

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, October 11, 2022
Village Depot Offices/ 7:00 PM - Virtual Meeting/Open Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Village of North Bennington Trustees held its regular meeting for business on October 11, 2022 at 7:00 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 as well. Trustees, Rogers, Creedy, Mullineaux, and Lowary were present in that space as well. All others attended the meeting via Zoom.

Also in attendance were Robert Nowak, Nbfd Chief Ed Harrington

Chairman Mary Rogers opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Trustees Present: Scott Creedy, Tara Lowary, Mary Rogers, Ray Mullineaux, Matthew Patterson, Treasurer Doug Buggee

Treasurer Doug Buggee, Trustee Matthew Patterson and Highway Superintendent Norm Leblanc, attended the meeting via Zoom.

A motion was made by Tara Lowary and seconded by Scott Creedy to approve the September 13, 2022 minutes. This was so voted by all Trustees present, Rogers, Creedy, Lowary, Patterson. Trustee Mullineaux abstained.

A motion was made by Tara Lowary and seconded by Ray Mullineaux, to approve the late September-October warrant and to pay the bills. This was so voted by all trustees.

A motion was made by Ray Mullineaux and seconded by Tara Lowary to accept the September 2022 Payroll warrants. This was so voted.

Citizen Comments: Citizen comments are noted under several other department reports, as appropriate.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Doug Buggee reported the following;

The following reports were presented to the Trustees prior to the meeting. They are as follows.

- Payroll Warrant - pdf

- Village Warrant - excel - with tab for expense details
- Cash Balances
- The Budget vs Actual Report.
- All tax bills have been mailed out and payments are beginning to come in.
- A motion was made by Matthew Patterson at this time to continue with Blue Cross and Blue Shield Company for our employee insurance needs. This was seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted by all Trustees.

Highway Department –

- The fall cleanup and street sweeping continue.
- Two salt vendor contracts are in place.
- Inquiries have been made into the status of the guardrails. Responses have not been received.
- Highway Superintendent Leblanc discussed the culverts to meet the Grants and Clean water Act and progress thereof.
- Patching on Prospect Street is complete.
- Winter vehicle maintenance and repairs continue.
- Additional bricks have been installed in the Lincoln Square Park.
- Many thanks to Norm and Kyle for their care and upkeep of McWater's Park.
- Testing of the new Vactor was reviewed and discussed.

DRB News — There have been no meetings and no news to report.

Planning Commission- letter and brief bio was read regarding resident Steve Lennox, recommended by the Planning Commission as an additional member. Trustee Rogers made a motion to accept the Planning Commission recommendation. This was seconded by Scott Creedy and so voted. It was noted that Scott Creedy is willing to serve as acting Zoning Administrator until a new one has been hired to replace Billy Rogers, whom the Trustees thank for his service. The Planning Commission also makes the recommendation to name Mr. Creedy as Acting ZA. Trustee Mullineaux made such motion, seconded by Tara Lowary. The motion was approved by all trustees present with Trustee Scott abstaining.

Water Board – As noted under Old Business

Fire Department News –

Treasurer Buggee reviewed the current finances that relate to fire department equipment purchases and replacements including sinking funds and other funds in the current budget for the Village of North Bennington. Chief Harrington has requested approval for the construction of a shed extension. Although Chief Harrington presented the Trustees with information as to why this shed needs to be built, the Trustees are requesting more detailed and organized answers and will not consider this request until this information has been received.

Chief Harrington also presented the Trustees with two proposals for the purchase of new fire equipment. This discussion will be again deferred until a future trustees meeting. The Trustees have asked Chief Harrington to research several items to be reported on in detail in November.

New Business –

- Trustee Rogers presented the Board with a discussion and proposals for a pricing policy for the EV charging station. The following were discussed:
- A: Annual network and warranty charges - lower for multi-year options. Grant requires the station be in place 4 more years.
- B: The grant required the first year be free of charge. We now have an option for charging users. Town of Bennington will remain free. Average in the area is 35 cents per KWH used. Our costs, all in, are closer to 50 cents per kwh. Another area option is Free for first hour and \$2.00/each additional hour. Trustee Rogers planned to recommend this latter option but upon reflection felt the 35 cents per KWH used is straightforward and thus recommended we use this policy for the next year and adjust as needed when more data is in. Trustee Rogers will confer with Voltrek specialists to have the pricing policy address extended use after a vehicle is fully charged. A motion was made by Matthew Patterson to adopt the pricing policy for the EV charging station as recommended by Trustee Rogers. This was seconded by Scott Creedy and so voted by all trustees present. The current Voltrek invoice will be paid using Community Development Funds held in the Contingency account.
- The Records Management Proposal was reviewed and discussed. Information regarding this proposal was sent to Trustees for their review. A motion was made by Ray Mullineaux to proceed with this proposal by first forming a policy that will be followed and by forming a committee for input and assistance. This was seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted by all trustees.
- There will be a joint Board of Trustees meeting and Planning Commission meeting on October 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM. The site will be determined. Among other things, a municipal planning grant for buildings and infrastructure will be scoped out.

Old Business –

- Trustee Rogers presented the Board with a Records Management Proposal at the August 9, 2022 meeting. Due to the heavy agenda at tonight's meeting, discussion on this proposed project will take place in October.

Tara Lowary made a motion at 8:43 PM to enter into an executive session for personnel. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted by all trustees present.

At 9:25 PM, open session resumed and executive session ended.

At this time, Matthew Patterson made a motion to appoint Joseph Herrmann to a five-year term on the Board of Water Commissioners. This was seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted by all trustees present with one abstention from Trustee Mary Rogers.

Matthew Patterson made a motion at 9:33 PM to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted by all trustees present.

Lorine Elwell
Village Clerk
Village of North Bennington