

DRAFT
NORTH BENNINGTON WATER BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
1 November 2023

PRESENT: David Shaughnessy, Steve Goodrich, Joe Herrmann, Ed Myers (6:55 pm), Ted Fela, Doug Buggee and April Paulin

David called the meeting to order at 5:59 pm.

MINUTES

Steve moved to approve the minutes of 4 October 2023 as presented. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe moved to approve the minutes of 11 October 2023 as presented. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe moved to approve the minutes of 19 October 2023 as presented. Steve seconded the motion. David abstained. Motion passed.

Joe moved to approve the minutes of 24 October 2023. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

Steve moved to approve the payroll warrant for 5 October – 1 November for \$9,465.12. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve moved to approve the monthly warrant for 5 October – 1 November for \$21,437.14, check #'s 10488-10504 and 2 debits. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board noted that the cabin property still needs to be changed so that it is in the Water Board's name and not the Village's. It was brought up originally with our previous attorney, but it fell through the cracks so that issue will need to be pursued again.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Doug solved the US Bank charge that he had been researching. It was an order from Deluxe Small Business for business checks that were ordered back in March but not billed until August.

Doug spoke with the Town of Bennington regarding who does their audit. They use a company based in Maine that has an office in Burlington. She did say the cost was significantly higher than Love and Cody. Doug also has a name for a firm in the Troy-Schenectady area that he will contact when the tax collections are done.

The accounts are in transition with Community Bank as was discussed last month. Mid-month Doug will email the Board with the transition information and an explanation of the new

accounts. Once Ted and Vicki are done paying the bills, they will give Doug the amount to be transferred and he will take care of it.

The bill collections are going well and he is breaking out the bond so that that the information is available.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Generator Project is still waiting on approval from Cindy Parks. The PFAS project for Overlea Road and Harvest Hills is still in the State's hands. The timeline for the underwriting is a few months.

Ted and Steve attended the latest AMP workshop. This workshop covered calculating the risk of assets. The final class will be next Tuesday and David and Steve both plan on attending. There are homework assignments after each class and the last one was on meters. The instructor was impressed with Ted's work on his and asked if it could be used for a class.

With the water temperature dropping it's at the time of year where Ted is changing over chemicals for the filtration. They will adjust the dosage on a daily basis until the water temperature is below 10 degrees.

The flushing hydrant was installed on the end of the main on Harlan Road on 11 October.

There are about a dozen meters that need to be changed out due to age and/or malfunctioning. Most of them have been replaced and the remaining ones will be done in the next week or so.

All the seasonal water services including the cemeteries, fountains, ball fields, garden and a few seasonal residences have been turned off until spring.

The National Hanger tested their sprinkler system the week of 23 October. Maplebrook Farm was given a two week notice and shut down their production 25 October to help eliminate any issues due to the large amount of testing on that day. There were no issues reported.

Ted met with engineers from MSK Engineering, Mary, Doug and Larry Gates from the Town of Bennington regarding the Village looking into paving Hall Street which would include restructuring the storm water drainage. Ted is aware of one galvanized service line that needs to be replaced and an old line that he needs to verify if it's been disconnected from the main. There are seven services on that street that we may want to investigate whether the lead gooseneck was replaced when the service line was changed to copper. There have been two lines on that street that the records indicated a copper service line but still had the lead gooseneck. There is no timeline yet on to when this project may start but Ted was thinking piggybacking with them to do the digging on these lines.

Ted received an anonymous letter, with a map, stating that the beagle club whose land abuts ours has illegally installed a fence on Water Department land. Ted did some research including walking the fence and there is no issue. That fence was installed over 10 years ago and is not on our land. Ted met with Steve Peckham, owner of the beagle club, and he brought property maps and walked the property with Ted. Some of the Trustees also received the same letter and Ted emailed Mary a detailed account of what he did and what he found. This is a non issue.

The water bills are due next Monday.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve had inquired about any response from Shaftsbury's lawyer to our attorney. Frank sent back a response that there has been no reply from them.

Steve met with Attorney Stephen regarding changes that the Board wanted to do for the Solar Project. The Attorney felt all the requests were within our right and he also agreed that the Board should be reimbursed for any costs already incurred. The Board is also requesting that we get paid as we go along and not wait until the end. A five year warranty on the pipe was also requested as was a request to be notified within 5 days of the sale of the property with contact information for the new owner.

Steve and Ted will meet with Craig to discuss the definition of deterioration on the pipe.

Budget talks will be coming up and Steve brought up a few things for the Board to think about. There is a lot of upcoming expenses on the systems and meters and the Board needs to think about how to start putting money away for those projects and anything else that may come up.

Steve, Ted and Joe will take a look at the rules and regulations and make any changes with a timeline of June to have them completed.

Joe asked about the cabin. Ted mentioned that Steve Peckham asked about buying that portion of the land with the cabin on it but the point of buying that land was to protect the well fields. There was more discussion about looking into land trusts for that land.

The Board will meet next Wednesday the 8th at 7 pm to work on the budget. They will meet again the following Wednesday at 7 pm if needed.

This is David's last meeting as Chairman of the Board. Ed nominated Steve to be the next Chairman of the Board. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Board thanks David for the tremendous job he has done as Chair.

Ed nominated Joe to be the Vice Chairman of the Board. David seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

David moved to adjourn this meeting at 7:15 pm. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

April A. Paulin
Board Secretary

Approved:

Steve Goodrich

Date

Joseph Herrmann

Date

David Shaughnessy

Date

Arla Sampsell

Date

Edward Myers

Date