

M E E T I N G   N O T I C E  
BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD  
Monday, January 24, 2022  
Bennington Fire Facility  
Multi-Purpose Room - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
130 River Street  
Bennington, VT 05201  
A G E N D A  
6:00 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Vision Statement
3. Consent Agenda 6:00 PM - 6:05 PM
  - A. Minutes of January 3, 8 and 10, 2022
  - B. Warrants
  - C. Liquor License
4. Public Comment 6:05 PM - 6:20 PM
5.                   Public Hearing 6:20 PM - 6:35 PM  
219 Pleasant Street Final Public Hearing
6. Economic Development Strategy and Infrastructure Report 6:35 PM - 7:15 PM
7. Police Presentation 7:15 PM - 7:35 PM
8. Mask Resolution Discussion 7:35 PM - 7:50 PM
9. Annual Budget & Town Meeting Warning 7:50 PM - 8:05 PM
10. Implementing the Town Vision 8:05 PM - 8:15 PM
11. Upcoming Agenda 8:15 PM - 8:30 PM
12. Other Business 8:30 PM - 8:45 PM

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD BUDGET MEETING**

2 **BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY**

3 **MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM - 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**

4 **130 RIVER STREET**

5 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

6 **JANUARY 3, 2022**

7 **MINUTES**

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner-Vice Chair; Jim  
9 Carroll; Bruce Lee-Clark; Sarah Perrin; Gary Corey and Tom Haley.

10 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

11 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Zoning Administrator and Assistant  
12 Town Manager; Melissa Currier-Finance Director; Michele Johnson-Human Resources and  
13 Contracts Administrator; R.J. Joly-Public Works Director; Police Chief Paul Doucette; Police  
14 Lieutenant Cam Grande; Fire Chief James Wright; Kevin Hoyt; Nancy White; Donald Washum;  
15 Jim Therrien-Bennington Banner; Jim Vires-CAT-TV and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

16 At 5:00pm, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order.

17 The purpose of this meeting is for the Board and public to gather information and ask  
18 questions on the Police Budget, Fire Budget, and Highway Budget. No decisions will be made  
19 this evening.

20 First we will open Public Comments to take general questions from the public that can  
21 be reviewed and answered at the next budget meeting:

22 Kevin Hoyt made the following comments:

- 23 • Was surprised that anyone would be asking for a budget increase.  
24 • Asked if anyone knew why the Vermont Christmas Tree Assn., Turning Point, CRJ,  
25 Sunrise Daycare, and the Vermont Sheriff's Assn. all had matching EIN numbers with the  
26 Mt. Anthony Preservation Society noting that the Secretary of State was in charge of  
27 this.

28 **1. F.Y. 23 BUDGET WORK SESSION**

29 **B. FIRE BUDGET**

30 *Police Chief Doucette and Fire Chief Wright did the following presentation:*

- There is a 15% increase in the budget primarily because of the ladder truck that the voters had approved to buy. The truck hasn't been delivered yet due to COVID caused factory shut down, however, we have been assured it will be delivered in February or March 2022.
- The first payment on the truck will occur in FY23 for \$73,490.
- #03-4580-650 Lease Payments - \$74,410 for the rescue pumper truck obtained in 2014 at \$49,910 and the 25 SCBA system units obtained in 2018 at \$24,500.
- #03-4570.810 Building Improvements - \$50,000 to install heat pumps in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor public space reducing the noise of operations and potentially some of the cost to heat and cool the room. They are used by many organizations.
- #03-4540.230 Small Tools and Equipment - \$19,220 to replace 8 Motorola radios at \$2,140 each.
- #03-4580.840 Transfer to Reserve Fund - \$25,000 which is reduced from last year because we have purchased the new console.

*Board questions/comments answered by Chief Doucette and Chief Wright:*

Ms. Jenkins: Do we replace a certain number of radios each year? Our goal is to try and get them to last 5-7 years and they are consistent with what the police department is using.

Ms. Jenkins: Why did we need a new ladder truck? The new truck will be much safer because it is controlled from the ground and is/will be a necessity with all of the projects that we have going on in Bennington such as the Putnam Block. We also work closely with other towns and it will serve for the mutual aid calls.

Ms. Perrin: Reiterated that the ladder truck had already been approved by the voters and thanked the volunteer Fire Department for their service.

Ms. Conner: Is there anything else that you know of that is coming for future budgets or even next year? Two of our pumper trucks are over 20 years old but we will wait until the ladder truck has been paid down a bit. We are building our reserve to replace Engine 935 to minimize the tax burden, as well as, preparing to sell our current certified ladder truck with the proceeds of the sale being put into our reserve.

Ms. Conner: Is #03-4510.410 Educational for training? Yes.

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## **A. POLICE BUDGET**

*Police Chief Doucette and Police Lt. Grande did the following presentation:*

- #01-4180.830 Machinery & Equipment - \$121,900. Proposed purchase of 2 new Interceptor Ford SUV Hybrids at \$52,750 each - including all ancillary equipment installed - to replace two other vehicles with high mileage.

- Our current hybrids are getting 5.5 to 6 more mpg than our other regular SUV's mostly because they shut off at a crash scene and the lights run on batteries.
- We are also proposing to purchase 2 Honda ATV's at \$8,200 each to provide coverage in our parks, trails, and at events. We have had increased complaints about ATV's and dirt bikes and we need to get to where they are.
- #01-4130.410 Educational - \$18,500. We have been working with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) and the Chief and Lt. Grande will complete the FBI Leader Training in the middle of February with more traditional leadership trainings for supervisors, as well as, community relations trainings. This line item has increased by \$5,000.
- #01-4100.670 Safety - \$7,300. We are instituting an annual mandatory mental health visit and bringing in instructors on nutrition and sleep deprivation which has increased this line item by \$2,960.
- #01-4180.650 - Lease/Purchase Payments - \$48,010. Our body worn and vehicles cameras are starting to fail and we are proposing to replace them with the newest technology - that is 7 systems meaning 7 vehicle cameras and 23 body worn cameras that are synced with each other. It is a 5-year agreement which provides replacement of body worn cameras in the third year at no additional cost. Total cost is \$175,300 with the 1<sup>st</sup> year expense \$48,010.
- #01-4140.340 Communications - \$10,500. This is level funded from FY22 and is for cell phones, mobile data terminals, air cards, etc.
- #01-4100.100 Salaries and Wages - \$2,325,730. Increased only 1.67% due to the number of new officers replacing longer serving officers at a lower rate.
- #01-4100.110 Overtime Wages - \$209,000. We are down 3 officers with 3 graduating from the Academy in February 2022 and 1 entering in March 2022. We are working with Jonah in the hopes of recruiting 3 more to enter the Academy in August 2022 and graduate in January 2023. With this scenario, the original ask was for 12% which Mr. Hurd lowered to 9%, or \$209,000. Chief Doucette is now requesting that it be raised to the 12%, or \$230,000. We were asked to keep our overall budget increase under 3% and came in at 1.94%. We are now asking for an additional \$21,000 for potential overtime to be sure that we are prepared with adequate coverage as needed.
- #01-4100.340 Communication - \$28,500. This is level funded from FY22 and is for guardian employee tracking, e-mails, anti-virus software, global data terminal licenses, secure ID software, etc. to stay in compliance with the State of Vermont.

*Board questions/comments answered by Chief Doucette and Lt. Grande:*

Mr. Carroll: Do you have to be licensed to drive an ATV? The ATV's are required to be registered but the operators are not required to be licensed. However, we will be trained to operate them by the Vermont Department of Fish and Game.

Ms. Conner: Where will the ATV's be stored? Probably at our storage facility on Burgess Road.

105 Ms. Jenkins: Why 2 ATV's? For safety reasons, no one ever goes out alone.

106 Ms. Jenkins: Can covering these areas be done with e-bikes? No, because e-bikes were meant  
107 for use on the streets and not on rough terrain.

108 Mr. Corey: Why is #01-4170.680 Repair & Maintenance at \$10,400 - a reduction of \$25,600?  
109 This is because we got the generator last year.

110 Mr. Haley: Why the ATV's? We have a John Deere side-by-side that can travel 25-28mph but is  
111 too wide for the more remote trails, not easy to maneuver, and does not have power steering.

112 Mr. Haley: How will these help enforcement? By having presence at the destinations where the  
113 violators are headed.

114 Mr. Carroll: What was the cost and top speed of the e-bikes? They cost ~\$3,200/each and the  
115 helmets were \$300/each. They can go 28-29mph.

116 Mr. Carroll: How long do the batteries last? About three 8-hour shifts.

117 Mr. Lee-Clark: Are you keeping track of charging costs vs gasoline costs, and if not, will you in  
118 the future? The batteries are charging as they are operating so we do not charge them by  
119 plugging them in and we will do more official tracking of gasoline consumption comparisons  
120 this upcoming year.

121 Ms. Perrin: Do you have enough staff to operate the ATV's? We're good there.

122 Ms. Conner: Was happy to see the mandatory wellness visits for mental health and nutrition.

123 Ms. Conner: Do you need a trailer to transport the ATV's between locations? Yes, we have a  
124 trailer that we use to move the side-by-side as needed.

125 Ms. Conner: Is there a market for used police vehicles? Yes, we have moved two vehicles to the  
126 used car dealership and we are keeping the side-by-side for buildings and grounds usage.

127 Ms. Jenkins: How does it work with \$200 in mileage for trainings and an increase of \$2,750 to  
128 \$7,500 in meals and lodging? The mileage dollars are only if someone has to use their personal  
129 vehicle to go to a training.

130 Ms. Jenkins: Have you budgeted enough for the additional trainings? We believe so because  
131 some supervisors have expressed an interest in becoming instructors which will be a savings.

132 Ms. Perrin: How long are the body cameras good for? Our current ones that are 5 years old  
133 were outdated in 2 years so we need to get up-to-date.

134 Mr. Carroll: What is the average shelf life of the body cameras and are they water proof? 3  
135 years and they are water resistant, not water proof.

136 *Public questions/comments:*

Donald Washum: Are the previous 3 years of budgets available? Ms. Jenkins answered they are on line and recommended contacting the Library to have them printed out, if needed.

Nancy White: How can Community Policing start in late spring/early summer if it hasn't been "wrapped up" yet after 2 ½ years? Ms. Jenkins answered that what we've been doing the last 2 years is not "a thing, it's more of a process" for police presence in the community, trainings, functioning equipment, etc. are all related to community policing. Ms. Conner added that community policing is "an ongoing initiative".

Nancy White: Was it said that Bennington won't be using the phrase Community Policing? Ms. Jenkins responded that what was said was that the work the Board is doing has outgrown the phrase Community Policing because it is too narrow for the work that is being done. We are now referring to it as Implementing the Town Vision. Ms. White hopes that safety is maintained within the Town Vision Statement. Chief Doucette added that they prefer to refer to it as Community Engaged Policing, and not just Community Policing.

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### C. HIGHWAY BUDGET

Mr. Hurd stated that the Highway Budget is greatly impacted by what State aid may be available so the taxpayer burden could be potentially reduced by grants that we may receive, primarily for the larger projects.

*R.J. Joly, Public Works Director, did the following presentation:*

- The hope is to get the dollars Mr. Hurd has referenced because the \$175K from the State for bridges doesn't go very far.
- The Depot Street bridge has increased to over \$545K - an increase of \$105K since 2018 - and the Mt. Anthony Road bridge has increased \$72K since 2020.
- We are paying \$110-\$160/hour for labor on vehicle maintenance. Beside fire equipment, the Town owns 38-vehicles <1 ton, 14 vehicles >1 ton, 23 pieces of heavy equipment, and 25 trailers.
- We have no one in-house to oversee a maintenance plan for our vehicles and there is a trust issue with the outside contractors.
- Even though it isn't listed in the budget, it is time to get a full time maintenance person, and it would be cost effective. The big jobs would still be outsourced.
- We would also like to add two additional laborers based on the amount of work that we do, an aging crew, and maintenance jobs being delayed.
- There are no Class 2 roads in the budget
- There has been a 40%-50% increase in price of products with some increased by 100%.

*Board questions/comments answered by Mr. Joly and Mr. Hurd:*



173 Ms. Conner: Do you know the cost efficiencies of an in-house maintenance position and will you  
174 need to buy equipment for that individual to do his/her job? This is still in the discussion phase  
175 so we don't know what the actual savings would be at this time. We will continue to work on  
176 this and hopefully come up with a plan that will fit into the budget as presented.

177 Mr. Corey: Are you short staffed only in the summer? There is no more down time when we  
178 used to do equipment maintenance to transition from one season to the next so it is a year  
179 round situation.

180 Ms. Jenkins: What is causing the labor shortage? We're asked to do more projects - 5,500'-  
181 5,800' of sidewalk that was typically 2,800'; PFOA; stormwater management; and staying  
182 compliant with the State. Over the years we have become more of a construction crew than  
183 just a maintenance crew somewhat due to contractor availability and cost.

184 Mr. Lee-Clark: We wouldn't be able to get the quality or quantity from anywhere else for the  
185 same price. Kudos to the "exceptionally skilled and exceptionally caring crew".

186 Ms. Conner: Even though these positions are not in the budget, it is good that an awareness of  
187 the need for more help has been made - there is a benefit to hiring new people to keep the  
188 existing staff. Mr. Joly's concern is that pay rates have increased substantially with many  
189 businesses looking for help, however, we haven't lost anyone yet to "moving on".

190 Ms. Jenkins: Do you feel that this year will be an easier year? It's probably going to be as busy  
191 as last year.

192 Mr. Corey: What is #02-5110.221 Winter Maintenance Supplies - \$278,600 for? This is mainly  
193 due to the salt costs increase of \$9.00/ton and we propose to purchase 3,400 tons - the same  
194 as last year. (Last year's cost was \$238,000). Remaining funds are for deicer and winter sand  
195 noting that the covered sand storage has reduced the amount used.

196 Mr. Corey: What is #02-5200.560 Other Purchased Services - \$237,060 for? We will be using  
197 more expensive concrete. Concrete went up over 3 times this summer going from \$139 to  
198 \$154 so far. Proposed for this year is East Main Street and North Branch Street to Gage Street  
199 with both projects including drainage work.

200 *Public questions/comments:*

201 Nancy White: It shouldn't have taken 30 years for Maple Street to be fixed or 25 years to get a  
202 priority list of street replacements. Mr. Joly responded that there is a sidewalk list that is  
203 updated every year with Mr. Monks, however, we don't go out 5 years because of what  
204 unknowns may come up during those years. Ms. Jenkins added that we always need to  
205 consider what we can do with what we have.

206 The Board thanked the Highway Department for all that they do.

207 **D. OTHER BUDGETS AS TIME ALLOWS**

208           There were no other budget discussions this evening. Mr. Hurd stated that on January  
209 8, 2022 at 9:00am the Agenda would include the following budget items:

- 210           1. Recreation
- 211           2. General Fund
- 212           3. The Remainder of the Budget
- 213           4. Bennington Free Library
- 214           5. John G. McCullough Free Library
- 215           6. Bennington Rescue Squad
- 216           7. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Set salaries for the Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Treasurer
- 217           8. Finalize Budget

218           *At 7:15pm, Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded the adjournment of the*  
219 *meeting. The motion carried unanimously.*

220

221   Respectfully submitted,

222   Nancy H. Lively

223   Secretary



1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD BUDGET MEETING**

2 **BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY**

3 **MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM - 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**

4 **130 RIVER STREET**

5 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

6 **JANUARY 8, 2022**

7 **MINUTES**

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner-Vice Chair; Jim  
9 Carroll; Bruce Lee-Clark; and Tom Haley.

10 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sarah Perrin and Gary Corey.

11 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Zoning Administrator and Assistant  
12 Town Manager; Melissa Currier-Finance Director; Michele Johnson-Human Resources and  
13 Contracts Administrator; Joan Pinsonneault-Treasurer; Paul Dansereau-Director of Facilities;  
14 Lynne Fonteneau McCann-Executive Director-Bennington Free Library; Jennie Rozycki-Library  
15 Director-John G. McCullough Free Library; Art Groux-Executive Director-Bennington Rescue  
16 Squad; Kevin Hoyt; Nancy White; Michael Wajda; Kelly Carroll; Al Bashevkin; 15 citizens; Jim  
17 Vires-CAT-TV and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

18 At 9:00am, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order and explained the format  
19 of the meeting, as well as, asked people to social distance, wear a mask, and disinfect the  
20 microphone as they wish.

21 **1. F.Y. 23 BUDGET WORK SESSION**

22 **A. RECREATION**

23 *Mr. Hurd did the following presentation on Recreation:*

- 24 • #01-7100.560 - Other Purchased Services - \$144,000. The YMCA's contract was reduced  
25 by \$78,590 because they had a good year and utilized several grant opportunities.
- 26 • #01-7100.650 - Other Purchased Services - \$38,760. Lease payment has increased by  
27 \$38,760 because of the Benn High space and the Bennington Sports Center (BSC) space.
- 28 • #01-7180.830 - Machinery and Equipment - \$24,600. We propose to replace the current  
29 10 year old gas powered mower with a new electric 60" zero turn mower for \$24,600.
- 30 • #01-7100.440 - Grants, Subsidies, Contingency - \$12,360. This is the estimated cost for  
31 scholarships to various YMCA activities for Bennington youth.
- 32 • #01-7130.820 - Improvements Other Than Buildings - \$24,000. We propose to install  
33 lights along the segment of the River Walk between School and Park Streets.

34 *Board questions/comments answered by Mr. Hurd:*

35 Ms. Jenkins: Why are we paying less for the YMCA contract? The Management Agreement  
36 requires that we cover the cost of operations and personnel, at all of the facilities that the Y is  
37 using. At the end of the year, we true up with the Y how they have done financially during the  
38 year. They were so successful, especially with grants, that we didn't pay them the last 3  
39 months of the year and have been able to reduce FY23's cost.

40 *Public questions/comments answered by Mr. Hurd:*

41 Nancy White: In January 2021, we paid the Y an additional \$75,000 to go into Benn High but  
42 they aren't in there, correct? They are in there for adult programs but have moved the  
43 children's to the BSC building.

44 Nancy White: When does the Y budget run? Calendar year, January thru December and our  
45 budget runs July thru June.

46 Nancy White: Why did the Y bill us when they weren't in the Benn High building? We had  
47 monies budgeted but were not required to spend it.

48 Nancy White: #01-9531.850 - Splash Pad - \$0.00. The Splash Pad started in 2018 and was a  
49 \$127,000 project that the community had no say in where to put it. Wasn't the bathroom  
50 done 2 years ago? Yes, and any expenses the Town paid for it were fully reimbursed by Grow  
51 Bennington through the BBC.

52 Nancy White: What happened to the money from the Splash Pad lawsuit? We never received  
53 any money from that and Grow Bennington paid for the process.

54 Nancy White: #01-9557.850 - Dog Park - \$0.00. Who paid for that? It was paid for with donated  
55 funds.

56 Nancy White: We were told renovating Willow Park would be \$250K but it is now up to \$500K.  
57 Who will pay for this? We will probably be using the ARPA funds for that project. Material costs  
58 have increased substantially and we are also going to be doing the area for very young children.  
59 The public will have their input in the spring when we have put together our proposals. Ms.  
60 Jenkins added that there will be an explanation of the priority list of how to spend the ARPA  
61 funds at the Select Board meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> and the public will have two weeks to make  
62 their comments/suggestions.

63 Nancy White: You went \$200K over the Recreation Budget so someone should be monitoring  
64 this. Remember that the Reserve Funds, donations, and grants are not reflected in the budget.

65 Nancy White:

66 • We spent \$50,000 at the Rec Center, itself. Who paid for that? The fence was a  
67 grant and the Town paid for the lighting.

- #01-7170.810 - Improvements - \$28,000. This is for HVAC improvements in the Town's part of the building.
- How much does UCS pay for rent? \$1/year.
- We need to follow up on when UCS will do the dugouts they had promised.
- The \$144K budgeted for the Y was redirected to other expenses because we did not need it all for the Y.
- The Agreement with the Y was amended in January but they did so well it wasn't necessary to pay them the last three months.
- The Y gets the membership fees and they no longer turn them over to the Town Office when we would essentially send them back to the Y. They provide our Finance Director an annual financial report.

Ms. Jenkins recommended that Ms. White meet with Mr. Hurd privately for any additional questions, and Mr. Monks added that "we are paying far less now for more services than we did before we started our relationship with the YMCA".

Michael Wajda: A member of the Interfaith Council thanked the Town for putting money in the budget for improvements to the River Walk.

Kelly Carroll: Reiterated Mr. Wajda's comments, noted that there may be grant monies available for the lighting, and invited everyone to join in the walk on January 15<sup>th</sup> at People's Park at 10:00am to remember Emily. Mr. Hurd clarified that the \$24,000 in the budget for the lighting is our share if receiving grant dollars is successful.

Al Bashevkin: Supports the lighting on the River Walk, as well as, future enhancements along all of the walking/biking trails in the Town. He is also pleased to see all of the activity going on since we have established our relationship with the YMCA.

Kevin Hoyt: Ms. Jenkins reminded Mr. Hoyt, "since he went off the rails at the last meeting" that his comments must be specific to the Recreation budget or he will be ruled out of order immediately. Mr. Hoyt made the following comments:

- We're using the Y for grant writers and have given all of our property away.
- We are over budget by \$200,000 in Recreation - remember that when considering Stuarts raise.
- Referred to the December 9, 2019 Board meeting....Ms. Jenkins declared him out of order.
- Continued to talk about previous meetings, voting issues, a Secretary of State letter, and election fraud.

Mr. Hoyt was escorted from the meeting by the police officer on duty.

104 **B. GENERAL FUND**

105 *Mr. Hurd did the following presentation on the General Fund:*

- 106 • We are now paying \$84,000 for recycling and have been told that this is starting  
107 to come down. The budget, however, is based on the past two year's activity.
- 108 • Buildings and Grounds - Last year we added one position to this line. This year,  
109 we propose to add a second position to this budget due to increased maintenance for  
110 added facilities that will impact benefit and pension costs, as well.
- 111 • The Communication Coordinator's position has been moved into the Community  
112 Development Department budget. This position has been a positive addition to our  
113 staff.

114 *Board questions/comments answered by Mr. Hurd and Paul Dansereau, Director of Facilities:*

115 Mr. Lee-Clark: How many riding mowers does the Town own? We have a smaller one that is  
116 being replaced for the fire facility grounds and a 60" mower that we are replacing with a  
117 commercial grade electric mower that will mow more quietly for 8 hours on a charged battery.

118 Ms. Conner: Is there a charging station in the building the mower is stored in? A power source  
119 will be there.

120 Ms. Jenkins: Is there another option among the vehicles we already have in the Town to leasing  
121 a hybrid SUV for inspections? Our current sedan is fine for downtown but not the move remote  
122 areas where an SUV would be more practical.

123 Mr. Carroll: What will the savings be with a non-carbon fuel pump and what is the life  
124 expectancy? We don't know at this time. Ms. Jenkins added that it would be good to know  
125 after an amount of time what the savings are.

126 *Public questions/comments:*

127 None.

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128  
129 **C. THE REMAINDER OF THE BUDGET**

130 *Mr. Hurd did the following presentation on the Remaining Budget not yet discussed:*

- 131 • #01-7900-340 Senior Center Communications - \$6,360. This was increased by  
132 \$1,560 because we have contracted for all of our buildings to be converted to fiber and  
133 making us more secure.
- 134 • #01-7970.560 Senior Building Other Purchased Services - \$12,700 and #01-  
135 7970.680 Senior Building Repair and Maintenance - (\$12,700). The expenses we intend  
136 to incur in FY23 are mostly contracted services and better classified as Other Purchased  
137 Services instead of Repair and Maintenance.

- 138 • #01-7900.100 Senior Citizens Admin Salaries & Wages - \$46,510 and #01-  
139 7900.152 Health Insurance - \$21,530. There is 1 employee at the Senior Center and this  
140 is a family plan for health insurance which actually has gone down from last year. This is  
141 the entire cost to the Town and the employee reimburses us 16% of that. Family = one  
142 child or more.
- 143 • #01-9520.850 Reserve Fund Expenditures - Senior Center Programs - \$0.00. The  
144 \$3,400 spent in FY22 was from the Bernie Sanders Dollars for entertainment.

145 *Board questions/comments:*

146 Mr. Carroll: Have the parameters of the ARPA Funds been identified? We just received the final  
147 eligibility standards from the Department of the Treasury within the last couple of days and  
148 they are more flexible than we had anticipated. We will be talking about this at the Select  
149 Board meeting on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> with public input to take place during the following  
150 two weeks.

151 *Public questions/comments answered by Mr. Hurd:*

152 Nancy White: At Monday's meeting will we see the new downtown boundaries as opposed to  
153 what the downtown improvement district was? Ms. Jenkins answered no, we will be looking at  
154 economic development priorities and funding sources.

155 Nancy White: It's about Energizer though, isn't it? Ms. Jenkins responded no, Energizer is  
156 privately owned and there is an Energizer Report that we asked for that includes reuses of the  
157 building and a housing study that they did on the area. There will be three things happening on  
158 Monday - the Energizer Report, a general discussion on economic development and funding  
159 sources, and a priority list of projects that are shovel ready that can use ARPA or other funding.  
160 Also, the Town's Audit Report.

161 Nancy White: Are we going to keep the Senior Center because we fixed the roof for \$65,000  
162 instead of \$40,000? Mr. Hurd answered not necessarily but the roof had to be fixed either way.  
163 The future of that building depends on the future of Benn High. Once we have our plans in  
164 place, we will have a discussion with the public at a Select Board meeting.

165 Nancy White:

- 166 • Spoke of what was supposed to happen at Benn High 6 years ago - it was under a  
167 different owner 6 years ago.
- 168 • The broken window part of the building is blocked off and not part of what is being used  
169 today.
- 170 • The building is still privately owned and the owner is slow to progress on some of the  
171 projects.
- 172 • We were not able to open the Senior Center until June because we didn't have anyone  
173 to staff it and that was a time when we were considering whether or not to open any of our



buildings. We needed to act responsibility to the community regardless of what the Governor had said.

- If there is another community tour of Benn High, Ms. White was encouraged to participate and see first-hand the parts that have been renovated and in use.

Nancy White: Bennington Seniors should have their own space and not be among people from other communities or those much younger.

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## 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

### A. SET SALARIES - TOWN MANAGER, TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

*At 10:30am, Jim Carroll moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to go into Executive Session to set salaries for the Town Manager, Town Clerk and Treasurer. The motion carried with Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.*

*At 10:55am, Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to come out of Executive Session. The motion carried with Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.*

*Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to set the following salaries for FY23:*

<i>Town Manager</i>	<i>3% increase to</i>	<i>\$118,560.42</i>
<i>Town Clerk</i>	<i>3% increase to</i>	<i>\$ 92,701.65</i>
<i>Town Treasurer</i>	<i>3% increase to</i>	<i>\$ 15,916.28</i>

Mr. Lee-Clark added that social security will be increasing 5.9% due to the cost of living.  
*The motion carried with Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.*

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## 1D. BENNINGTON FREE LIBRARY

*Lynne Fonteneau McCann, Executive Director of the Bennington Free Library did the following presentation:*

- This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the Library has requested level funding in recognition of the economy and the taxpayer burden.
- Over those 3 years, we have had an 8.8% reduction based on the aggregate COLA levels for the same period.
- Our private fundraising efforts have helped offset increased expenses.

- 204       ▪ Personnel costs are always challenging and 42% of staff received a 5.8% raise to  
205       accommodate the increased COLA percentage which triggered a large increase in the  
206       State minimum wage.
- 207       ▪ We offer the same resources to the community in different forms, such as, virtual  
208       programming, take out services, online book club, and delivering books to seniors.
- 209       ▪ We have permanently eliminated late fees.
- 210       ▪ We have adult programs, such as the aging gardener, and our children programs  
211       continue to flourish with fun and education.
- 212       ▪ We continue outreach at many local events.
- 213       ▪ Looking ahead, we have received a \$24,000 grant to advance technology in the library.
- 214       ▪ Last year we had over 13,000 wifi sessions, and from July thru December, we have done  
215       over 20,000.
- 216       ▪ For capital improvements, consideration was given to freshen the Main Street façade  
217       and an expansion of our visual history room.
- 218       ▪ We thank the Town for its continued support.

219   *Board questions/comments answered by Ms. McCann:*

220   Ms. Jenkins: Kudos to the inviting format of the Newsletter and the Children's Library for its  
221   programming.

222   Mr. Haley: As the Board liaison to the Library, he was impressed with how conscientious they  
223   are in getting the most out of their budget. Their Board is moving in the right direction.

224   Mr. Lee-Clark: Requested to have the most recent complete year with the budget and actuals  
225   for that year side-by-side sent next year.

226   Ms. Jenkins: Have you considered heat pumps to help offset heating/cooling and electricity  
227   costs? Perhaps in the long term but not in the short term because there are other issues coming  
228   up. With efficiencies we have reduced our fuel consumption from 10,000 to 6,500 gallons and  
229   our A/C units are ductless. Mr. Lee-Clark added that the Energy Committee will work with you  
230   to find the cost savings of the heat pumps for you, as well as, anyone who seeks their  
231   assistance. We all must find ways to reduce fossil fuel consumption to meet State goals.

232   Ms. Jenkins: Thank you for what you do.

233

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234   **E. JOHN G. MCCULLOUGH FREE LIBRARY**

235       *Jennie Rozycki, Library Director, and Mary Rogers, Treasurer of the John G. McCullough*  
236   *Free Library did the following presentation:*

- 237       ○ We are requesting a \$5,000 increase in our appropriation to \$45,000 for operating  
238       costs.



- 239 ○ Building improvements that have just started include rewiring the building, accessible  
240 rest rooms on both floors, hot water, water fountain, hard wired fire alarms, repairs to  
241 the back door, repair from water damage, and the repurposing of the projection closet  
242 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor into a small meeting and quiet study space.
- 243 ○ Since the Library is in its 100<sup>th</sup> year, we are planning a grand opening when the work to  
244 the building is complete, hopefully by the end of April.
- 245 ○ The Kanopy Video Plays and LinkedIn Learning Tutorials have been very successful.

246 *Board questions/comments answered by Ms. Rozycki and Ms. Rogers:*

247 Ms. Jenkins: Have you been able to offset the \$5,000 increase that you're asking from us with  
248 other sources? The Village of North Bennington have contributed ARPA funds toward the  
249 qualifying renovations and we've received an ARPA grant for ~\$6,600 for the Tool Library  
250 comprised of hand and kitchen tools, computer devices, a home energy efficiency testing, a  
251 baby scale, a bike repair station, and more. Most of our budget increases is in Salaries and  
252 Wages to compensate for the tireless work done by staff. We are reducing our percent of  
253 income coming from municipalities each year and working toward self-sufficiency.

254 Mr. Lee-Clark: Why has your Other Donation line item gone from \$3,000 to \$20,500? We fully  
255 intend to fund the purchase of the new chairs from fundraising and grants.

256 Ms. Conner: Kudos to Ms. Rogers for volunteering her expertise to the Library.

257 Ms. Jenkins: How you do all aspects of running the Library is "extraordinary", and we thank you  
258 for that.

259

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## 260 **F. BENNINGTON RESCUE SQUAD BUDGET**

261 *Art Groux, Bennington Rescue Squad (BRS) Executive Director did the following*  
262 *presentation:*

- 263 • We realize this is a tight budget year and understand that our increase may very  
264 well be zero.
- 265 • We have responded to the most 911 calls in our history - 79% of our total calls in  
266 the past 8 years.
- 267 • We have reduced our hospital transfers by 30% with the regionalization process  
268 based on zip code with all ambulance services.
- 269 • Staffing, like most employers in the region, is challenging. We have lack of  
270 workforce, competition for employees, burnout due to COVID, and lack of affordable  
271 housing for relocation.
- 272 • We were selected as statewide vendor for the EMT education program during  
273 the first year of COVID response paid for by the State.

- 274 • We have added Field Ultrasound units to our primary paramedic units to further  
275 advance the care we deliver.
- 276 • The funding that we receive from municipalities equates to 12%-13% of our  
277 operating budget.
- 278 • We have redesigned our fleet to improve responder safety and efficiency,  
279 however, we have to wait 1.5 to 2 years before we can receive the new vehicles which  
280 translates to higher maintenance costs.
- 281 • Due to lack of hospital beds, transporting a patient to where they can receive a  
282 higher level of care is farther away and requires more time.
- 283 • We are adhering to our Spending Policy for the dispersements from our  
284 Investment Fund.

285 *Board questions/comments answered by Mr. Groux:*

286 Mr. Carroll: Are all of the other agencies level funded? Mr. Hurd answered yes, except for the  
287 \$5,000 increase now requested by the John G. McCullough Library and the BCRC went up \$10.

288 Mr. Carroll: Noted that all of the other agencies - except for the McCullough Library - are asking  
289 for level funding and don't have the \$3M endowment that the BRS has and is asking for an  
290 increase of ~\$31K. It would be appropriate that the BRS spend some of that endowment  
291 instead of "putting it on the backs of the people of Bennington". Mr. Groux responded "we're  
292 not opposed to level funding".

293 Ms. Jenkins: What steps are you taking to keep your finances in hand? We have been working  
294 closely with the hospital over the last several months to develop a regionalization model to  
295 make finances work for many rescue squads from Bennington County, Deerfield Valley,  
296 Massachusetts, and New York. In the long run, small services will not survive. BRS is the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
297 largest in the State of Vermont. Otherwise, ambulance services become municipal  
298 organizations.

299 Mr. Carroll: Did you give yourself a pay raise this year? Yes, 12%, and all of the other staff  
300 received 15%.

301 Ms. Conner: Can you speak to the impact of having 2 people and an ambulance having to travel  
302 farther for a transfer? Yes, that's why we decreased the number of transfers by 30% - beginning  
303 in September 2021 - so we could increase our availability.

304 Ms. Conner: We just gave 3% and 4% pay increases, so why were the BRS increase percentages  
305 so high? There are different levels of training for an EMT, an advanced EMT, and a Paramedic,  
306 and we had to increase the base rate to get new people to come through the door, which,  
307 increases the other levels. "We can't pay less than what Walmart does."

308 Mr. Carroll: What is the starting pay for a new hire? \$16.00/hour and we pay incentives for  
309 additional training and education. We are currently working with the Community College of  
310 Vermont for scholarship programs and will contact the State, as well.

311 Mr. Lee-Clark: We didn't receive the footnotes. That is an error - they will be sent to you.

312 Mr. Lee-Clark: What research have you done on alternative fueled fleets? No one is building an  
313 electric ambulance yet. They are working on some prototypes now but it would be 4 times the  
314 cost. The trucks we have coming are small and run on gas, not diesel.

315 Mr. Lee-Clark: Questions have been asked - When I call 911, why does an ambulance come  
316 from another town? Part of regionalization is that all of the ambulance companies have mutual  
317 aid and provide backup to each other. And, sometimes, a BRS ambulance may not be able to  
318 respond to a 911 call because they are taking a Bennington resident to another hospital.

319 Mr. Lee-Clark: Suggested that BRS do more community outreach to educate the community on  
320 how things work so that they have a better understanding. Agree.

321 Ms. Conner: Thanked the BRS for their support with the COVID testing. We also did  
322 vaccinations for people that couldn't get out, however, we have had to stop doing those for  
323 now.

324 Mr. Hurd: Are your pay increases for July 2022? No, they happened in July 2021.

325 Mr. Hurd: Has this improved the number of new employees? Improved over pre-COVID, no.  
326 Improved over post-COVID, yes.

327 Mr. Hurd: If you were fully staffed, would that affect your availability in Bennington? It's a  
328 balancing between enough staff and call volume.

329

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330 **3. FINALIZE BUDGET**

331 *Tom Haley moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the level funded FY23*  
332 *allocation to the Bennington Free Library at \$498,000.00. The motion carried with Gary Corey*  
333 *and Sarah Perrin absent.*

334 Discussion on the John G. McCullough Library requested increase of \$5,000 to \$45,000  
335 as follows:

- 336 • They did request increases with the other municipalities, as well, but if they were  
337 approved is unknown at this time.
- 338 • Ms. Conner suggested to meet them half way with an increase of \$2,500.
- 339 • Mr. Carroll feels that level funding is preferred but agreed with the \$2,500 as a  
340 modest increase.
- 341 • Mr. Lee-Clark agreed.

342                   • Ms. Jenkins is concerned about the budget this year and is conflicted - glad that  
343                   they are paying staff for their work and noting that the Bennington Library gave  
344                   their staff increases that were absorbed into their budget. However, if all others  
345                   agreed, she would go along with the \$2,500 increase.

346                   ***Jeanne Conner moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to approve a \$2,500.00 increase***  
347                   ***for the John G. McCullough Library FY23 allocation to \$42,500.00. The motion carried with***  
348                   ***Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.***

349                   ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the level funded FY23***  
350                   ***allocation to the Bennington Rescue Squad at \$206,250.00.***

351                   Mr. Lee-Clark explained that he doesn't know what the answer to the BRS financial  
352                   situation is but the Bennington taxpayers aren't it. It's difficult to approve their requested  
353                   \$30,937.50 increase when they come in and start off by saying they will find this money  
354                   elsewhere and have a \$3.8M endowment.

355                   Mr. Carroll stated that they made \$30,000 last year on their endowment.

356                   Ms. Jenkins would like to see more tangible action on the BRS part to fix what is a long  
357                   term problem.

358                   Ms. Conner noted that there is a point with endowments where you need to stop taking  
359                   from them.

360                   Mr. Lee-Clark agreed, however, BRS is a private organization that needs to deal with this  
361                   and they are not in crisis at this time. The Town does have a significant stake in BRS at  
362                   \$206,250.

363                   ***The motion carried with Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.***

364

365                   Other Budget Requests to discuss:

366                   Highway Department - staffing and look into a mechanic position -

- 367                   • Can't see where we can add 2 more positions and it would be helpful to know  
368                   the mechanic's responsibilities.
- 369                   • The mechanic position would be offset by expense savings but this requires  
370                   more research to see just how much so we aren't ready to recommend this position  
371                   now.
- 372                   • We have a very good staff and haven't had any problems replacing those that  
373                   have left, so far.

374                   Police Department - more overtime -

- 375 • Two drivers here are being short staffed - down 3 - and more events planned by
- 376 the BBC that we are not reimbursed for.
- 377 • We may need to have a conversation with the BBC on ways to reinstitute the
- 378 reimbursement they used to pay.
- 379 • We budget as if we are fully staffed, so if we are down in staff, the Salary line
- 380 item will cover the additional amount in the Overtime line item.
- 381 • We should not reduce the existing Overtime line item or add to it.

382 Police Department - 2 ATV's -

- 383 • There has been an increase in the use and abuse of our lands at Sucker Pond.
- 384 • We need to be able to access the lands at Sucker Pond, as well as, Headwaters
- 385 Park.
- 386 • They also serve as remote access to help someone that may be in distress.

387 Mr. Corey - can we reduce the 5% increase?

- 388 • Perhaps ARPA funds and an increase in the Grand List could help.
- 389 • It has been a very difficult year mostly due to materials and costs.
- 390 • The impact that inflation has had just over the last 4 months has been
- 391 "incredible".
- 392 • The Highway Fund doesn't include any grant funds that may be available to us.
- 393 • The budgets that we are approving in January are "worst case scenarios" of
- 394 where we may be when we actually set the tax rate.
- 395 • Historically we have been able to reduce the budgets when we set the tax rate.
- 396 • Class 2 ineligible projects may be able to be swapped out for projects that are
- 397 eligible.

398

399 *At 1:02pm, Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded the adjournment of the*

400 *meeting. The motion carried with Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.*

401

402

403

404

405 Respectfully submitted,

406 Nancy H. Lively

407 Secretary

1 BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

2 130 RIVER STREET

3 BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201

4 JANUARY 10, 2022

5 MINUTES

6 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner-Vice Chair; Bruce  
7 Lee-Clark; Jim Carroll; Tom Haley; and Sarah Perrin (via Zoom).

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gary Corey.

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Jonah  
10 Spivak-Communications Coordinator; Dr. Trey Dobson-SWMC Medical Director; David White-  
11 White + Burke President (via Zoom); Bill Colvin-BCRC Asst. Director, Community Development  
12 Program Coordinator; Steve Love-Love, Cody and Company, CPA's; Jenny Dewar-BBC Executive  
13 Director; Rose Telford; 10 citizens; Jim Vires-CAT-TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

14 At 6:00pm, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order.

15 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

16 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

17 Ms. Conner read the Town's Vision Statement that was adopted by the Select Board on  
18 August 24, 2020:

19 "Bennington is a welcoming, engaged, inclusive, resilient community where everyone  
20 regardless of identity shares in our vitality and benefits from an outstanding quality of life."

21 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

22 **A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 27, 2021**

23 **B. WARRANTS**

24 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Minutes of December 27,*  
25 *2021 amended as follows:*

26 *Line 10, Change "Manger" to "Manager"*

27 *The motion carried with Gary Corey absent.*

28 *The Minutes of December 13, 2021 were previously approved at the December 27,*  
29 *2021 meeting amended as follows:*

30 *Lines 11, 109, and 170, Change "Washbun" to "Washbum"*



Line 204, Change "Interface" to "Interfaith"

Line 235, Change "three" to "free"

Line 246, Change "Conners" to "Conner"

#### 4. COVID UPDATE

Dr. Trey Dobson, SVMC Medical Director, did the following presentation:

- We have had increasing cases of COVID over the past two weeks and are concerned about the next two weeks.
- There are 108 hospitalizations in the State and 14 hospitalizations at SVMC with 650,000 measured cases throughout the country.
- There are two things for improvement in the community - get boosted if you're 5 months out and do not attend any gatherings if you are over 65 and/or have a compromised immune system.
- Models show that the prevalence of the virus will drop by the end of March.
- Long term we expect - without any changes - that COVID will exist as does the flu and pneumonia.
- We have received, and dispersed, 20 doses of the oral medicine that we received to vulnerable people. We will be getting more.
- And, we receive ~12 infusion medications weekly that we disperse to keep people out of the hospital.

*Board questions/comments answered by Dr. Dobson:*

Ms. Conner: How are we doing with staffing at SVMC and do you think the actual number of positive cases is higher because people are now testing at home and not reporting it? Staffing at SVMC as of today is "hanging on pretty well", and yes, home testing or not testing at all, are positive cases that we aren't aware of.

Mr. Carroll: Are the patients in the hospital principally unvaccinated? The 85%-90% of patients in the ICU are unvaccinated. The others with COVID in the hospital are vaccinated and vulnerable, and there are those that test positive but are actually in the hospital for another reason.

Ms. Perrin: Should we be more concerned about the hospitalization numbers or the positive test result numbers? The hospitalization numbers effect the health care sustainability so they carry more importance. The positive cases are still important to follow because of the economic impact they have.

Ms. Jenkins: We will be discussing the 45-day recommended mask resolution at our next meeting. Once the numbers go down, mitigation will still be important at least until mid-spring.



Mr. Lee-Clark: Could you be specific concerning mitigation? Getting boosted, don't attend family gatherings if you're vulnerable, and continue to mask.

## 5. INITIAL REPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - STRATEGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Dan Monks, Assistant Town Manager, did the following presentation:

- Bennington's share of The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is \$3.9M and "the Committee" was charged with putting together a preliminary prioritization of projects list as how to utilize this money, as well as, other funding sources.
- The Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee (the Committee) was comprised of Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Conner, and Mr. Corey from the Select Board, the Asst. Executive Director of the BCRC, the Executive Director of the BBC, the Town Manager, and Asst. Town Manager.
- The list is a work in progress.
- The criteria for the projects were that they had to be a high priority project to be constructed or implemented within the next few years - "as close to shovel ready as possible".
- The Committee categorized the projects - 1. Economic Development Projects; 2. Infrastructure and Town Operations Projects; and 3. Other Projects.
- White + Burke and Dominic Cloud evaluated the Economic Development Projects with their expertise and their report included a strong recommendation to extend our Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and that there is limited availability of ARPA funds for economic development.
- The Infrastructure and Town Operations Projects were discussed with the appropriate department heads and were basically on how we can spend the ARPA funds.
- The work of the Committee has been posted online and includes the Prioritized List, the summaries of the Projects, the White + Burke report, the eligibility requirements, and how the public can make comments.
- The Committee reviewed the ARPA availability and uses for the Town and other funding sources.
- ARPA Funds -
  - The \$3.9M comes directly to the Town and must be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026 or it goes back to the federal government.
  - There are 4 categories of eligibility:
    - Response to public health emergency or negative impacts.
    - Premium paid to essential workers.
    - Provisions for government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to COVID 19.
    - Investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
  - The bottom line is anything that is traditionally a government expenditure as long as it's not used to reduce debt or the tax burden.

- There are extensive reporting requirements on the use of the money.
- More information on ARPA is available at [www.VLCT/ARPA](http://www.VLCT/ARPA).
- The Projects were organized in a tiered system:
  - Economic Development Projects Tier I -
    - Project within 1-2 years.
    - Stakeholders at the table.
    - Clear role for the Town.
  - Economic Development Projects Tier II -
    - Couldn't define a clear role for the Town at this time.
  - Economic Development Projects Tier III -
    - Speculative and couldn't define a clear role for the Town at this time.
  - Infrastructure and Town Operations Projects Tier I -
    - High priority projects that appear to be ARPA eligible.
    - May be constructed or implemented within 2-4 years.
    - Estimated cost shall not exceed ARPA funds.
  - Infrastructure and Town Operations Projects Tier II -
    - All projects that we need to do some day.
    - May not be ARPA eligible.
    - May be, or likely to be, funded from other sources.
    - Not shovel ready enough to be constructed within 4 years.
    - Cost may exceed ARPA funds.
- The recently passed \$1T Act may offer funds for infrastructure projects through the State.
- Economic Development Tier I Projects, for now, are:
  - Benn High (former Middle School)
  - Downtown Food Market
  - Putnam Block Phase 2
  - Capitalization of Revolving Loan Program
- Infrastructure and Town Operations Tier I Projects, for now, are:
  - Willow Park Playground Replacement
  - County Street/Benmont Avenue Sewer Line Upgrades
  - South Street/Union Street Stormwater Management Improvements
  - Premium Pay/Benefits to Eligible Workers
  - Construction of Skate Park and/or Outdoor Skating Rink (synthetic ice)
  - Digitization of Land Records
- Next Steps -
  - Get written public comments online, in the mail, or in the drop box until January 21, 2022.
  - At Select Board meeting on January 24, 2022 -
    - Select Board will review public comments.

- Finalize the Preliminary Prioritization Projects and authorize Town Staff to begin working on the Tier I projects.

- Next Steps for Staff -

- Working with consultants, engineers, and attorneys.
- Procurement and bidding, design, construction, and administrative oversight.
- We have to be ready for changing conditions and emergent opportunities.

*Board questions/comments answered by Mr. Monks:*

Ms. Conner: Can you speak to how the money is coming to us and will that affect the project choices? We have already received half of the \$3.9M and the other half is expected in September 2022 or earlier and will not affect the projects that we do.

Ms. Conner: Will partnering with other agencies aid us in using the ARPA funds? Yes, the best way to use the funds is to leverage them.

*Public questions/comments answered by Ms. Jenkins:*

Rose Telford: Is there any money available for the Seniors? Seniors are definitely part of the priority list and the packet can be viewed online or a hard copy is at the Library. Mr. Carroll gave Ms. Telford a hard copy with all of the information.

## **6. TIF EXTENSION**

David White, White + Burke President, did the following presentation:

- Explained that White + Burke has been in business for 30 years with an area of their expertise being community development.
- We have set up 6 out of the 7 TIF Districts that have been set up in Vermont, including Bennington.
- Establish a district - TIF District - with specific boundaries and properties and the original taxable value (OTV).
- All of the OTV dollars are allocated as they always have been.
- The concept is that the municipality borrows money by using the TIF District to invest in very specific infrastructure projects where there is a link between the public investment and the private development that is anticipated to occur.
- A portion of the new incremental taxes generated goes to pay the debt service.
- The key to a TIF District is that you're not doing it on a project by project basis, but collectively as a whole district.
- In Bennington, 70% of the taxes that would go to the State's education fund get allocated to the TIF District and are available to the Town to pay debt services for the borrowing that was done to make the investments.
- And after the debt is paid off, that money is still there making it "a windfall down the road".

- If the first borrowing is done within 5 years of the establishment of the TIF District, you get an automatic 5-year extension.
- Bennington's TIF District was established in 2017 and the deadline to incur the first TIF debt is March 31, 2022.
- An application for substantial change to the Town's TIF district to VEPC can be done to extend the debt incurrence window to March 2029 - if approved.
- Prior to the application, the following must be done:
  - Prepare an updated TIF District Plan.
  - Prepare an updated TIF District Finance Plan.
  - Warn and hold at least one public hearing.
  - Request Select Board approval for the revised plans and submission to VEPC.
  - File the updated District Plan and updated District Finance Plan with the municipal clerk.
- You can retain the education increment for a 20-year period beginning when you incur your first debt.
- In many cases of economic development, the cost of development exceeds the value.
- The key to success is to take the initiative to be pro-active in seeking the public/private partnerships and how they're put together. Benn High, Putnam Block Phase II, Friendly's, People's Bank, and Catamount School are good examples of where this would work.
- Before and after photos of Hartford, VT were shared because they have added 82% to their Grand List in 10 years.

*Board questions/comments answered by Mr. White and Mr. Monks:*

Ms. Conner: Does the application have to be completed by March or just in process? In process.

Ms. Jenkins: Does the public hearing need to be done by March? Yes, and staff have a lot of work to do prior to that, as well. "It is a tall order in a short amount of time."

***Jim Carroll moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to contract with White + Burke to prepare and apply to VEPC for substantial change to the Town's TIF District as presented not to exceed \$15,000.00. The motion carried with Gary Corey absent.***

## **7. ENERGIZER RE-USE STUDY**

Bill Colvin, BCRC Asst. Director, did the following presentation:

- BCRC and Camoin Associates completed a feasibility study for the reuse of the former Energizer manufacturing facility in late September 2021.
- The study consisted of many parts, including the review and analysis of existing planning materials, existing conditions, inventory analysis, environmental condition,

land use, maps and photos, site analysis with infrastructure and physical constraints, redevelopment of the property, and a significant markup study.

- The cost of the Re-Use Study was ~\$67,000 funded by a \$20,000 EPA Planning Grant, \$22,000 from a municipal planning grant, \$8,000 from Shires Housing, and \$17,000 in-kind BCRC staff time. No funding came from the Town.
- A Steering Committee from all areas of the community was formed.
- The facility is ~300,000 SF on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 140,000 SF on upper floors, ~9 acres in 4 separate parcels in a primarily residential area.
- The zoning designation is mixed use 2 district.
- With only administrative review, uses could be housing with no unit limitations, food, drink, and entertainment, lodging, personal and professional services, and retail.
- Other uses with DRB approval could be residential care facilities, educational facilities, child care, and manufacturing.
- No public parking or transit facilities are allowed.
- Much demographic analysis information was shared showing housing as a promising reuse of the property.
- Bennington is in need of 600 renter households and 450 homeowner households which can be made up of new units, rehab units, and/or retro fitting units.
- The highlights of a housing redevelopment concept are as follows:
  - 60-70 market rate apartments.
  - 45-50 Senior independent living units.
  - 30 workforce-level apartments.
  - 30 low-income apartments.
  - 20-25 townhouses (new build).
  - 5,000 SF of neighborhood retail.
- Energizer is in good shape structurally.

*Board questions/comments answered by Mr. Colvin:*

Mr. Carroll: Where is this being advertised? This is a privately owned facility marketed by a national real estate entity. We are not advertising it.

Ms. Conner: In addition to the shortage, was the location also a reason that housing rose to the top? Generally in this type of redevelopment, housing usually "pays the bills". Energizer is surrounded by residential areas, and housing brings the availability of subsidy in a variety of forms.

Mr. Lee-Clark: What did you find in remediation on the property, itself? Energizer did everything they were asked to do by the EPA so we are optimistic about the property. However, if any clean-up is necessary, and as long as Energizer is still in business elsewhere, it will be their responsibility to do the clean-up.

## **8. AUDIT**



Steve Love, from Love, Cody and Companies, CPA's, did the following presentation:

- The finances of the Town lies with the Town Manager and the Select Board to comply with accounting principles and internal controls.
- The auditor's job is to express an opinion on the financial statements and we found that the financial statements for FY21 were presented fairly in all material respects and in accordance with general accepted account principles (GAAP) and there were no material weaknesses in internal controls.
- The statements are split between governmental and business activities.
- All the assets and liabilities of the Town are reported on the governmental side.
- The general fund doesn't show long term debt or capital assets.
- The Town had net capital assets of \$18.2M and cash is up at \$9.4M.
- On the business side, assets went up to \$44M - a significant increase due to the addition of PFOA water lines.
- Pension liabilities is up \$1M but is out of the Town's control.
- Bond liabilities are up because of the borrowing for the pumper and highway equipment.
- Under governmental, highway and roads are the largest expenditures followed by police.
- Property taxes are the largest source of revenue with total revenue increasing by \$900K.
- It is recommended to bring the proprietary parking fund of \$20,000 into the general fund because we are no longer using parking meters or charging to park.
- General fund cash is up due to receiving the dollars for the ladder truck, but not having to pay for it, and liabilities remain level.
- Restricted fund balance is \$3.2M and committed is at \$247K.
- All significant transactions have been recognized in the statements.
- All adjustments that took place after the books were closed were made and there were no disagreements with management.

*Jim Carroll moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to move the Parking Fund to the General Fund in FY22 as recommended by the auditors.*

Mr. Hurd agrees with this action.

*The motion carried with Gary Corey absent.*

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following Public Comment Practices to make the experience for all involved a productive and informative use of the Public Comment period at Select Board meetings was placed on the podium for those that wish to make Public Comments to reference:

1. Public Comment is to allow residents an opportunity to share information or make announcements that benefit the community at large.
2. The topic should **not** be related to an agenda item. If a member of the public wants to comment on an agenda item they can do so during the discussion of that item.
3. Comments should be 3 minutes or less.
4. You are required to state your real name and town of residence.
5. Sharing comments, announcements and concerns are encouraged rather than asking questions. Public Comment is not a time for discussion. If you have specific questions it is best to call the Town Manager to get a full explanation and accurate information.
6. If the topic requires much discussion the item will be considered as an agenda item at a future meeting.

---

Jenny Dewar, BBC Executive Director:

- Apologized for referring to Walgreens as Rite Aid.
- The BBC is leaving the holiday decorations up until the end of January as a sign of hope.
- A few shops are almost ready to open including the Coffee Bar and the Village Garage Distillery. Also, the 514 Pop Up Shop is extending its stay.
- Hemmings Cruises are coming back on Main Street this year one Thursday/month from May through August. More to come on the actual dates and street closures.

## 10. MASK RESOLUTION DISCUSSION

Ms. Jenkins stated we will be coming up to our review of our Mask Resolution so we will be discussing whether we let it expire, renew and change it for 30 days, or renew as is for 30 days at the next meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>. It is disappointing in the number of business who did not put up the mask recommendation signage.

Ms. Perrin added that there is a bill being discussed in the Legislature on this so their decision may be helpful to us.

## 11. IMPLEMENTING THE TOWN'S VISION

Ms. Jenkins reported the following:

- The Procedures for the spring policies should be going up soon and the Chief of Police will let us know this week what that timeline is like.
- The Task Force has one more meeting and will then be putting together their recommendations.



## 12. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Hurd reported the following:

- *Certificate of Highway Mileage 2022* - Annually we must review our highway mileage and note any changes. This year we discontinued two short roadways, Brookside Drive, so called, and TH29, the Foothills, so called. I have noted the changes and seek Board signatures.

*The Certificate of Highway Mileage 2022 was circulated for signatures.*

- *Nationwide Settlement with Three Large Distributors and Janssen* - In mid-December our attorneys discussed a potential nationwide settlement with the above-referenced companies. If towns and villages joined the settlement in sufficient numbers, Vermont would receive approximately \$65 million. The Town's amount is determined by a percentage of the Vermont payment, 2.485%, or \$1.6 million. When we receive these dollars, and we don't know when that will be, we will put it in a reserve account for treatment recovery housing. The monies in this case are paid over 18 years in the distributors' case and 9 years in the Janssen case. A total of \$26 billion will be paid; \$22.8 billion of that will be available to states and their political subdivisions. Given the time constraints, I have authorized our attorneys to settle on our behalf.

*Jim Carroll moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to ratify the Manager's decision to settle on the Town's behalf. The motion carried with Gary Corey absent.*

- *Municipal Policies and Codes Compliance* - The Vermont Community Development Department requires that participating towns adopt the attached policies. We have, of course, in the past. However, they were amended by the Department this past year requiring a re-adoption.

*Jim Carroll moved and Tom Haley seconded to adopt the following policies and sign where noted:*

1. *Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (required by 24 CFR 570.904 and modeled on the State of Vermont's State Government EEO Plan for FY2017)*
2. *Fair Housing Policy (required by 24 CFR 570.904 and modeled on 24 CFR Part 6)*
3. *Use of Excessive Force Policy (42 USC sec. 5304(l))*
4. *Policy on the Use of VCDP Funds for Federal Lobbying (Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, 31 U.S.C. 1352 and 43 CFR part 18, New Restrictions on Lobbying. Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR part 18, appendix A, Certification Regarding Lobbying)*
5. *Code of Ethics for Administration of Vermont Community Development Program (24 CFR 570.489(h))*
6. *The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.)*

- 363        **7. Subrecipient Oversight Monitoring Policy (required by Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR Part**  
364                **200)**  
365        **8. Whistleblower Protections**  
366        **9. Texting While Driving Policy (Executive Order 13513, Federal Leadership on Reducing**  
367                **Text Messaging While Driving)**

368    *The motion carried with Gary Corey absent.*

- 369                •        *2021 Equalization Study Results* - We have received the results from the State for  
370                Bennington and North Bennington. The crazy housing market has had its impact. Our  
371                Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) dropped from 94+% to 85.41% for Bennington and  
372                85.5% for North Bennington. The Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is at 17.63% up from  
373                +/-16% a year ago. A reappraisal is triggered if the CLA drops below 80% and/or the  
374                COD rises above 20%. We may be facing a reappraisal if the market stays like this, and if  
375                so, we have the money to pay for it in reserve.

- 376  
377                •        *Additional questions/comments:*  
378                There will be a hard copy of the Board packets, including the agendas, at the Library.

379    **13. UPCOMING AGENDA**

- 380                January 24, 2022 - Discussion on Economic Development Priorities.  
381                January 24, 2022 - Discussion on Mask Resolution.  
382                January 24, 2022 - Adopt the Budget and Sign the Warrant.  
383                January 24, 2022 - Police Department Presentation.  
384                February 14, 2022 - Declaration of Inclusion Next Steps

385    **14. OTHER BUSINESS**

386    Mr. Carroll: Offered his condolences to the Jareckie family to acknowledge the passing of Grace  
387    Jareckie noting what a wonderful person she was.

388    Mr. Lee-Clark: Given the very cold temperatures, Harvest House will open tomorrow at 7:00am  
389    for those who need to warm up. If you know of anyone in need, call 211 and GBICS and the  
390    Homeless Coalition have reached out to the folks that they know. Mr. Carroll added that  
391    vouchers are still available if you call 211 and GBICS also has backpacks with roll up mattresses  
392    and sleeping bags.

393    Ms. Perrin: Get vaccinated or get boosted and stay in if you're compromised. Be careful.

394    Ms. Jenkins: Reminded everyone of the River Walk on Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am,  
395    starting at the Bennington Station in recognition of the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Emily's death.

396

397           *At 8:41pm, Jim Carroll moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded the adjournment of the*  
398 *meeting. The motion carried with Gary Corey absent.*

399

400

401

402

403   Respectfully submitted,

404   Nancy H. Lively

405   Secretary

# TOWN OF BENNINGTON

## 2022 LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

### 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Class Renewals:

1. American Legion Post 13
2. Fuji Hibachi & Asian Bistro
3. Mt. Anthony Golf & Tennis Club

### 2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Renewals:

1. Aldi, Inc.
2. Apple Barn
3. Beverage Den
4. Elm Street Market
5. North Bennington Variety
6. Walmart #2289

### 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Renewals:

1. American Legion Post 13

The Bennington Select Board hereby approves the above  
**2022 Liquor License Applications**

Dated: January 24, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeannette Jenkins, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanne Conner, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Carroll

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce C. Lee-Clark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Corey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah B. Perrin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Haley



**FIRST/SECOND/THIRD CLASS LIQUOR LICENSE AND TOBACCO APPLICATION**

(License year is May 1<sup>ST</sup> through April 30<sup>TH</sup> of the following year)

AMBROSIA LLC  
Print Name of Person, Partnership, Corp., Club or LLC

THE COFFEE BAR,  
Doing Business as – Trade Name

109 SOUTH STREET, SUITE 100  
Street

BENNINGTON, VT, 05201  
Town or City & Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

4903 MAIN STREET, MANCHESTER CTR. VT 05255

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address (if different from above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address:

APPLICATION FEES:

FIRST CLASS LICENSE - \$115.00 to DLC and \$115.00 to Town/City

SECOND CLASS LICENSE- \$70.00 to DLC and \$70.00 to Town/City

SECOND CLASS RETAIL DELIVERY PERMIT - \$100.00 to DLC

THIRD CLASS LICENSE - \$1,095 for a full year to DLC  
\$550 for 6 or fewer months to DLC

TOBACCO LICENSE- (there is no application fee for tobacco if  
applying for second class)

TOBACCO ENDORSEMENT PERMIT - \$50.00 to DLC

*\*If applying for Tobacco only license, please use the Tobacco Only form.*

**Please check appropriate categories**

☒ FIRST CLASS

☐ SECOND CLASS

☒ THIRD CLASS

☐ TOBACCO

☐ Retail Delivery Permit

☐ Tobacco Endorsement

☒ Restaurant

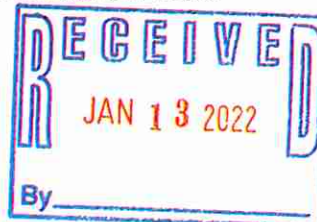
☐ Hotel

☐ Club

☐ Commercial Kitchen (a Liquor Control Commercial  
Caterer's License is needed with this license)

**TO THE CONTROL COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN/CITY OF** BENNINGTON

Application is hereby made for a license to sell malt and vinous beverages under and in accordance with Title 7, Vermont Statutes Annotated, as amended, and certify that all statements, information and answers to questions herein contained are true; and in consideration of such license being granted do promise and agree to comply with all local and state laws; and to comply with all regulations made and promulgated by the Board of Liquor and Lottery. Upon hearing, the Board of Liquor and Lottery may, in its discretion, suspend or revoke such license whenever it may determine that the law or any regulations of the Board of Liquor and Lottery have been violated, or that any statement, information or answers herein contained are false.



## TOWN/CITY APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL

Upon being satisfied that the conditions precedent to the granting of this license as provided in Title 7 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, as amended, have been fully met by the applicant, the commissioners will endorse their recommendation on the back of the applications and transmit both copies to the Board of Liquor and Lottery for suitable action thereon, before any license may be granted. For the information of the Board of Liquor and Lottery, all applications shall carry the signature of each individual commissioner registering either approval or disapproval. Lease or title must be recorded in town or city before issuance of license.

\_\_\_\_\_, Vermont, \_\_\_\_\_  
Town/City Date

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

[illegible]

Please check one:      ☐ Approved      ☐ Disapproved

by the Board of Control Commissioners of the City or Town of \_\_\_\_\_.

Total Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Members present \_\_\_\_\_

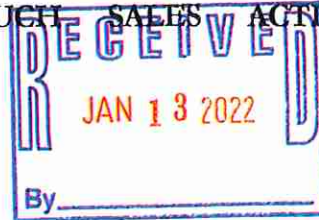
Attest, \_\_\_\_\_  
City or Town Clerk

**TOWN OR CITY CLERK SHALL MAIL ONE APPLICATION DIRECTLY TO THE DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL, 13 Green Mountain Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602. If application is disapproved, local control commissioners shall notify the applicant by letter.**

No formal action taken by any agency or authority of any town board of selectmen or city board of aldermen on a first or second-class application shall be considered binding except as taken or made at an open public meeting. VSA Title 1 §312.

SECTION 5111 AND 5121 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1954 REQUIRE EVERY RETAIL DEALER IN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO FILE A FORM ANNUALLY AND PAY A SPECIAL TAX IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH SALES ACTIVITY. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & FIREARMS (TTB)  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
550 MAIN STREET, CINCINNATI, OH 45202  
(513) 684-2979



**NOTICE:** All new applications are investigated by the Enforcement and Licensing Division prior to approval/disapproval of the license by the Board of Liquor and Lottery. Please note that this process can take anywhere from 2 weeks to 6 weeks to complete once Liquor Control receives the application.

## MEMORANDUM

To: Bennington Select Board

From: Shannon Barsotti, Community Development Director

Date: January 19, 2022

Re: 219 Pleasant Street Final Public Hearing

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The Town of Bennington received \$918,408 from the State of Vermont for a grant under the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP). In fulfillment of a requirement for the receipt of these funds, a public hearing will be held during the January 24 Select Board meeting. The purpose of this hearing is to provide information concerning the range of community development activities that have been undertaken under this program, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to comment on the use of VCDP funds.

The primary purpose of the 219 Pleasant Street redevelopment was to provide much needed "low to moderate income" (LMI) housing in Bennington. This project covers the renovation of a historic building located at 219 Pleasant Street in the downtown historic district. Renovations included stripping the interior to the studs and updating the following: flooring, painting, kitchens, bathrooms, heating, plumbing and electrical systems. Work also included installing a sprinkler system, repairing exterior siding, windows, porches, and specific exterior details. The building will be used strictly for 11 residential apartments, 6 of which provide housing to LMI families.



## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

## WASHINGTON

**Supreme Court skeptical of Biden's workplace vaccine rule**

Fully vaccinated and mostly masked, the Supreme Court's conservative majority appeared skeptical Friday of the Biden administration's authority to impose a vaccine-or-testing requirement on the nation's large employers. The court seemed more open to a separate vaccine mandate for most health care workers.

The arguments in the two cases come at a time of spiking coronavirus cases because of the omicron variant, and the decision Friday by seven justices to wear masks for the first time while hearing arguments reflected the new phase of the pandemic.

An eighth justice, Sonia Sotomayor, a diabetic since childhood, didn't even appear in the courtroom, choosing to remain in her office at the court and take part remotely. Two lawyers, representing Ohio and Louisiana, argued by telephone after recent positive COVID-19 tests, state officials said.

But the COVID circumstances did not appear to outweigh the views of the court's six conservatives that the administration overstepped its authority in its vaccine-or-testing requirement for businesses with at least 100 employees.

"This is something the federal government has never done

before," Chief Justice John Roberts said, casting doubt on the administration's argument that a half-century established law, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, confers such broad authority.

## BRUNSWICK, GA.

**Arbery killers get life in prison; no parole for father, son**

Three white men convicted of murder for chasing and killing Ahmaud Arbery were sentenced to life in prison Friday, with a judge denying any chance of parole for the father and son who armed themselves and initiated the deadly pursuit of the 25-year-old Black man.

Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley said Arbery left his home for a jog and ended up running for his life for five minutes as the men chased him until they finally cornered him. The judge paused for a minute of silence to help drive home a sense of what that time must have felt like for Arbery, whose killing became part of a larger national reckoning on racial injustice.

"When I thought about this, I thought from a lot of different angles, I kept coming back to the terror that must have been in the mind of the young man running through Satilla Shores," he said, mentioning the neighborhood where Arbery was killed.

Greg and Travis McMichael grabbed guns and jumped in a pickup truck to chase Arbery

after spotting him running in their neighborhood outside the port city of Brunswick on Feb. 23, 2020. Their neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan joined the pursuit in his own truck and recorded cellphone video of Travis McMichael firing close-range shotgun blasts into Arbery.

"Ahmaud Arbery was then hunted down and shot, and he was killed because individuals here in this courtroom took the law into their own hands," the judge said. Walmsley ordered the McMichaels to serve life without parole and granted Bryan a chance to earn parole after serving at least 30 years in prison.

**Biden's economic challenge: Finding workers and goods**

President Joe Biden enters the midterm election year of 2022 determined to address what economists call a "supply" problem — there aren't enough jobseekers or goods to meet the country's needs.

This is also a political problem. The mismatch has obscured the strong growth and 3.9 percent unemployment rate achieved during Biden's first year, the kind of performance that would typically help the president and congressional Democrats woo voters in the midterms. It has left Biden trying to showcase his economic achievements while trying to parry Republican criticism that his policies have fueled inflation.

"This is the kind of recovery I

promised and hoped for for the American people," the president said in remarks Friday. "My focus is on keeping this recovery strong and durable, notwithstanding Republican obstructionism. Because, you know, I know that even as jobs and families' incomes have recovered, families are still feeling the pinch of prices and costs."

Pessimism has overtaken Americans' views on the economy, even though the economy is objectively better than it was in 2020 right before Biden took office.

Shoppers are focused on shortages of cars, bath towels and even breakfast cereal. Employers can't fill the 10.6 million jobs they're advertising. Prices for almost everything are rising — with forecasters expecting a 7.1 percent annual increase to turn up in next Wednesday's inflation report.

## DETROIT

**More details emerge about teen in Michigan school shooting**

Two parents charged with their son in a Michigan school shooting failed to get their \$500,000 bond reduced Friday, as prosecutors offered new allegations about the teen's hallucinations, passion for guns and boasts about violence.

James and Jennifer Crumbley, who are charged with involuntary manslaughter in the Oxford High School shooting, ignored numerous warning signs about

Ethan Crum bought him to kill four others on N ector Mar

In August with a difference in a "time to sh jk, jk, jk," a reference

The 15-year-old with Na keeping a N in his bedr symbols in also used to hats, Keast

## ALBANY, N.Y.

**Judge dismisses criminal charges against Andrew Cuomo**

The only filed over the allegations York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's request had been a legal threat

The move after Albany said they could and intended

Cuomo, a notion that he executive in speak during hearing, he sitting in a and the law appearing

**Public Notices**

Town of Bennington  
Public Notice  
Final Public Hearing  
Project-219 Pleasant St. Rehab

VGDP Implementation Grant  
07110-IG-2018-Bennington-05

The Town of Bennington received \$918,408 from the State of Vermont for a grant under the Vermont Community Development Program (VGDP). In fulfillment as a requirement for the receipt of these funds, a public hearing will be held at 130 River St. 3rd floor, Bennington VT 05201 on 24 January 2022 at 6pm. The purpose of this hearing is to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the range of community development activities that have been undertaken under this program, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine a statement of the use of these funds. The VGDP Funds received have been used to accomplish the following activities:

219 Pleasant St. - The primary purpose of the project is to provide much needed low to moderate income\* (LMI) housing to Bennington County.

This project covered the renovation

**Public Notices**

of a historic building located at 219 Pleasant Street Bennington Vermont, which is in the downtown historic district. The completed project consisted of a total gut renovation of 10 units and created 11 new units.

Information on this project may be obtained from and viewed during the hours of 9am to 4pm Monday through Friday at 111 South St., Suite 203 Bennington VT, or it can be viewed at the Town Office at 205 South Street Bennington VT.

This Final Public Hearing is being held at the beginning of the regular Selectboard Meeting, scheduled for 24 January 2022 at 6pm. For more information, please refer to the Town website at <http://www.benningtonvt.org>

Should you need assistance to participate please contact Shannon Barcolli, Community Development Director, at 802-445-1330

For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) 800 263 0101

Town of Bennington Selectboard

AD# 62711  
01/08/2022

**Help Wanted****ASSISTANT MANAGER  
MAPLEFIELDS MANCHESTER**

Full time, \$16 - \$18. Benefits for full time team members include paid sick/personal time, paid vacation time, paid holidays, 401k plan, opportunity for advancement, schedule flexibility. Health, dental vision plans available.

The primary role of the Assistant Manager is to develop and demonstrate the skills necessary to successfully oversee operation of a Maplefields Store in the absence of a manager. This individual is also to assist the Store Manager in the day-to-day activities associated with the store and the development and training of store sales associates, while ensuring that company standards are met at all times. The goal of this position is to be ready to step into a Store Manager role or another leadership role.

For more information apply to: [Maplefields.com/employment](mailto:Maplefields.com/employment) Manchester VT Store #37

Make your classifieds explode! Add a picture!

**Help Wanted****FREELANCE WRITERS  
WANTED**

For Manchester Journal. The Manchester area's local weekly newspaper, and daily online source of trusted quality journalism. We seek professional and experienced writers to help generate news for our publications. Assignments and compensation is based on experience.

If you are interested in more information please email a cover letter and sample of writing to [news@manchesterjournal.com](mailto:news@manchesterjournal.com)

**\$100 and Under**

INVAGARE HOSPITAL BED. Good cond. Electric head & foot height adjustments. Includes twin mattress. Must be picked up. \$99. 802 823 7881

SEWING MACHINE: Singer cabinet sewing machine. \$25. 802-823-5487

STEREO SPEAKERS: 3 Infinity 2way stereo speakers. \$40. 802-823-6487

THULE ROOF RACK with fairing. \$60. 802-823-5487

**\$100 and Under**

YAMAHA STEREO RECEIVER 5.1. \$80. 802-823-5487

**Articles for Sale**

TREAD MILL, Proform 630DS, great cond, lots of features, Must pick up. \$300 obo. 802-442-8959

**Merchandise Wanted**

WANTED TO BUY Sterling Silver, Costume Gold & Silver jewelry, Old silver coins, Civil War Era Photographs, Tin Types, Old Religious Items, and Old Railroad Collectibles. Call Jon Lee 618-527-0531



For Sale: Daily paper subscriptions. Call 1-800-245-0254.

**Pets**

AKC C PIES, go to the vet ch. come s

LOOKI everyw ads. Pl read. O





## TOWN OF BENNINGTON

### Town of Bennington Select Board Resolution

Be it resolved by the Select Board of the Town of Bennington, Vermont, as follows:

#### COVID-19 RULE

##### Select Board Strongly Recommends Wearing Face Masks in Public Indoor Spaces

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that face masks be worn by all people (vaccinated and unvaccinated) in public settings indoors in areas of "substantial" or "high" rates of "community transmission" of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, Bennington County is experiencing a high rate of community transmission and has been for more than a month; and

WHEREAS, all of Vermont is experiencing a high rate of community transmission and has been since October 29, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Bennington Select Board recognizes that COVID-19 remains a public health hazard in and around Bennington and believes that wearing a face mask indoors is an important act which can reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the many vulnerable people in our community; and

WHEREAS, in a special Legislative session called explicitly and solely for this purpose, the Vermont Legislature on November 22, 2021, passed a bill ("S.1") that empowers Vermont municipalities to enact local rules requiring the wearing of face coverings in indoor public settings, and the Governor has signed that bill into law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Select Board hereby issues the following COVID-19 Rule:

#### WEARING FACE MASKS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

##### STRONG RECOMMENDATION to wear Face Mask.

All establishments located in the Town of Bennington that invite the public into their premises for the purpose of receiving services, purchasing products, or otherwise transacting business, shall encourage both staff and customers (or visitors) to wear face masks over their nose and mouth while inside the establishment.

##### Exceptions.

Face masks are not required on young children under age 2 and should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

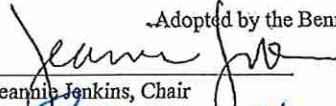
##### Posting of Requirement.

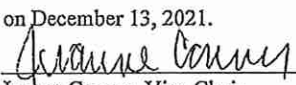
Each establishment is individually responsible to post signage at the entrance and at other appropriate locations stating that customers (or visitors) are Strongly Encouraged to wear face masks by order of the Bennington Select Board. (A standard sign is provided by the Town and attached to this Resolution.)

##### Effective Period.

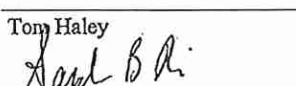
This Rule shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until the Bennington Select Board amends, rescinds, or suspends this Rule by future action in a properly warned meeting or when an action taken by the State of Vermont nullifies this Rule or the Select Board's authority to continue this Rule, whichever occurs first, but not longer than 45 days following date of adoption. In the interim, the Select Board intends to review this matter at every regularly scheduled Select Board meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month.

Adopted by the Bennington Select Board at its meeting on December 13, 2021.

  
Jeannie Jenkins, Chair

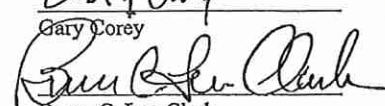
  
Jeanne Conner, Vice Chair

  
James Carroll

  
Tony Haley

  
Gary Corey

  
Sarah Perrin

  
Bruce C. Lee-Clark



**-WARNING-**

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
2022 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
VIA ZOOM**

The residents of the Town of Bennington qualified by law to vote in Town Meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet (via Zoom) in said Town on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., (or immediately following the SW. VT Union Elementary School District's Annual meeting should that run over) to transact the business specified to be done from the floor. Provisions for the hearing impaired will be in place for this meeting.

Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at The Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance). The Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the election of officers and voting on all ballot articles specified. However, those on the checklist to vote in the Village of North Bennington shall vote for the election of officers and on all ballot articles at the North Bennington Village office on Main Street in North Bennington. The Bennington Fire Facility above mentioned, is hereby established as the central polling place for those on the checklist to vote in said Bennington. Residents of Bennington and North Bennington may register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office, 205 South Street, Bennington, Vermont. Eligible residents registering on Election Day must do so at the polling place where they will cast their Town Meeting ballot.

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE "FLOOR"**

**Monday, February 28, 2022**

**7:30 P.M.**

**ARTICLE 1. TOWN REPORT:** To hear the report of Town Officers.

**ARTICLE 2. OTHER BUSINESS:** To transact such other proper business when met.

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY BALLOT  
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022  
THE POLLS TO BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.  
AT THE POLLING PLACES SPECIFIED ABOVE**

**SELECT BOARD ELECTION.** Three Select Board Members residing in the Town shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.

**TOWN MODERATOR ELECTION.** Town Moderator, an individual residing in the Town shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.

**TOWN TREASURER ELECTION.** Town Treasurer, an individual residing in the Town shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.

**ARTICLE 1.** Shall the Town appropriate for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, the total sum of \$14,718,930.00 consisting of the following: \$4,336,020.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the Town; and \$10,382,910.00 for the payment of the following: Any indebtedness not otherwise specifically provided for, interest on indebtedness, legally authorized State and County taxes, the prosecution and defense of the common rights and interests of the inhabitants of the Town, and for other necessary incidental expenses?

The proposed budget includes \$25,000.00 for fire equipment, \$5,000.00 for fire facilities, \$5,000.00 for technology improvements, \$13,000.00 for parking improvements, \$393,200.00 for healthcare reserve and workers compensation insurance, \$40,000.00 for marketing, \$100,000.00 for bridges and \$2,000.00 for well maintenance, any unexpended portion of which will be reserved to subsequent years for that purpose.

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 2.** Shall the voters set the Select Board's pay at \$1,400.00 annually?

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 3.** Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Project Against Violent Encounters?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$5,500.00 for Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$6,750.00 for BROCC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$7,000.00 for Vermont Center for Independent Living?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for The Tutorial Center?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 for Bennington Project Independence?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$12,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?**

**YES** ☐

**NO** ☐

**ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$15,000.00 for Sunrise Family Resource Center?**

**YES** ☐

**NO** ☐

**ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region?**

**YES** ☐

**NO** ☐

**ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2023 General Fund by the sum of \$25,000.00 for Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?**

**YES** ☐

**NO** ☐



BY THE SELECT BOARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeannette Jenkins, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanne Conner, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Carroll

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Haley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Corey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Perrin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce C. Lee-Clark

Dated at Bennington, Vermont this 24th day of January, 2022.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON**  
**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023**  
**FY23 FORECAST BASED ON FY22 GRANDLIST**

(Voter Approved Agencies (\$131,850) are included adding about \$0.01 to the tax rate)

TYPE CODE	TAX RATE DESCRIPTION	TAX DOLLARS RAISED	GRAND LIST VALUE	TAX RATE	FY22	CHG
0	GENERAL	8,441,780.00	10,292,830.25	0.8202	0.7862	0.0340
BENNINGTON LOCAL AGREEMENT-SCHOOL						
1	HIGHWAY	3,886,020.00	9,264,748.05	0.4194	0.4010	0.0184
2	FIRE - INSIDE	396,700.00	4,092,194.00	0.0969	0.0833	0.0136
3	FIRE - RURAL				1.2705	0.0660
4	OLD BENN VILLAGE					
6	D.I.C					
	LATE HS-131 PENALTY					
8	SCHOOL - HOMESTEAD					
9	SCHOOL - NON-RESIDENTIAL					
TOTAL		12,724,500.00				

*Please note the tax rates shown include the Agencies on the ballot. These increase the rate (Gen Fund) by \$0.01.*