

NORTH BENNINGTON WATER BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
5 APRIL 2023

**PRESENT:** David Shaughnessy, Arla Sampsell, Jerry Elwell, Steve Goodrich, Joe Herrmann, Ted Fela, Mary Rogers, Vickie Dejnozka, Art Whitman and April Paulin

David called the meeting to order at 5:58 pm.

**MINUTES**

There was one correction to the minutes of 1 March 2023; on page 3, under Old Business, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph should be Asset Management Plan and not Access.

Steve moved to approve the minutes of 1 March as corrected. Arla seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**WARRANTS**

The Board was presented with a payroll report as we now use a payroll service. There was discussion on what to include on the report and what the Board's needs were as far as approving the payroll amounts. Because the payroll is direct deposited into the accounts there will be no check numbers associated with the payroll.

Joe moved to approve the 2 payrolls for March for \$12,344.02 plus \$937.70 for payroll taxes. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve moved to approve the monthly warrant for 5 April for \$25,325.03, check #'s 10313, 10350, 10364-10366 and 4 debits. Arla seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mary and Vickie handed out copies of the Budget reports and Actual reports that give a running total of where we stand, as well as the cash balance reports. They discussed how they would do monthly and quarterly reports and what information would be on them.

Mary is still working on the USDA format for repayment. She will ask Steve Love about how to best record reserve funds and spending.

Mary gave the Board a copy of the notice that the Trustees would be mailing to those who live on Prospect & Pleasant Streets that will be affected by the upcoming road work. The notice will also be posted on the Village's website. She is looking for feedback from the Board.

The Board discussed that they need to really pay attention to how much money is coming out of the reserve accounts so that they still have money for when they need it. This latest project will

be costing just over \$30,000 because they have to hire a contractor to do the digging instead of getting help from the highway department as previously discussed. Ted also informed the Board that the Bennington Sewer Department was told by Norm that they will now be grinding the roads. This was not in the original plans and Norm did not notify the Water Department of the change. This information would have been helpful when Ted was making the plans for how they would approach their job with the contractors.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The meters have been read and the bills have been mailed out. The #1 filter has been repainted and went back online today.

Ted plans on starting on Pleasant and Prospect Streets on the 24<sup>th</sup>. He has spoken to a number of residents that were available about the plans. There is one curb stop that Ted would like to move from the sidewalk to the edge of the lawn. There is a tree in the way and Ted spoke with the resident and explained what he would like to do. The resident was going to discuss it with his wife and would get back to Ted.

Ted spoke with two contractors for the generator at the plant. Hathaway Electric has already looked over the plans and the site. Comalli Electric will look at the site tomorrow. Plans were given to them so they may give estimates. Blue Flame will give an estimate for propane tanks and to replace the one at the plant. The Board discussed buying our own above ground tanks so that we are not tied to one supplier and can get the cheapest price.

Craig, Matt and Jeff from Otter Creek are working with Ted on the Asset Management Plan and they will begin working on the GPS work for the plans before the leaves start growing on the trees. Ted and the guys will start marking out lines, valves etc. The Rep from the State would like to meet with the Board to explain and answer any questions they have. Ted will try to set up for him to come to a meeting.

WesTech will give Ted an update with upgrade recommendations for the plant.

There is a tree by the well station that is damaged and dying and is in danger of falling. Ted will call Blake Pike and try to get a price to have it cut down.

Ted will not be at next month's meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

David spoke with Jason regarding helping with the solar project and he said he is more than willing to set aside time to help us.

David would like to set up a special meeting before the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month so the Board could discuss and get their answers back to the engineer of the project.

Art Whitman from the Shaftsbury Select Board was present to see what the Board's stance was on the solar project. David explained that we've received a proposal and are considering it and there is a lot involved. Art told the Board that the State has approved an entrance off of 7~~A~~ for the construction of it rather than using Holy Smoke Road.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Steve brought up the possibility of installing solar panels on our land to offset the cost of the electric which is currently about \$1,000 month. The Board felt it was something worth looking into.

Steve moved to adjourn this meeting at 7:12 pm. Arla seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

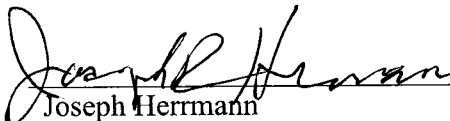
Respectfully submitted,


April A. Paulin  
Board Secretary

Approved:

  
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David Shaughnessy Date

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Gerald Elwell Date

 5-3-23  
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Joseph Herrmann Date

  
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Arla Sampsell Date

  
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Steve Goodrich Date