

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, August 8, 2023
7:00PM Village Depot Offices

The Village of North Bennington Trustees held a meeting for business on August 8, 2023, 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 Creedy, Mullineaux, and Lowary along with Treasurer Buggee, attended the meeting in person.

Also, in attendance – Keith Corey, Ed Corey, Steve Goodrich, Margaret Corey, Mike Pierce, Mike Stewart, Keith Cross, Zoning Administrator Chris Damon, Norm LeBlanc, Robert Novak and Jeff Grey.

Absent – Mary Rogers

Also in attendance via Zoom were Trustee Patterson, and VSNB Head of School Tim Newbold

Trustee Lowary opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. The order of the agenda was amended to accommodate the Fire Department first along with the Highway Department as Superintendent Leblanc was part of both conversations. This was followed by the rest of the agenda in the order posted.

Citizen Comments:

- Ed Corey explained his history in the area. He would like to continue to live in peace.

Fire Department:

- Highway Superintendent and Facilities manager Norm Leblanc discussed fire house repairs. Concrete and brick repair options were presented. A detailed estimate from Concrete Impressions was reviewed and discussed. There have been several onsite professionals looking at the areas of repair.
- Trustees Rogers is working on a grant for a new heating system for the firehouse.
- Chief Cross feels that the chimney repairs are a priority. The Trustees will look at the chimney at a continuation meeting, in person, next week.

Approval of minutes:

- A motion was made by Trustee Mullineaux to approve the minutes from the July 11th meeting. This was seconded by Trustee Patterson. Motion passed unanimously with an abstention from Scott Creedy.

Warrants and Bills:

- A motion was made by Trustee Mullineaux to approve the August Warrant for a total \$44,109.66 and seconded by Trustee Creedy. Motion passed.
- Discussion of the Late July warrant details was conducted. A motion was made by Trustee Patterson to approve the Late July Warrant for a total of \$24,996.11. This was seconded by Trustee Mullineaux. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Patterson to approve the August Payroll Warrant for a total of \$12,096.17 and seconded by Trustee Mullineaux. Motion Passed.

- All votes were unanimous.

Highway Report:

- The Overlea Road culvert project is progressing. Rock and gravel fill has been delivered. Current plans are that the road will be closed for ten days. Superintendent Leblanc feels that they are two days ahead of schedule. AOT has been on site for inspections. The goal is to have the road passable by Friday.
- The fountain at Lincoln Park was hit by a vehicle a few days ago. Damage has been done to the park area.
- A hit and run of a stop sign at the corner of Mechanic and Prospect Streets occurred last week. Stop sign will be replaced
- Tree Warden Jeff Grey updated the Trustees on the tree and vegetation removal on bridges BR-71 and BR-72. Jeff has met with Ron Pembroke and Michael Fernandez. No permits are needed for this work. He noted this section of the Village is well-traveled and often photographed. The current state of vegetation obstructs the beautiful views. One photo of Mr. Grey's concern was shared on screen. BCRC is in the process of writing an RFP for this work. Chemical applicators are being sought. Mr. Grey will be back in touch.
- VSNB Head of School Tim Newbold is requesting a crosswalk and/or signage across Church Street. He explained that classes will be held across the street, at the Baptist Church. This is across the street from the Village School. BCRC has to be spoken to first to do a traffic study. Jim Henderson will be contacted. Head of School Newbold will begin the process with a request in the form of a letter.

Treasurer Report:

- The fiscal year end was June 30th 2023. Budget v Actual was generated. Trustee Rogers and Mr. Buggee will finalize the year-end funds.
- Mr. Buggee requested comments for setting the tax rates for 2023-2024. Prior to this meeting, Treasurer Buggee sent out extensive reports and documentation for review, to help make this decision. He explained in detail the where the increases are and how they affect the tax rate.
- A motion was made by Scott Creedy to set the tax rate at 11.94%. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted by all in attendance.

Tax Rate:

Highway	0.5360
General	0.2709
Fire	0.1626
TOTAL	0.9695

- Trustee Mullineaux asked about the budget v actual. Mr. Buggee stated that final numbers still need to be drawn up, but emails are welcome for questions.

Development Review Board:

- There is a meeting next week on Tuesday, August 15th at 7:00.

Planning Commission:

- Nick Disorda is interested in joining the Development Review Board.
- Trustee Mullineaux moved to appoint Nick Disorda to the Development Review Board to fill the remaining term of Chris Damon. Trustee Patterson seconded. Motion passed.

Water Department:

*Trustee Mullineaux moved to appoint Ed Myers to the NB Board of Water Commissioners to fill the

remaining term, vacated by commissioner Jerry Elwell. Trustee Patterson seconded. Motion passed. Steve Goodrich explained a new policy that commissioners will be expected to follow.

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

- Resident and past Trustee Mark Boudreau was present to give a project update on Welling Field. He thanked residents and members of the Water and Highway Departments for their assistance with certain repairs and renovations at the field. Matthew Morse donated his equipment and time.
- A motion was made by Matthew Patterson and seconded by Ray Mullineaux to purchase gift cards for four volunteers who went above and beyond at no cost to the village.
- Mr. Boudreau will go before the DRB with plans designed by MSK. These will detail the repairs and renovations. Required permits will be sought. The bid totals have come in at around \$102,000.

Trustee Mullineaux made a motion to continue the meeting to Tuesday, August 15th at 6:30 PM at the firehouse. This was seconded by Trustee Creedy and so voted.

Lorine Elwell
Village Clerk
Village of North Bennington