid back. The Board will meet with Mary Wednesday or Thursday of next week to get the details.

The mediation regarding Galen Rhodes will probably be scheduled for mid-December. The lawyer will dispose Galen and do a conference call with the Board and then the mediation will be scheduled. Steve and Ted will both be present for the conference call.

David will try to set up a meeting with our lawyer, Craig and the engineers for the solar project.

The Trustees will meet next Tuesday and David's reappointment is on the Agenda.

At 8:17 pm Steve moved to continue this meeting next week with Mary to discuss the USDA loan situation. Arla seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

April A. Paulin  
Board Secretary

Approved:

  
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David Shaughnessy Date

  
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Steve Goodrich Date

 11-1-23  
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Joseph Herrmann Date

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Arla Sampsell Date

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Edward Myers Date