

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

7:00PM – Village Depot Offices

The Village of North Bennington Trustees held a meeting for business on June 13, 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 Rogers, Creedy, Mullineaux (after 7:30) and Lowary and Treasurer Buggee, attended the meeting in person.

Also, in attendance – Robert Nowak, Lorraine Donley, Jeanna Brown, Chris Damon, Norm LeBlanc.

Also in attendance via Zoom was Trustee Patterson, Renee Layton, Jim Therrien, Tom Sapitowicz, David Peterson, Adam Goudreau, Sam Restino

Trustee Rogers opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Highway Report:

- Work on Prospect and Pleasant St work is nearing completion. Crosswalks are coming.
- Overlea culvert is almost ready to commence. Expect closures in the first or second week of August for up to two weeks.
- A question was asked about whether center lines and outer lines could be painted on the newly paved roads. Mr. Leblanc noted that outer lines are no longer painted by VTrans, however center lines are possible. It is a costly proposition and paint lasts a year at best. Trustees will evaluate whether the current budget can include some painting. Trustees will consider additional such work for the 2024/25 budget.
- Mark Boudreau asked Chair Rogers about getting the water lines hooked up to Welling Field and talked to Mr. LeBlanc about details. The Highway and Water Departments will work together in coming months to do the work.
- The speed limit sign is out again and installed by Nahanco; it will begin cycling to other locations.

Vtrans presentation:

Mr. Goudreau presented a PowerPoint about the future bridge replacement on Bridge No. 1 over Cold Spring Brook on Rt 67 in Shaftsbury. The bridge was installed was 1934 and needs significant work. The proposed design, traffic control and detours, Issues were addressed. The construction season is April 15, 2025 through October 31, 2025. The road will be closed for about 4 weeks between July and early September. Signage will be posted before the closure. Detours will take bulk traffic to Hoosick Center and around to North Bennington. Local traffic can detour up Harrington Road. Concerns for speed control and rate of traffic on local roads were discussed. Jeanna Brown, president of the fire department asked about the access for fire and emergency services, and it was clarified that emergency services are free to use the shortest open route. The new bridge will be 32' long, 11' wide with 5' shoulders bringing it up to code and hydraulic standards for safety. It should have an 80-year life.

Ms. Layton discussed a second project replacing Bridge 57.5 Rail bridge. This is due to happen in 2024 the Railroad will be closed from 7/31-8/22. This project is not expected to significantly impact road traffic but may result in increased truck traffic.

Mr. Restino asked about clarification on detours and traffic flow. Trustee Creedy asked about the wing walls and clarified their purpose and necessity.

The VTrans PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on the Village website at www.villagenorthbennington.org. (Look under Village Information, Documents, Trustee Meetings)

Approval of minutes:

- A motion was made by Trustee Lowary to approve the minutes from the May 9th and the 12th meetings and seconded by Trustee Creedy. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Creedy to approve the minutes from the May 31st and June 8th meetings and seconded by Trustee Mullineaux. Motion passed.

Warrants and Bills:

- A motion was made by Trustee Patterson to approve the payroll warrant for a total of \$12622.75 and seconded by Trustee Mullineaux. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Mullineaux to approve the Late May bill for a total of \$4665.32 and seconded by Trustee Creedy. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Creedy to approve the June Bill for a total of \$43,707.72 and seconded by Trustee Mullineaux. Motion Passed.

Fire Department:

Trustee Rogers welcomed new interim fire chief Keith Cross Jr. And thanked him for his service. Trustee Rogers also thanked former Chief Harrington for his many years of service.

Treasurer Report:

- Delinquent taxes are in good shape. Only 4 outstanding from this year and none from previous years. A few are still making payments.
- Reserve fund is 75% completed.
- Treasurer Buggee determined that the village needs to borrow money with a tax anticipation note to cover the village financial needs until the taxes are collected. Trustee Patterson made a motion to apply for a tax anticipation note for the total of \$295,000 and was seconded by Trustee Mullineaux. Motion passed.
- West Oil will be sending pre-buy rates soon to be voted in future meetings. Trustee Creedy asked about the fire department boiler and confirmed that it is on a regular cleaning schedule to keep it running until a replacement can be funded.

Citizen Comment: Mr. Restino said we are cordial and run the meeting well.

Development Review Board:

Mr. Damon reported the two topics for the meeting on June 20th at 7:00 at the Depot.

Planning Commission:

The need for a new Zoning Administrator was announced. A job search will begin soon. Trustee Rogers thanked Mr Hatchey for his time as ZA.

The Planning Commission meets June 21st at 7:00PM at the Depot.

New Business:

- Mr. Nowak addressed traffic calming concerns. A recent NYT article reported on the dangers of sound on our health. Mr. Nowak consulted other towns with speed bumps about their efficacy. He also asked the BCRC for a village plan. He spoke to Sheriff Gulley about police presence. Mr. Nowak presented the trustees with a letter of support from local businesses to address traffic calming. Ms. Donley mentioned a concern for safety for her family and local children. Trustee Rogers said she is seeking a municipal planning grant to address numerous issues in various sites around the village.
- Art Whitman is looking at the ball field for a 60th Reunion for the school and the possibility of fireworks was discussed. The date for the event would be July 30th.
- Trustee Rogers discussed the records rooms in the depot and the need for a comprehensive plan to sort and dispose of any unnecessary materials, and the rate of shredding from the company Secure Shred. A Records Retention Policy will be developed before significant disposal is undertaken.

Old Business:

Trustee Rogers brought up two ordinances that needed reminding or addressing recently.

- Ordinance 15 - Posters and Signs was intended to allow some signage as long as trustees were notified, and permission given.
- Ordinance 13 - Discharge of Firearms was recently questioned by some residents.
- The public is reminded to please respect both and seek approvals regarding the signs ordinance.
- Mr. Damon stated that he had information regarding a zoning violation in his neighborhood and he was willing to discuss it as needed.

Executive session: Trustee Patterson made a motion to enter executive session at 8:35 and seconded by Trustee Mullineaux. Motion Passed.

Regular session recommenced at 8:40. Trustee Mullineaux made a motion to affirm the wage adjustment as discussed in the executive session. Seconded by Trustee Patterson. Motion passed.

Trustee Creedy made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 and was seconded by Trustee Mullineaux. This was so voted.

Tara Lowary

Village Vice-Chair

North Bennington