

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

The Village of North Bennington Trustees held a meeting for business on January 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 Lowary along with Treasurer Buggee, attended the meeting in person.

Also, in attendance – Chris Damon

Also in attendance via Zoom were Trustees Mullineaux, Patterson, residents Alex Miller and Robert Novak, Jack Leonard, Steve Ellis and CAT - TV

Trustee Rogers opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Citizen Comments: NONE

Approval of minutes:

- A motion was made by Trustee Creedy to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2023 meeting. This was seconded by Trustee Patterson. Motion passed unanimously with one abstention by Ray Mullineaux.

Warrants and Bills:

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

Highway Report:

- Review / accept bid for West & Water Street intersection scoping. Three RFP's were sent out. One response was received. \$26,500 was the bid received from MSK Engineering and is recommended for acceptance by Superintendent Norm Leblanc. Tara Lowary made a motion to accept this bid, seconded by Scott Creedy. It was so voted.
 - Review 2024/25 draft budget line items. Treasurer Buggee reviewed changes and highlights.
 - Discuss list of potential projects and costs – Superintendent Leblanc is currently treating roads as there is a storm this evening. Treasurer Buggee reviewed potential highway projects and their costs.
 - Review budget draft for Parks and Recreation – Treasure Buggee reviewed changes and

highlights. McWaters Park will be included in other organizations with a \$500 allocation. This is a new addition. It will be reported under Other Organizations rather than lump into the parks line.

- Review budget draft for Depot – Treasurer Buggee reviewed changes and highlights.
- The Maurice Kahn Bench has been requested by Jeff Gray, to be moved to the Lincoln Park area from Hiland Hall Gardens. Tara Lowary made a motion to move this bench seconded by Matthew Patterson and so voted.
- Certificate of Highway Mileage was reviewed and discussed. It was signed and will be submitted for approval.

Fire Department: Review 2024/25 draft budget line items. Treasurer Buggee reviewed changes and highlights. Chief Cross was not able to attend as there was a fire call at the start of this meeting.

Review draft budget for allocation to other agencies.

Presentations from Agencies receiving Village funding were heard:

- Sage City Symphony – Jack Leonard, Steve Ellis

Treasurer Report:

- Tax impacts were discussed.
- A motion was made by Matthew Patterson and seconded by Scott Creedy to approve and accept a budget of the following: Total Expenditures \$849,574.00; Revenue of \$94,500.00; for a Net Expenditure of \$755,074.00 which will total an 8.2% increase for budget purposes. This was so voted.
- Treasurer Buggee is exploring auditing firms for the village and water departments.
- Delinquent taxes continue to be collected. Balances are low.

Development Review Board: NONE – Meeting posted on website.

Planning Commission – NONE – meeting posted on website.

Water Department: NONE

New Business:

- Plan for Annual Meeting – time and place/ Available spaces are being investigated – 7:30 PM – March 19, 2024
- Opting out of retail cannabis establishments in the Village was discussed. This will be placed on the WARNING for the Annual Meeting.

Old Business: Public discussion of resident Rob Woolmington's ideas for Lake Paran ownership are postponed indefinitely.

Trustee Lowary made a motion to 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