

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2024
7:00 PM – Village Depot Offices
North Bennington

The Village of North Bennington Trustees held a meeting for business on April 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held in person and by video and telephone conference via Zoom. This is in accordance with H.681 (section 6.); addendum 01-20/Act 92.

Trustees Rogers, Creedy and Mullineaux, along with Treasurer Buggee and Highway Superintendent Leblanc, attended the meeting in person.

Also, in attendance – Chris Damon, Ed Corey, Margaret Corey, Keith Corey, Kim Hall

Also in attendance via Zoom were Trustee Patterson, resident Robert Novak, Trustee Tara Lowary and CAT - TV

Trustee Rogers opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Trustees noted the following:

The public is always invited to the Trustees meetings. They should ask to be placed on the agenda.

Organization of Trustees for 2024-25 year as voted at Annual Meeting:

A motion was made by Ray Mullineaux to elect Mary Rogers as Chair of the Board of Trustees. This was seconded by Scott Creedy and so voted by all members present with Mary Rogers abstaining.

A motion was made by Ray Mullineaux to elect Tara Lowary as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees. This was seconded by Scott Creedy and so voted by all members present with Tara Rogers abstaining.

Adopt Rules of Procedure – These were reviewed, highlighting the Public Presentation section. These Rules of Procedure can be found on the village website and can be received in hard copy if requested. Ray Mullineaux made a motion to ADOPT Rules of Procedure, seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted by all Trustees in attendance.

Approval of minutes:

- A motion was made by Trustee Mullineaux to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2024 meeting. This was seconded by Trustee Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrants and Bills:

- A motion was made by Trustee Mullineaux to approve the April Warrant. This was seconded by Trustee Patterson. Motion passed.
- Discussion of the Late March warrant details was conducted. A motion was made by Trustee Patterson to approve the Late March Warrant. This was seconded by Trustee Mullineaux. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Patterson to approve the March Payroll Warrant and seconded by Trustee Mullineaux. Motion Passed.
- All votes were unanimous.

Highway Report:

- Paving projects for 2023-24 budget year – George Street and Frederick Street. There is a drainage repair area at the end of George Street – Elwell property. A motion was made to allow Norm to proceed with the outlined paving projects in the amount of \$54,990.00. This was seconded and so voted.
- White’s Mill Dam repair update – Prospect Street – Engineering study has been completed. Waiting for further correspondence to determine whether a state permit is needed to proceed with repairing the concrete wall.
- Report on Hall Street project meeting – Meeting with engineer has taken place. Public meetings will be held.
- Appointment as second representative to REMC- Ray Mullineaux made a motion seconded by Scott Creedy to appoint Norm Leblanc as a second representative to the REMC. This was so voted.
 - Street sweeping continues.
 - Green-Up Day Projects/ Norm explained the procedure and process for May 4th

Fire Department:

- Appoint Fire Chief and two assistants as required under Charter. A motion was made by Matthew Patterson to appoint Ed Myers as Chief of the North Bennington Fire Department, and Andy Myers as first assistant, Joe Brown as second assistant. This was seconded by Scott Creedy and so voted.
 - Discuss appointment of EOC Director (Emergency Operations Center) and EMD (Emergency Management Director) / REMC representative – This will be discussed further as there is no representative present from the fire department.

Treasurer Report:

- Treasurer Buggee is exploring auditing firms for the village and water departments.
- Delinquent taxes continue to be collected. Balances are low.
- Updated cash balances will be sent out prior to month’s end.
- Comcast changeover is complete
- A motion was made by Ray Mullineaux and seconded by Scott Creedy, to donate \$1,661.05 from the National Opioid Crisis to Turning Points in Bennington, Vermont. This was so voted.

Development Review Board: meeting notice; site visit update

* Next DRB Meeting will be on Tuesday April 16th for Main Street-Change of Use

- Mr. Damon updated the site visit conversation with Attorney Stasney. The new date will be proposed - May 22nd at 9:00 AM

Planning Commission –

- Request purchase of NFPA 1720 report. Kim Hall explained the report, its meaning and use. A motion was made to purchase the NFPA 1720 report. This was seconded and so voted.
- Report on contacts with Dam Safety staff. Mr. Hall discussed several reports, concerns and needs for the Village of North Bennington and its safety.
- Discuss fire station grant potential and need for schematic concepts. Kim described very early stages of this possibility. Mr. Hall is currently taking grant writing workshops.

New Business:

- A motion was made to approve a Letter of support for Paran Recreations weed control project. This was seconded and so voted.

Old Business:

- Update LEMP and need for annual adoption – This will be discussed at a continuance meeting
 - Approve documents for Water Department standby power generator grant.
 - * A motion was made by Ray Mullineaux to authorize and sign and approve documents for Water Department standby power generator grant. This was seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted.

Trustee Lowary made a motion to enter into an executive session for the purpose of legal matters where premature disclosure would put the village at a disadvantage. This was seconded by Trustee Patterson and so voted.

Trustee Patterson made a motion to enter into an executive session, seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted by all in attendance.

At 9:05PM regular/open session resumed.

A motion was made by Ray Mullineaux to accept the agreement between The Village of North Bennington and Ed Harrington that absolves the Village of further action in exchange for payment. This was seconded by Scott Creedy and so voted.

At 9:10 PM Trustee Mullineaux made a motion to continue this meeting until April 23rd at 7:00 PM. This was seconded by Trustee Lowary and so voted.

Lorine Elwell
Village Clerk
Village of North Bennington