

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
7:00PM – Taraden/ Park Street – North Bennington

The Village of North Bennington Trustees held a meeting for business on October 10, 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, and Lowary along with Treasurer Buggee, attended the meeting in person.

Also, in attendance – Town of Bennington Manager Stuart Hurd, Bennington Chief of Police Paul Doucette, Mike Pierce, Steve Goodrich, Keith Cross, Norm LeBlanc, Robert Novak, Dana Rosycki, Jennie Rosycki, Kim Hall, Tom Fels, Robert Novak, Sheriff Gulley, Peter Urbanowicz, Richard Jorgenson, Jeannie Jenkins, Steve Lennox, Ed Myers, Jr., Kelly Donley, Steve Goodrich, Nan Lowary, Alisa DelTufo, Joe Chirchirillo

Also in attendance via Zoom were Trustee Patterson, Jennifer Fels and CAT - TV

Trustee Rogers opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Citizen Comments:

- Stuart Hurd, Bennington Town Manager explained what services the Town of Bennington provides to the Village of North Bennington; storage and maintenance of all records, permits, police protection, support recreation funding and Lake Paran.
- The proportionality of taxes that North Bennington pays to Bennington was explained. The general portion only of the tax rate billed by the Town of Bennington to North Bennington was explained.
- Paran Recreations Director Alisa DelTufo discussed funding that is distributed to the Lake Paran organization from Bennington. It is minimal.
- Resident Steve Goodrich discussed the traffic in the village and how there is a lack of enforcement by the police department.
- Officer Doucette explained what the Bennington Police Department does in North Bennington. He listed various activities that they are involved in including traffic control.
- Trustee Lowary explained the history of private police protection within the village.
- Trustee Rogers discussed the different options that are out there and she is willing to put together several scenarios and their cost to present to village residents and voters.
- Sheriff Gulley explained what their department does and what prices their department must charge.
- Steve Lennox discussed speeding issues.
- Rich Jorgenson suggested that North Bennington connect with Shaftsbury as the Town of Shaftsbury has many good strategies for calming traffic.
- Scott Creedy discussed the noise factor of speeding and noise pollution.
- Robert Novak discussed different avenues that he has investigated regarding speeding.
- Gaylen Rhode discussed the area near his business and home. He has several questions regarding trees in that area that prohibit proper vision while driving.

- Chief Doucette discussed current personnel and the lack thereof. He also discussed possible grants that can be related to traffic control.
- Trustee Rogers suggested that partnerships need to be explored. There could be many benefits.
- Kim Hall is requesting an answer to the BCRC's statement to produce a traffic study and report.
- Dana Rozycki discussed the status of these reports.
- Matthew Patterson discussed monies paid to the Town of Bennington for the police department.
- Officer Doucette will put together figures that will be shared, to put an officer in North Bennington 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.
- Rich Jorgensen is questioning the placement of the speed signs.

Approval of minutes:

- A motion was made by Trustee Creedy to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2023 and October 2, 2023 meetings. This was seconded by Trustee Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.
September 12, 2023 minutes have one correction. The corrected sentence should read as follows: Homestead has gone from 1.5628 last year to 1.6090 this year and non-homestead has gone from 1.7146 to 2.0023.

Warrants and Bills:

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

Highway Report:

- Harlan Road was paved.
- Park Street was just graded.

Fire Department:

- Ray Mullineaux has discussed his meeting regarding the boiler at the firehouse with West Oil. Service of the boiler will take place on October 30th. Several repairs need to be made if the entire unit is not replaced.
- A motion was made by Matthew Patterson and seconded by Tara Lowary to allow the Vermont Arts Exchange to hold the annual Halloween parade on Sunday October 29, 2023 at 3:00 PM. This was so voted.
- Ray Mullineaux discussed that on November 3, 2023, Darren Sharp will inspect the chimney at the firehouse.

Treasurer Report:

- Tax bills have all gone out. In person tax collection hours have been posted.
- Doug has met with Community Bank last week regarding an account review. We will be able to make several changes based on their new options for Municipal accounts.

Development Review Board: NONE

Planning Commission: NONE

Water Department: NONE

New Business:

- Alisa DeItufo brought up the following:
Citizens of North Bennington petition the Village Trustees to Revise Article 13:
Discharge of Firearms
- Trustee Patterson would like this ordinance suggestion looked at. Trustee Rogers and Trustee Lowary, will look into the process required for change.

Old Business: NONE

Trustee Lowary made a motion to enter into an executive session at 8:55 PM. This was seconded by Trustee Patterson and so voted.

At 8:59 PM regular/open session resumed.

Matthew Patterson made a motion which was seconded by Ray Mullineaux, to appoint David Shaughnessy to a five-year term on the North Bennington Board of Water Commissioners. This was so voted.

Trustee Mullineaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM. This was seconded by Trustee Creedy and so voted.

Lorine Elwell
Village Clerk
Village of North Bennington