

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 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 September 13, 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. Treasurer Buggee and 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, Nathan and Ann Wallace–Senft, Rebecca Wallace–Senft Grayek, Claude Delucia, Chris Oldham, Bill Garrison, Paul Garrison, Art Whitman, Alexander Miller, Mark Boudreau, BCRC Representative Jim Henderson, NBWD Representative David Shaughnessy

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

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 August 9, 2022 minutes and the August 23, 2022 continuation meeting minutes. This was so voted by all Trustees present, Rogers, Creedy, Lowary, Patterson and Mullineaux.

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

A motion was made by Scott Creedy and seconded by Tara Lowary, to approve the extended August 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 August 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.
- New credit cards with higher limits for the Village Clerk and Highway Superintendent have been approved and received.
- Treasurer Buggee reviewed ARPA Funding that has been distributed and allocations to other organizations made this month.
- He also discussed the fire truck financing and noted that it is in progress.
- Due to a delay with the tax billing software, property tax bills will be printed and mailed by Monday, September 19, 2022.
- Chris Oldham, Executive Director of Park McCullough House, was present to request ARPA funding from the Village in the amount of \$25,000.00. He stated that the money would be used for the Carriage Barn preservation project. He outlined the scope of work and reviewed what has been done to date. He spoke about the various contractors and architects that he has worked with. Matthew Patterson made a motion to approve \$20,000 of ARPA Funding to the Park McCullough House. This was seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted by all trustees present.

Highway Department –

Mowing/Maintenance:

- The fall cleanup and street sweeping has begun.
- Salt vendor contracts have been sent out.
- The village continues to wait for the Overlea Road culvert project to begin. BCRC Representative Jim Henderson addressed this project and answered questions pertaining to the process and projected timeline.
- Highway Superintendent Leblanc discussed the culverts to meet the Grants and Clean water Act and progress thereof.
- Trees in the right of way and on private property were also discussed.

At this time, several residents of Park Street discussed their concerns of excessive speed in that area.

BCRC Representative Jim Henderson reviewed and explained two recent traffic studies that have just recently been completed in the village. Discussions of procedure, next steps, and possible calming methods for speed reduction, were also explained and discussed.

Mr. Henderson was able to clarify many unanswered questions from residents and a better understanding of the process was given.

- Resident and former Trustee Mark Boudreau, was present to update the Trustees on the Parks & Recreation ARPA Project. There have been some issues with securing labor, materials and general supplies. He will keep everyone updated as the work progresses.

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

Planning Commission- Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, the next one to be held on September 21st.

Water Board – Shaftsbury resident Art Whitman was present to voice several concerns regarding the general operation of the North Bennington Board of Water Commissioners. He would like North Bennington to ask Shaftsbury for recommendations for positions on the Board of Commissioners, as they become available. Matthew Patterson reviewed the Charter of The Village of North Bennington and explained how the process works.

In other Water Department news, water meters are currently being read and bills will go out on 10/1/22.

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. He also noted that Chief Harrington has requested approval for the construction of a shed extension. Although Chief Harrington presented the Trustees with an estimate, they would like more information prior to approving such construction.

Chief Harrington also presented the Trustees with a proposal for the purchase of new fire equipment in the amount of \$46,764.30. This discussion will be deferred until the October 11, 2022 trustees meeting.

The oil burner at the firehouse is in need of replacement. Updates were presented by Trustees Mullineaux and Rogers. Heating Projects, hot water projects, heat pumps and unit descriptions were all outlined. Some projects are near completion while others will be beginning soon.

New Business –

- Trustee Rogers presented the Board with a request from Paran Recreations to sign a resolution supporting Paran Recreations' funding request to the State Recreational Facilities grant program. All Trustees support this Resolution and Mary Rogers, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Village of North Bennington has signed this resolution and letter of support.

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 8:53 PM to enter into an executive session for a legal matter. 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 authorize the Secretary for the Village of North Bennington Board of Trustees to sign a Resolution stating that the Village of North Bennington Board of Trustees authorize the North Bennington Board of Water Commissioners to go through the mediation process of litigation at their discretion throughout the litigation. This was seconded by Mary Rogers and so voted by all trustees present.

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