

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, December 5, 2023 - SPECIAL MEETING  
7:00PM – Village Depot Offices  
North Bennington

The Village of North Bennington Trustees held a SPECIAL meeting for business on December 5, 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, Mullineaux, and Lowary along with Treasurer Buggee, attended the meeting in person.

Also, in attendance – Water Board Commissioner David Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent Leblanc, Chief Keith Cross, Robert Novak

Also in attendance via Zoom were Trustee Patterson

Absent – Trustee Creedy

Trustee Rogers opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Executive Session requested by Board of Water Commissioners

Based on advice of counsel, Motion is hereby made, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(E) and (F) that premature general public knowledge concerning pending civil litigation to which the public body is a party in the matter of: Galen Rhodes v. North Bennington Village would place the Fund at a substantial disadvantage in that it involves discussion of confidential attorney-client communication and discussion on matters of strategy, discovery, trial preparation and settlement or litigation options. Therefore, Mary Rogers made a motion to enter into executive session. This was seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted.

At this time, the executive meeting was closed, 7:30 PM, and regular session resumed.

Necessary signatures on specific paperwork needed by Water Board Commissioner Shaughnessy were acquired.

Highway Report:

- The replacement schedule for equipment was reviewed. Adjust items / replacement as necessary.
- Road and culvert projects were reviewed. Importance. of order was discussed.
- Schedule for sidewalk installation and/or upgrade was discussed.
- Resident Robert Novak asked Superintendent Leblanc to explain the Surplus Program.

Fire Department:

- A replacement schedule for gear and equipment was reviewed and discussed.
- Training requirements were reviewed and discussed.
- Potential facilities upgrade and/or repair needs were discussed.

- Trustee Mullineaux reviewed repairs currently taking place on the chimney at the firehouse.
- Trustee Rogers reviewed the Energy Audits and possibilities for grants.

#### Parks and General Expenses

- Review and discuss any upgrades or repairs to recreation facilities or to parks. Swings, chips and an area of the Skate Park need repairs. This is all areas of need at the Lion's Park. Mark Boudreau suggested level funding for Parks and Recreation at this time.
- Review and discuss general requirements including Zoning, legal, internet, communications, depot repair and maintenance. Depot Repairs and Maintenance will involve further discussion and evaluation. Trustee Rogers suggests an increase in pay for the Zoning Administrator.
- The Legal category, will be increased
- Internet maintenance providers will be looked at.

Preliminary numbers were entered into the DRAFT Budget Worksheet for further examination.

Trustee Mullineaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM. This was seconded by Trustee Lowary and so voted.

Lorine Elwell  
Village Clerk  
Village of North Bennington