

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
7:00 PM – Village Depot Offices  
North Bennington

The Village of North Bennington Trustees held a meeting for business on February 13, 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 and Creedy, Chief Cross, and Kim Hall joined the meeting late after attending another meeting of importance. Trustees Lowary and Mullineaux, along with Treasurer Buggee, attended the meeting in person.

Also, in attendance – Chris Damon, Jennie Rozycki, Alexander Miller, Michael Gardner

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

Trustee Lowary opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

#### Citizen Comments:

Michael Gardner, Shaftsbury Resident, spoke about Article 13 – Discharge of Firearms. He would like the Trustees to really think about what has been proposed as a possible change. He discussed the importance of maintaining hunting around Lake Paran. He delivered a substantial amount of information regarding hunting and angling and would be happy to be involved in future conversations.

#### Approval of minutes:

- A motion was made by Trustee Mullineaux to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2024 meeting. This was seconded by Trustee Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Warrants and Bills:

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

#### Highway Report:

- Norm has received an award from Vermont VFW. The Trustees applaud his efforts and thank him for his service.
- Report on receipt of 2024 VTrans Grant in Aid award and BCRC technical assistance was discussed.
- New annual reporting required for State Complete Streets Compliance program was explained by *Superintendent Leblanc*
- Bank Street sidewalk update was given by Mr. Leblanc.

Fire Department: Chief Cross will meet with Treasurer Buggee to discuss purchases and budget status.

Treasurer Report:

- Village Attorney's rates are going up.
- VAE has sent a note thanking the Village for their annual allocation.
- Treasurer Buggee is exploring auditing firms for the village and water departments.
- Delinquent taxes continue to be collected. Balances are low.

Development Review Board: meeting notice / Tuesday February 20, 2024

Planning Commission - Draft Bylaw is on the website; starting review of Village Plan

This was explained by Kim Hall and an update on progress was given. A meeting is scheduled for February 21 at 7:00 PM at the Depot

Water Department: NONE

New Business:

- Jennie Rozycki discussed an addition to the back of the building which will include an elevator and other customer friendly advancements. A grant will be written which will hopefully secure funding to complete this project. Letters of support for this project will be greatly appreciated.
- Mary Rogers, assisted by Scott Creedy, Kim Hall and Chief Cross, reported on the introductory meeting of the newly formed REMC (Regional Emergency Management Committee) that was held this evening at 6:00 PM at the Bennington Fire Station. North Bennington does not have any voting members, but Village attendance and input is important. An explanation on how this committee will work was discussed. Hazard Mitigation Grants were also discussed.

Old Business:

- Report on Plans for Annual Meeting – Tuesday March 19, 2024 at the Village School auditorium at 7:30 PM. The village has an agreement with VIIS for interpreter services for that evening. The agreement was signed.
- Review and approve request for membership in VMERS, Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System, which would replace the current policy of an annual contribution to an employees deferred plan of their choosing. This was all discussed prior to voting, noting the special meeting held several months ago where a VMERS representative explained the program. A motion was made by Mary Rogers that the Village of North Bennington requests membership in VMERS, defined pension plan Group A with an effective date of 7/1/2024. Eligible employees of the Highway Department and North Bennington Water Department per VMERS eligibility rules would be covered under this plan. This was seconded by Matthew Patterson and so voted.
- An update on Winterfest was read. It was well attended even though there was no snow!

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 8:46 PM regular/open session resumed.

Trustee Mullineaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM. This was seconded by Trustee Creedy and so voted.

Lorine Elwell  
Village Clerk  
Village of North Bennington