

Bennington Town Board
February 8, 2023
Workshop Session 6:30 p.m.

Supervisor Grant, Councilmembers Frounick, Mohun, Domes & Bryman, Highway Superintendent Jensen and Deputy Clerk Rosenthal were present at the Workshop Session. Supt. Jensen reviewed recent work activities. Discussion was held on potential cold storage/garage addition (6600 sf) to enable equipment to be stored out of weather conditions, with estimates on various components. He will continue to get pricing and determine the base costs. Darien Highway may have a surplus truck available later in the year, if we are interested. Recent insurance claims and repairs were reviewed including header damage to a truck door and deer collision damage to a truck, as well as repairs on 2 trucks/equipment. The department can do much of the repairs. A local farmer is exploring running lines under the road/through culverts to pump manure for spreading. Board discussed employee handbooks and staff training, as well as benefits for the newer employees, such as insurance and retirement, and providing additional information on pay stubs.

Regular Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Grant called the meeting to order, with Councilman Frounick leading the pledge of allegiance. Councilman Frounick was welcomed back from a health leave. A moment of silence was held to observe the recent passing of Town Historian Lesa Van Son.

Financial Matters: Motion by Mohun, seconded by Bryman to approve the annual support agreement with WLB – Accounting software. Ayes: 5 Noes: 0
Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

General Fund vouchers #16 to #30 \$62,598.29

Highway Fund vouchers #20 to #45 \$111,418.62

Cowlesville Water vouchers #3 to #5 \$4,165.05

Motion by Mohun, seconded by Frounick to approve the vouchers for payment. Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Motion by Mohun, seconded by Bryman to approve the monthly Financial Reports for January. Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Communications: Copy of correspondence sent by Town Attorney regarding exemption application by Against All Odds; reminder on March bond payment for grader; Court reports for Justice Linsey for December 2022; Sen. Borello acknowledges receipt of our resolutions regarding cemetery regulations and EMS billing; utility emergency contact info.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: Motion was made by Domes, seconded by Mohun to approve the minutes from the January Board meetings.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Motion was made by Frounick, seconded by Domes to approve the minutes from the December Board meetings. Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Departments: Highway – Superintendent reviewed plowing and grading work in the workshop session, provided new pricing on a building addition, equipment repairs, and insurance claims. The Supervisor presented information on a booster for cell phone service at the Highway garage that was recommended by the tech person at Cowlesville Fire Hall. Would cover up to 35,000 sq ft area. Motion by Domes, seconded by Mohun to purchase the weBoost for Business Office 200 at a price of \$1,699.99. All ayes; carried.

Resolution #2023-2-1 Town Accepts Responsibility for Old Clinton Street

Whereas, Old Clinton Street, located on the west side of State Route 354 Clinton Street, was originally a portion of State Route 354 until the 1960's when a redesign and straightening of the state road was completed and a section was by-passed as part of the state road; and

Whereas, the Town of Bennington has maintained this section of roadway performing routine maintenance as well as snow and ice removal since the 1960's yet no formal acceptance is on record; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Town of Bennington accepts responsibility for the maintenance and repair of Old Clinton Street, including snow and ice removal, roadside mowing and ditching; and

Be it Further Resolved that Old Clinton Street be included on the Local Highway Inventory for the New York State Department of Transportation.

Motion: Mohun Second: Frounick
Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

The Highway Superintendent will submit the above resolution as well as the annual highway inventory to NYS DOT

Resolution #2023-2-2 Authorize Participation in Cornell Asset Management Program

Whereas, the Town Board recognizes the benefits of participating in the development of a pavement management system through the analysis of the local roads in the Town, documentation of conditions, area, necessary improvements and related costs thereof, and

Whereas, the Cornell Local Roads Program provides student interns, software and technical knowledge to develop a five year maintenance plan; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the application to participate in the 2023 CAMP – Cornell Asset Management Program – for the Bennington Highway Department, including the participation of Town highway employees in training and plan development.

Motion: Domes Second: Bryman
Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Councilman Mohun recommended the Town Board look at how to borrow or finance the funding needed to complete a five year improvement plan.

Supervisor Grant reported that the NYS DOT approved lowering the speed limit on only the north end of Schoellkopf Road. This will take in effect later in 2023 and the town will post it when the final paperwork is received. The remainder of Schoellkopf and Urf Roads will remain at the current speed limits.

Board members agreed to having the Superintendent purchase a booster for cell phone service at the highway garage.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector-

Resolution #2023-2-3 Establish Over/Under Property Tax Payment Limits

Whereas, The Town Clerk/Collector may receive payment for property taxes that are contain errors in the amount paid; and

Whereas, it is in the best interests of both the Town and the property owner to make and receive timely payment of taxes due; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Town Clerk/Collector may, at his/her discretion, accept as payment in full amounts that are over or under paid no less, nor greater than, one (\$1.00) dollar and no cents variant from the amount due.

Motion: Mohun Second: Domes
Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Resolution #2023-2-4 Accept Resignation of Town Clerk

Be it Resolved, that the Town Board hereby accepts the resignation of Town Clerk/Collector Judith Brown, 903 Folsomdale Road, Cowlesville NY effective close of business February 8, 2023, and be it

Further Resolved, that the Town Board appoints Judith Brown as Deputy Town Clerk/Collector II, effective February 9, 2023 through April 15, 2023; and be it

Further Resolved, that the Town Board hereby extends its gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Brown for her dedication and many years of service to the Town.

Motion by Mohun, second by Frounick
Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Resolution #2023-2-5 Appoint Clerk/Collector and Designate Account Signees

Be it Resolved, that the Town Board hereby appoints Joanne Rosenthal, 1264 Urf Rd., Cowlesville NY 14037 as Town Clerk/Collector, effective February 9, 2023;

And Be it Further Resolved, that Clerk Joanne Rosenthal and Deputy Clerk Deanna Nikiel are hereby designated as a signee on the Alden State Bank Town Clerk bank account and the Five Star Bank Tax Collection bank accounts.

Motion by Domes, second by Bryman
Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Zoning/Planning – Supervisor Grant asked Board members to compile any recommendation for zoning law changes. The ZBA has one they would like to see

adopted. Information was received from MRB Group engineers on the process to change the laws.

Water District – Still awaiting the delivery of the new meters and scheduling the installation.

Assessor – Vol. firefighter property tax exemption: information was sent by our Attorney regarding this new option. If we adopt the exemption, we would set the limit of the exemption as well as the minimum number of service years. This would all be through Local Law and would not take effect until the 2024 Town tax bills. Schools and the County would need to separately adopt similar legislation for their billing. Local residents Bob DeFedericis (Varysburg FD) and Richard & Carolyn Mruzak (Bennington FC) spoke on the exemption and asked the Board to support enactment.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Resolution #2023-2-6 Representative to Wyoming Co. Traffic Safety Board

Be it Resolved, that the Bennington Town Board hereby nominates Richard Jensen, 1909 Clinton Street, Attica NY 14011 to serve as the Town's Representative to the Wyoming County Traffic Safety Board.

Motion: Frounick Second: Bryman
Ayes: 0 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Supervisor Grant will share the above resolution with the County Board of Supervisors to adopt.

The Supervisor also led a discussion on installing AED units for both the Town Hall and the Highway Department and getting employees trained on their use. She was directed to contact the County regarding pricing and potential grant programs for municipal buildings.

Petitions and public concerns: Cowlesville FC Squad 10 was thanked for their support to Bennington FC and others during the recent house fire on Maxon Road.

Bennington FC supplied a copy of the first set of billing for EMS that they received from Monroe Ambulance, totaling \$295 for one call. Mr. DeFedericis offered to share information on billing companies with Councilman Mohun

Councilman Mohun has received some information on an internet service "Green Light" and will do further research to see if this would be useful for our residents.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Mohun to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.