

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, January 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 January 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. Treasurer Rogers and Trustees Boudreau and Lowary were present in that space as well. All others attended the meeting via Zoom.

Trustees Present: Matthew Patterson, Tara Lowary, Mark Boudreau

Absent - Erin McKenny, Highway Superintendent Norm Leblanc

Also Present: Jim Henderson; Representative from the BCRC, Scott Creedy, Jamaica Kincaid, Joe Chirchirello, Jennie Rozycki, Michelle Samour, Steve Lennox

A motion was made by Tara Lowary and seconded by Matthew Patterson to accept the December 7, 2021 minutes with corrections. This was so voted by all Trustees.

A motion was made by Matthew Patterson and seconded by Mark Boudreau to approve the January warrant and to pay the bills. This was so voted by all trustees.

A motion was made by Matthew Patterson and seconded by Tara Lowary to accept the January 2022 Payroll warrants. This was so voted.

**Citizen Comments:** Scott Creedy was present to notify the Trustees that he would like to run for an open seat in March at the Village Annual Meeting. One thing that Mr. Creedy would like to focus on is hydropower at Paran Creek.

- McCullough Library representative, Jennie Rozycki, was present to request an additional \$2,500 per year in allocations to the library. This will bring the total allocation to \$27,500. Ms. Rozycki's request will be placed on the WARNING to be voted on by the residents.
- Joe Chircherillo, resident of Honeysuckle Lane was present to discuss a Zoning decision that he is not happy about. He described a situation of a new landowner, Mr. Kolar, and what is perceived to be a large, commercial new business. The neighbors of Mr. Kolar are opposing this new activity and complaints have been filed with the State of Vermont A & R.

- Ms. Kincaid questioned the trustees on how they represent the people of the village and requested that they do something about this situation immediately. Trustee Patterson explained to Ms. Kincaid how the different boards within the village operate and gave a brief description of each department. Mr. Boudreau reviewed the history and process of the situation on Honeysuckle Lane and stated that he is aware that an opinion letter has been written on this situation. He advised that all concerned citizens attend the February 15, 2022 Development Review Board Meeting at the Village Depot at 7:00 PM. This is the appropriate place to continue this discussion.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Mary Rogers was present at this meeting.

- 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
- December Cash Balances - pdf
- The Budget vs Actual Report was reviewed.
- Treasurer Mary Rogers answered many questions regarding the budget as it was reviewed and discussed. Draft budgets had been mailed out earlier for review prior to the meeting.
- Treasurer Rogers discussed ARPA Funding and requests that have been received from VAE and VSNB.

**Highway Department** –

- Norm LeBlanc has reported that there was a mishap with a sculpture and a snowplow at the Depot. Repairs by the owner and reimbursement by the Village will occur.
- The new dog waste station for Mile Around woods has been ordered. The Fund for North Bennington will purchase this. It will be discussed again in February.
- There have been several icy road events.
- A new traffic device will be discussed at the February meeting. Mr. Leblanc has sent several options to the trustees for approval.

**DRB News** — There will be a meeting at 7:00 PM on February 15, 2022 at the Village Depot Offices to discuss concerns regarding a decision made with a landowner on Honeysuckle Lane.

**Planning Commission- None**

**Water Board** – NONE

**Fire Department News** – The fire department was praised for their fast and efficient skills to extinguish a house fire on Park Street last week.

### **New Business –**

Jim Henderson, Representative from the BCRC, was present to discuss The Stormwater Master Plan. Mr. Henderson reviewed what the initial steps involved would entail. A contractor will visit the sites and locate erosion and other trouble areas. The contractor will scope out the Village and assess specific needs. A meeting will then be held to review these findings and a presentation which will include maps of the sites will be distributed. Mr. Henderson noted that the success rate for obtaining assistance, if necessary, in times of trouble, has a higher success rate if the Storm Water Master Plan is in place. Warnings and notifications to notify village residents will be posted. Mathew Patterson made a motion to proceed with the Storm Water Master Plan. This was seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted.

Allison Strohl, Representative from the BCRC, will be taking over the Hazard Mitigation Grant. Along with Allison, the following Planning Team will meet for a Public Hearing on February 17, 2022 at 7:30 PM via Zoom and if desired in person at the Village Depot Offices.

- Highway Superintendent Norm Leblanc
- Fire Chief Ed Myers
- Water Department- Ted Fela and/or David Shaughnessy
- Tim Newbold or another member from The Village School
- Matthew Patterson- VNB & NBGSD
- Erin McKenny – Representative liaison / Bennington College

Warnings will be posted for this meeting.

Prior to this meeting at 7:00 PM, there will be a Public Hearing to review, discuss and possibly adopt specific ordinances that have been prepared for this purpose.

Trustee Mark Boudreau will be stepping down in March.

### **Old Business –**

- Treasurer Mary Rogers listed some short-term goals that she would like to see initiated.
- All municipal buildings need an energy audit which will result in a proposal for renewable energy. There are grants for this type of project.
  - The garage space needs to be explored for efficiency and utilization.
  - A cyber security review is of great importance.
  - Communications need to be enhanced.

Matthew Patterson made a motion at 9:00 PM to enter into an executive session for the purpose of personnel. This was seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted by all trustees. At 9:20, open session resumed and executive session ended.

At 9:30 PM, Matthew Patterson a motion to accept the budget as presented. This budget will be presented to the voters at the Annual Meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> for discussion and approval. This was seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted by all trustees present.

Matthew Patterson made a motion at 9:45 PM to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Tara Lowary and so voted by all trustees.

Lorine Elwell  
Village Clerk  
Village of North Bennington