

Bennington Town Board
April 13, 2022
Workshop Session 6:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Agenda

Workshop session was attended by Supervisor Grant, Councilmen Frounick, Mohun, Bryman and Domes and Deputy Clerk Nikiel. Deputy Highway Superintendent Paul Schroeder reported on on-going activities and current plans for the next several weeks. The crew has been working on cold patching and maintenance on the dirt roads. Not a lot of work can be done until the frost and moisture leave the roads. One truck is out for repairs and won't be back until mid or late May. He has 2 part-time workers assisting the regular work crew. Some of the work done last year on Sierk and Graff need further attention. Pricing has been obtained on paving Schoellkopf from the bridge to Folsomdale and Board approved going ahead with that project in conjunction with the bridge project. He was asked by a neighbor on the other side about paving from the bridge to his residence, with the project paid by the property owner. This has been referred to our attorney to set parameters such as insurance, specifications and standards. He will be on vacation in a few weeks and will ask another crew member to assume responsibility as Deputy.

Supervisor Grant called the meeting to order at 7:39pm. She asked Councilman to lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Financial Matters:

Authorize Supervisor to sign WLB Software Support Agreement for Payroll.
Motion by Mohun, seconded by Frounick to approve the 2022 Payroll Software Support Contracts with Williamson Law Book.

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

General Fund vouchers #65 to #81 \$11,651.34
Highway Fund vouchers #37 to #54 \$60,006.13
Cowlesville Water vouchers # 12 to #15 \$2,592.48
Cowlesville Light vouchers # 3-4 \$ 238.90

Motion by Bryman, seconded by Frounick to approve the vouchers for payment.

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

Financial Reports – REPORTS & EXPENDITURES.

Large decrease in Highway and General Funds is converting cash to certificate of Deposits.

Motion by Mohun, seconded by Bryman to approve the Financial Reports ending March 31, 2022.

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

Authorize payment of interest on Water District Bond due at the end of the month.
Motion by Mohun, seconded by Frounick to authorize the payment of interest due on Water District Bond in the amount of \$7,646.88 to Chase Bank.

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

Communications:

Annual report for Regional Solid Waste Management Committee.

Certification of membership Association of Towns

Justice Court report Feb & March 2022.

Attorney correspondence re: dangerous dogs/pets. Draft of a letter to be sent to owner along with regulations.

Delaware River Solar – looking to create solar farm on Church Rd. Town Attorney has been given information to review.

Notice on spring programs at Letchworth Park.

The Town Clerk distributed the March Monthly report of the Town Clerk to all Board members. Biotrax certificate of analysis for the water district. Notice of file for local Law #1 from Department of State. NYS Real Property assessment review member list.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Motion by Mohan, seconded by Bryman to approve minutes for March 2022 Regular & Special Session

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

Petitions and public concerns:

A resident Ron Janish asked without a superintendent what is happening with roads? Supervisor Grant responded; Paul Schroder has offered to fill in until a permanent replacement is found. Only maintenance at this time. Ditches & cold patch as needed. Still really wet. We developed ideas for this year's schedule – dependent on who and when a replacement is found. We are down manpower. Advertising for the position will take place. Hope to have more information by next meeting. Machine issues, man power and weather is holding up progress with the roads. Expecting more money from the state to help.

Question from resident: Why did he quit

Supervisor Grant: Two-fold, frustrated with job and was approached about another position for significant increase in pay. Was not looking for another position.

Question from resident: Two concerns: assessments – grossly unfair to all property owners to the town. Does the town board have any plans to reassess regularly?

Supervisor Grant: Plan is to keep assessment at 100%

Question from resident: Waste Management: gentleman lives on 77 on the west side of the rd. It's very windy. Lost trash cans: if my tote is blown across the road and a car hits hit – who's responsible? For the tote? For the accident?

Supervisor Grant: I don't know the answer. Will reach out for clarification.

Resident: They delivered totes on 77 and missed my house. Was on the phone for 15 minutes with Waste Management who told the resident to call the Wyoming County Planning Department. Wyoming County Planning Department told him to call Waste Management. Larry Johnson from Rt. 77 still doesn't have totes.

With waste managements efficiencies will we see a rate reduction? No

Who negotiates the rates for the garbage? Wyoming county sends requests for bid/proposal every three years.

Worried about losing the totes in the wind.

Supervisor Grant explained recycle vs garbage timing.
Board meeting minutes on the website. Need to update website.

Departments:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Town Clerk Busch resigned, Deputy Clerk Nikiel is filling in and hours may be reduced. Will be advertising for the position. Balancing and closing out with Treasurer this week for Tax Collection.

Highway – Projects & work activity;

Deputy Schroeder: Cold patching and dirt rd maintenance. Jay Hoy is working part time to help with manpower shortage. One truck is down until mid-May waiting on parts.

Schoellkopf Rd: received quotes for bridge to Folsomdale. Quotes from county line stone for this: \$56,095.37 materials. \$9,751.39 labor/hauling. Using county annual bid for rates. Not grant money – state aid (Chips)

Extra traffic will require a speed study. Current limit is 55mph. Form will be filled out and sent to traffic safety board. DOT & state police will come do assessment. They decide appropriate speed limit.

Motion by Mohun, seconded by Domes to move ahead with repairs and speed control study on Schoellkopf Rd.

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

Superintendent Koch would have filled this out – prioritize work, miles of roadway, paving vs oil & stone. Need time to talk with Deputy Schroeder on the 5 year plan. Motion by Frounick, seconded by Bryman table Agreement to spend Town Highway funds to next month.

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

Property owner on Schoellkopf Rd offered to pay for road improvement. Has been referred to the Town Attorney for review. Liabilities / specs / need to be cleared. Agreements to be drawn up. Work to be done later in the summer.

Assessor –

Date of the BOA review? Last Thursday in May. Grievance is set as the 4th Thursday in May (May 26th). Expecting a higher turnout than most years. As of now 1 committing, expecting 10-20. Overall, mostly questions with explanation and they understand the outcome. Encouragement to keep the town at 100% assessment. Will wrap up everything at the end of next week. Between May 1st and grievance day they can ask for more information but no changes will be made. State tentatively approves us at 100%. Scout camp sale? Hasn't been filed yet. Property would be taxable as of March 1st next year. Payment of taxes for prorated will be added to next years taxes.

Zoning/Planning – Special use Permit/Home Occup. Renewals
Monthly report – open projects & various permits.

Special Use Permit Renewals:

McCabe Trucking – Trucks not running but would like to kept permit active.

Brier Hill (77 const) – Special Use Permit

Pat McCracken – Special Use Permit

Home Occupation Permits:

Mark Dusen – L Dusen Marketing

Brian Pfeiffer – Design a tea
Ed Duda – Duda Wood Works LLC
Merlyn Bissel – M.E. Bissell Lawyer
Ed Lautenschlager – D&L Toy Trains
Stacey Acquard – Acquard’s Dog Grooming
Deb Buckley – The Bettinoll Company
John Brandon – Aerie Design Services
Tom Hudson – Sunset Printing
Joe Ciulla – Rispoli’s Bakery Inc
Motion by Frounick, seconded by Mohun to approve the 2022 renewals of Special Use and Home Occupation Permits as reviewed by the Board.
Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Water District –
Meeting with the County in several weeks to review grant project for replacing water meters & equipment. Still waiting on state paperwork. 6-8 water districts in the county participating.
Court – Nothing to report
Park/Recreation – Egg Hunt went well. Parking lot; Highway department using old pole for barrier to keep people from driving on the lawn. Bathrooms will be open in the next couple weeks.

Old Business: Advertising for vacant positions
Motion by Mohun, seconded by Frounick to approve the Advertising for vacant positions within the Town.
Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Resolution #2022-4-1 Advertising for vacant positions within the Town
Be it Resolved, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for applications of interested parties for the positions of Town Highway Superintendent and of Town Clerk, said applications and letters of interest to be directed to the Bennington Town Board.

New Business: Iron wood golf course in process of being sold. Waiting for paperwork & applying for liquor license. New owners doing banquets.

Any other Business to Come before the Board/County Matters:

Adjourn at 8:42pm by Councilwoman Mohun

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Nikiel – Deputy Town Clerk