

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, November 8, 2022
Village Depot Offices/ 7:00 PM - Virtual Meeting/Open Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Village of North Bennington Trustees held its regular meeting for business on November 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held by video and telephone conference only via Zoom. This is in accordance with H.681 (section 6.); addendum 01-20/Act 92

The Village Depot was open for in person meeting as well. Trustees, Rogers, Creedy, Mullineaux, and Lowary were present in that space as well. All others attended the meeting via Zoom.

Also in attendance were Nbfd Chief Ed Harrington, Michael Fernandez- Conservation District, Bob Howe, Alisa Deltufo, Lindsey Latour, Camille Kaufmann, Melinda Paquin, David Shaughnessy

Chairman Mary Rogers opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Trustees Present: Scott Creedy, Tara Lowary, Mary Rogers, Ray Mullineaux, Matthew Patterson, Treasurer Doug Buggee

Trustee Matthew Patterson attended the meeting via Zoom.

Absent - Highway Superintendent Norm Leblanc

A motion was made by Tara Lowary and seconded by Scott Creedy to approve the October 11, 2022 minutes. This was so voted by all Trustees present, Rogers, Creedy, Lowary, Patterson and Mullineaux.

A motion was made by Tara Lowary and seconded by Ray Mullineaux, to approve the late October warrant and to pay the bills. This was so voted by all trustees.

A motion was made by Tara Lowary and seconded by Ray Mullineaux, to approve the November warrant and to pay the bills. This was so voted by all trustees.

A motion was made by Ray Mullineaux and seconded by Tara Lowary to accept the October 2022 Payroll warrants. This was so voted.

- Discussions to set a schedule for 2023-2024 Budget planning meetings resulted in the following schedule of dates:
- 11/29/22 – 7:00 PM, 12/6/22 – 7:00 PM, 12/13/22 – 6:00 PM.
- 1/3/23 – 7:00 PM Budget Meeting

Citizen Comments: Citizen comments are noted under several other department reports, as appropriate.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Doug Buggee reported the following;

- The following reports were presented to the Trustees prior to the meeting. They are as follows.
- Payroll Warrant - pdf
- Village Warrant - excel - with tab for expense details
- Cash Balances
- The Budget vs Actual Report – will arrive later this week
- 80% of taxes have been collected. Property Taxes are due on Thursday, November 10th.
- A \$500 donation has been received from an anonymous village resident. Ray Mullineaux made a motion to donate this gift to the Parks & Recreation Department. This was seconded by Scott Creedy and so voted by all Trustees present.

Highway Department –

- The Vector has been repaired and successfully used several times this past month.
- The fence repair at the ball field was completed. The guard rail is promised (again) this month.
- Winter preparations are well underway. A leak was detected when the fountain was secured for the season. The leak is somewhere underground. The Water Department will assist with a special camera snaked into the piping to hopefully find the leak. It is important not only because of water wasted but ground water can get back into the system this winter.
- Three loads of salt were purchased but the potential for distribution problems may lead to future shortages. We need to keep aware of this.
- Parks clean-up is wrapping up. The roadside mower had a leak which has been repaired. Summer use equipment is being moved to the warehouse for winter storage.
- The Village thanks Joe Becker for volunteering assistance with grading projects.
- Trustees should consider putting the speed detector sign away for the winter. There have been some issues with the solar battery not recharging fully due to less daylight.
- Diesel fuel may also be facing supply chain issues impacting availability.
- Depot roof painting quote was reviewed. Scott Creedy made a motion to accept the quote for depot roof painting. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted.

DRB News - There are currently four interested candidates for the Zoning Administrator position. Interviews will take place this week.

- Location of the Zoning Administrator's office will be discussed at a future date.

Planning Commission- Next meeting is next Wednesday, 11/16/22.

Water Board – Water Commission Chairman David Shaughnessy, was present to discuss two loan applications. They are both fully refundable grant loans. One is for more work on the water delivery system to connect more folks impacted by PFOA. The other is for an Asset Management Plan. The loan application comes first. If accepted the grant follows. If for some reason the grant is not fully funded, this loan application can be dropped at any time without penalty. Both applications/projects were

discussed in full and more details can be obtained from Mr. Shaughnessy at any time. Tara Lowary made a motion to approve both loans as presented by Water Board Commissioner David Shaughnessy. This was seconded by Matthew Patterson and so voted by all trustees present.

Todd Kobik is interested in become a Water Board Commissioner if a vacancy becomes available.

Fire Department News – Prior to the meeting, Chief Harrington presented the Trustees with an equipment inventory with two proposals for the purchase of new fire equipment. This includes gear. It is substantially reduced from the previous request.

Treasurer Buggee reviewed the current finances that relate to fire department equipment purchases and replacements including sinking funds and other funds in the current budget for the Village of North Bennington.

Matthew Patterson made a motion to authorize the purchase of eight sets of interior department gear sets, not to exceed \$30,000. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted.

Truck 55 has not sold. Winter storage may need to be considered.

New Business –

- Save Lake Paran – Camille Kaufmann, Alisa Deltufo, Conservation District Representative Michael Fernandez, Bob Howe, Lindsey Latour and Melinda Paquin, representatives from Lake Paran, led a presentation regarding the issues and concerns at the lake. Detailed maps and photos were distributed prior to the presentation. Weeds, specifically milfoil, has been increasingly more prevalent and causing a great deal of harm to the lake. A description of other invasive species was discussed. A thorough description of possible solutions to help save the lake were presented. A helpful history of the area was included to give the presentation to others, a better understanding of the urgency to this matter. A detailed PowerPoint will be posted on the North Bennington Website. This group will attend a budget meeting with more details during the month of December.

Old Business – None

Tara Lowary made a motion at 9:06 PM to enter into an executive session for personnel and contracts. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted by all trustees present. At 9:25 PM, open session resumed and executive session ended.

Matthew Patterson made a motion at 9:33 PM to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted by all trustees present.

Lorine Elwell
Village Clerk
Village of North Bennington