

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
6:30PM – Village Depot Offices
North Bennington

The Village of North Bennington Trustees held a meeting for business on December 12, 2023, at 6:30 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, Mullineaux, and Lowary along with Treasurer Buggee, attended the meeting in person.

Also, in attendance – Jennifer Fels, Judy Cohen, Chris Damon, Judy Crane, Raoul Malletica

Also in attendance via Zoom were Trustee Patterson, Kim Hall, Steve Lennox and CAT - TV

Trustee Rogers opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Presentations from Agencies receiving Village funding were heard:

- Park McCullough House – Polly Raine
- Vermont Arts Exchange – Matthew Perry
- Paran Recreations – Alisa Deltufo
- North Bennington Roundtable – Sandra Magsamen
- John G. McCullough Free Library – Jennie Rozycki
- Trustee Rogers will try to have as many presentations as possible, posted on the Village’s website.

Citizen Comments: NONE

Approval of minutes:

- A motion was made by Trustee Creedy to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2023 meeting, the November 20, 2023 Special Meeting and the December 5, 2023 Special Meeting. This was seconded by Trustee Patterson. Motion passed unanimously. Trustees Mullineaux and Creedy abstained from voting on the November 20, 2023 minutes. Trustee Creedy abstained from voting on the December 5, 2023 minutes.

Warrants and Bills:

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

Highway Report:

- Project updates:
- Update on budget line items and potential project costs
Depot costs were explained in detail.
- Winter readiness update was given.
- Update on Vegetation Control project at Prospect and Sage St bridges was given

Fire Department: None

Treasurer Report:

- Tax collection and distribution was discussed.
- Delinquencies were up this year. Treasurer Buggee discussed this in detail.
- A thank you card was received from Sunrise. They do appreciate the allocation that the Village awards them.
- Treasurer Buggee is exploring auditing firms for the village and water departments.
- The culvert grant was discussed. Funding has been received.

Development Review Board: NONE

Planning Commission -

- Potential schedule for Zoning Bylaw public comment meeting was discussed.
Kim Hall discussed the timeline in detail. Public meetings will likely be held in late February or early March. The deadline was missed to avail ourselves of a small grant for this work.

Water Department: NONE

New Business:

- The Bennington College Sculpture Class is showing their work at Taraden.

Old Business:

- Discussion of Ordinance 13 – Discharge of Firearms.
- Citizens' request amending the ordinance to include a prohibition on discharging firearms anywhere in the Village versus current regulation prohibiting discharge within 500 feet of a residence.

Trustee Rogers discussed the statute and statement from Village Attorney Stasney.

The Ordinance will be looked at further and language will be reviewed and possibly revised.

Ray Mullineaux made a motion to enter into an executive session at 8:00 PM for legal matters, seconded by Scott Creedy and so voted by all in attendance.

Regular session resumed at 8:15 PM.

On December 7, 2023, the Village of North Bennington, represented by counsel and member of the Water Board and Water Department, attended mediation in the matter of Galen Rhode v. Village of

North Bennington, Docket No. 22-CV-03090. The mediation concluded with a Settlement Agreement, which Settlement Agreement is contingent upon ratification by the Trustee of the Village of North Bennington. The Village share of the settlement is its deductible of \$1,000.00.

After having reviewed the Settlement Agreement and receiving the recommendation of the mediation attendees authorized by the Village, Matthew Patterson hereby moved to Ratify the Settlement Agreement, seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted by all in attendance.

Trustee Lowary made a motion to re- enter into an executive session for the purpose of personnel 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 8:50 PM regular/open session resumed.

Trustee Mullineaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM. This was seconded by Trustee Creedy and so voted.

Lorine Elwell
Village Clerk
Village of North Bennington