

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
7:00 PM – Village Depot Offices
North Bennington

The Village of North Bennington Trustees held a meeting for business on March 12, 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, Lowary and Mullineaux, along with Treasurer Buggee and Highway Superintendent Leblanc, attended the meeting in person.

Absent – Trustee Creedy

Also, in attendance – Chris Damon, Shirley Adams, Joe Bisson, Cindi Myers, Kim Hall, Stephanie Peters, Jeannie Jenkins, Keith Cross, John Umphlett

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

Trustee Rogers opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Citizen Comments: None

Approval of minutes:

- A motion was made by Trustee Mullineaux to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2024 meeting. This was seconded by Trustee Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrants and Bills:

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

Highway Report:

- Annual VTRANS certifications were explained and signed. These included Road and Bridge Standards and Financial Plan
- Depot Ceiling repairs were discussed. This work will begin soon.
- New Truck – reviewed three quotes received: Bid #2 was recommended for \$54,598 plus add-ons.

A motion was made by Matthew Patterson and seconded by Tara Lowary to purchase a new vehicle from Formula Ford Company, Rutland, Vermont as described in Bid #2. This was so voted.

- Bank Street – New drop inlets are planned and VTrans should begin work this Spring
- Park Street/Sweet Road repairs are needed. Elevations were completed.

- Street Sweeping will begin soon.

Fire Department: – new gear request / replacement schedule

- Chief Cross met with Treasurer Buggee to discuss purchases and the budget status. Treasurer Buggee reviewed budget line items and how they would affect future purchases. Matthew Patterson made a motion to purchase two new sets of gear seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted.
- Keith Cross notified the Board of Trustees, that at last night's Fire Department's Annual Meeting, Ed Myers was appointed Chief, Andy Myers Assistant Chief, Joe Brown Second Assistant. Trustee Rogers explained that this appointment will be confirmed after the Village Annual Meeting on March 19, 2024. Cindi Myers questions why this has to be followed and that it is very disrespectful to the fire department. Trustee Rogers explained the Charter language and why it is important to follow these rules and documents.

Treasurer Report:

- Treasurer Buggee is exploring auditing firms for the village and water departments.
- Delinquent taxes continue to be collected. Balances are low.
- The 3-year Village Audit through 6/30/22 is complete and was discussed.
- Updated cash balances will be sent out prior to month's end.
- E-enable will help to maintain the Village Website.

Development Review Board: meeting notice / Tuesday March 26, 2024

- Kim Hall explained Senate Bill 311 / Bylaw changes / Serious ramifications for the village
- ZA Damon discussed a needed site visit. We will request this occur on March 27th at 9:00 AM.
- The next DRB meeting will be on March 26th. There is one item on the agenda

Planning Commission:

- Request new member appointment – Hilary Nicole Ivy / A motion was made by Ray Mullineaux to appoint Hilary Nicole Ivy to the Planning Commission. This was seconded by Matthew Patterson and so voted.
- Present research on Paran Dam inspection and maintenance – propose letter to VTrans/ Kim Hall discussed the condition of the dams and research which has been done. Ownership of dams was discussed. This discussion will continue as it is extremely important to the Village of North Bennington and its content is large.

Water Department: NONE

New Business:

- Green Mountain Hometown Heroes – Stephanie Peters presented an idea for veteran remembrance banners. Examples were shown and distributed. A history of this program's establishment was explained. The processes for obtaining a banner were discussed. The Highway Department and Green Mountain Power will help to install these banners. More information will be forthcoming and agreements between the village and the presenters will be worked out.
- Zoom training for LEMP – March 25th 2:00 PM at the Depot. Open to all interested in emergency planning.

Old Business:

- Review needed REMP appointments for EMD and one other representative – This topic was deferred due to time constraints. It will be discussed further at the April meeting.
- Update on use of Depot for student art exhibit – John Umphlett explained the upcoming student art exhibit. They will set up on Friday April 19 and will exhibit on April 20 – 22. Exhibits will be removed on April 23. Mr. Umphlett will work with Matthew Perry and Norm Leblanc. The public is invited to view the pieces on April 20 – 21.
- 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. Trustees encourage all to attend.

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 9:05PM regular/open session resumed.

Trustee Mullineaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM. This was seconded by Trustee Lowary and so voted.

Lorine Elwell
Village Clerk
Village of North Bennington