

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, August 9, 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 August 9, 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. Treasurer Buggee and 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, Lorraine Donley, Robert Nowak, Art Barber, David Post, Lewis Perry, McCullough Library Director Jennie Rozycki, Shawn Hollis, Andy Myers, and representatives from Bulldog, Mark Mazza, John Cameron and Bill Allshaffer

Chairman Mary Rogers opened the meeting at 7:06 PM.

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

Absent: Matthew Patterson

Highway Superintendent Norm Leblanc, Website Designer Lucy Royte, and business owner Nick Disorda, attended the meeting via Zoom.

A motion was made by Tara Lowary and seconded by Scott Creedy to approve the July 12, 2022 minutes with corrections and the July 26, 2022 minutes. This was so voted by all Trustees present, Rogers, Creedy, Lowary and Mullineaux.

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

A motion was made by Scott Creedy and seconded by Tara Lowary, to approve the extended July 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 July 2022 Payroll warrants. This was so voted.

**Citizen Comments:** Resident Robert Nowak was present to discuss various traffic concerns in the Village of North Bennington. He reviewed and discussed his outreach to other villages and towns for their ideas and suggestions. He would like to know what the Village Trustees have done and are doing to combat this issue.

Resident Arthur Barber reviewed what the village has done in the past. It was noted by several in attendance that the traffic device placed in the village is helping to some extent.

Trustee Rogers stated that the first step is to have a traffic study. The village is in line to have that done. After the study is complete, a traffic plan needs to be created. The grant funding can be applied for.

Bank Street resident David Post suggested that more traffic devices be placed around town.

**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.
- Treasurer Buggee has begun the process of obtaining new credit cards with higher limits for the Village Clerk and Highway Superintendent.
- Treasurer Buggee reviewed ARPA Funding that has been distributed and allocations to other organizations made this month.
- He also discussed the repurposing of the former Highway Payroll Account. This account will be used for EFT payments to Green Mountain Power, Comcast and a few others to be determined for monthly payments.

**Highway Department** –

Mowing/Maintenance:

- The dry weather was a help as the lawns did not need regular weekly mowing. This is starting to change.
- Repairs on the Depot roof are progressing.
- We continue to wait on the guard rail company.
- At this time Treasurer Buggee thanked Norm for his successful fundraising efforts to support a local family. Trustee Rogers thanked Norm for his help with the “kids’ day” held in Bennington.

**DRB News** — There was a meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> to hear an appeal and to request a permit extension; Honeysuckle Lane property. There was much discussion and the extension was granted.

**Planning Commission-** Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, the next one to be held on August 17th.

**Water Board** – The Water Department is considering the installation of a new water main from Overlea Road to 7A. New mains are also being considered for Harvest Hills. Federal Grants are available for the upgrades

### **Fire Department News –**

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. He also noted that he has been in touch with Community Bank and has current borrowing rates through 8/26/22. He discussed all previous correspondence related to financing a replacement for firetruck 55. He also discussed a capital plan for the future purchases of such equipment.

Resident Arthur Barber stated that there does not need to be a fire truck purchase of any kind at this time.

Trustee Lowary made a motion to approve the purchase of the “demo fire truck” from Bulldog Enterprises at a cost of \$358,000.00 with financing up to and not exceeding \$228,086.00. This was seconded by Scott Creedy and so voted by all trustees present.

The oil burner at the firehouse is in need of replacement. Research on replacement has begun. Currently Trustees Rogers is waiting for quotes to be received. A motion was made by Trustee Rogers to proceed with energy audits for all three major village buildings; the Firehouse, the Depot and the Village Garage. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted.

### **New Business –**

- Trustee Rogers presented the Board with a Records Management Proposal. This was discussed and a subcommittee will be formed to set up rules and procedures. At this time McCullough Library Director Jennie Rozycki noted that there is a large closet full of village documents that needs to be removed from the library. Trustee Rogers will take care of setting up the removal of these items.
- Ms. Rozycki also discussed a Community Survey for the library that she hopes that all residents will complete.
- Resident David Post requested assistance in permits needed for a proposed garage on his property. Trustee Rogers suggested that he attend the next Planning Commission meeting.

### **Old Business –**

- Trustee Rogers noted two upcoming events. There will be a Powers Market grand opening on 8/21/22 from 12-3. On 9/8/22 there will be a Suicide Awareness event at Lake Paran at 6:30 PM.

- Website Designer Lucy Royte, presented a preview of the Village of North Bennington website. It is slated to be up and running by 9/1/22.

Tara Lowary made a motion at 9:10 PM to continue the meeting until August 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Depot for the purpose of setting the tax rate for 2022-2023. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted by all trustees present.

Lorine Elwell  
Village Clerk  
Village of North Bennington