

Board of Trustees Special Meeting  
Monday, November 27, 2023  
6:00PM – Village Depot Offices

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Village of North Bennington Trustees held a meeting for business on Nov 27, 2023, at 6:00 pm. This meeting was held by video and telephone conference only via Zoom. This is in accordance with H.681 (section 6.); addendum 01-20/Act 92

The Village Depot was open for in person meeting. Trustees Rogers and Lowary and Treasurer Buggee attended the meeting in person. Trustee Patterson attended via Zoom, completing a forum. Also, in attendance – John Umphlett, Bennington College, and Norm LeBlanc Highway Supervisor.

Trustee Rogers opened the meeting at 6:05pm.

**Excavator:** Mr. Leblanc sent details of the equipment options ahead of the meeting so all could read them. Trustees Mullineaux and Rogers met with Mr. LeBlanc to ask questions as well. Both agreed that the CAT 306 mini excavator and a trailer to move it were the best option for the village. Mr. LeBlanc said the equipment will add to the assets of the village at no cost to the taxpayers. Trustee Patterson asked what equipment had been sold to help pay for the new equipment. Mr LeBlanc said the old excavator and the bulldozer had been sold for a total of \$137,000 dollars and the check was en route. Both had been purchased through the surplus program. Trustee Rogers said Treasurer Buggee will add the assets to the schedule for future replacement with an expected lifespan of up to 20 years. Mr LeBlanc is working on a list of all equipment and their function/necessity for the village to reference as needed. Trustee Patterson was impressed and in favor.

A motion was made by Trustee Patterson to permit Mr. LeBlanc to purchase a CAT 306 Mini excavator, a trailer, and a mower head using funds from the sold surplus equipment, and authorizing Doug Buggee to sign paperwork and draft checks for said equipment if funds are needed before the check for the surplus equipment arrives. Motion was seconded by Trustee Rogers. Motion Carried 3-0-0.

**College use of depot space:** Mr John Umphlett, faculty in sculpture at Bennington College, asked about using the second space in the depot for a student sculpture show. Approximately 11 students would set up from Dec 10-11 and the show would be Dec 12 in the evening. He expects the show to be low traffic and mostly an experience for the students. Trustee Lowary offered the use of Taraden on Park St as an alternative. Mr Umphlett was interested but also expressed hope for use of the depot to be possible as well. Trustee Rogers asked about liability as an issue. Mr. Buggee said the college would likely have a rider to cover the art displayed. Mr. Umphlett will explore the space at Taraden and inform Trustees if the Depot is needed.

Trustee Rogers made a motion to approve ongoing opportunities for the College to display student art works or other exhibitions in the space by collaborating with the VAE and Norm Leblanc and addressing liability issues. Trustee Patterson seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Trustee Lowary made a motion to adjourn at 6:25. This was seconded by Trustee Rogers and so voted.

Tara Lowary  
Village Vice-Chair  
North Bennington