

M E E T I N G N O T I C E
BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD
Monday, April 24, 2023
Bennington Fire Facility
Multi-Purpose Room - 3rd Floor
130 River Street
Bennington, Vermont 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 April 10, 2023	
B. Warrants	
C. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses	

4. Public Comment	6:05 PM - 6:20 PM
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5. Benn High Project Presentation	6:20 PM - 7:30 PM
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6. Implementing the Town Vision	7:30 PM - 7:40 PM
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7. Manager's Report	7:40 PM - 7:50 PM
Stuart Hurd	

8. Upcoming Agendas	7:50 PM - 7:55 PM
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9. Other Business	7:55 PM - 8:00 PM
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We endeavor to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Paul Dansereau, Facilities Director: pdansereau@benningtonvt.org or call 802-447-9715.

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

2 **130 RIVER STREET**

3 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

4 **APRIL 10, 2023**

5 **MINUTES**

6 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner-Vice Chair; Ed
7 Woods; Gary Corey; Jim Carroll; Sarah Perrin; and Tom Haley.

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

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Shannon Barsotti-Community Development
10 Director; Jonah Spivak-Communications Coordinator; Deborah Larkin-Bennington Sports
11 Foundation; Nancy Lee Taylor; Bruce Lierman; Sam Restino; Chad Gordon; Kelly Carroll; Jenny
12 Dewar and Jeanne Mintrone-BBC; Ned Perkins; Jack Rossiter-Mumley; Mary Ellen Mumley;
13 Madison Cramer and Curan VanDerWielen-Shires Housing; Tordis Isselhardt; Debbie Matte;
14 Nancy White; 20 citizens; Jim Therrien-Bennington Banner; Josh Boucher-CAT-TV; and Nancy H.
15 Lively-Secretary.

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

17 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

18 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

19 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

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

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

24 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

25 **A. MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2023 AND MARCH 31, 2023**

26 **B. WARRANTS**

27 **C. LIQUOR/TOBACCO LICENSES**

28 *Sarah Perrin moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as*
29 *presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

30 **4. REORGANIZATION**

31 ***Gary Corey moved and Sarah Perrin seconded the nomination of Tom Haley as Vice-***
32 ***Chair of the Bennington Select Board. The motion carried unanimously.***

33 ***Jeanne Conner moved and Jim Carroll seconded the nomination of Jeannie Jenkins as***
34 ***Chair of the Bennington Select Board. The motion carried unanimously.***

35 **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

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

50 _____
51 Nancy Lee Taylor: Lives in Pittsfield, MA, must move in 2 years, loves Bennington, wants to
52 move here, and is looking for housing. *Ms. Jenkins: Suggested connecting with the Council on*
53 *Aging.*

54 Bruce Lierman: Invited the community to attend the Bicycle Safety Course - CyclingSavvy 'Truth
55 and Techniques' Classroom Course to be held on April 19th from 6:00pm-9:00pm online. Sign
56 up at bit.ly/bikehub419 . We've had 6 winter classes on bicycle maintenance with 64 people in
57 attendance. We also supply anyone that needs safety gear with helmets, locks, lights and
58 reflective vests. The Bike Hub is located in the Bennington Mill.

59 Sam Restino: 1. Urges people to adopt a storm drain to keep them clean; 2. We are losing the
60 bowling alley, Northside Dairy Bar, and W. Collective - we must keep our businesses in town; 3.
61 Attend Nancy White's meeting at the Library on April 17th - changed from April 18th due to a
62 DRB meeting conflict.

Chad Gordon: Spoke against the raising of the Rec Center fees by 6% and by the cost of living each year thereafter. Most people don't get cost of living raises and this impacts our most vulnerable populations - children and retirees - and potentially may prevent the forming or continuing of lifelong recreation interests.

Kelly Carroll: 1. The VFW Post 13 Riders sponsored a murder mystery party to benefit Vermont Paws and Boots, an organization that trains service dogs for veterans and first responders. This took place on March 31st and \$3,820 was raised with all raffles donated back to the event. Thanks to all that participated. 2. The monthly Walloomsac River Walk will take place on April 22nd at People's Park at 10:00am. We will be doing cleanup and Cory Creagan, Bennington County Vermont State Forester, will be speaking on our trees and vegetation.

Nancy White: The purpose of her meeting on April 17th at 6:00pm at the Bennington Free Library is for Bennington residents to be educated and understand what has been going on behind closed doors the last 11 years. Also questioned that the Benn Hi lease states that the Town will own the Benn Hi building in exchange for the current Senior Center. Why don't people that are not Bennington residents get charged to go to the Senior Center? On April 3rd there was a 2 hour Q & A on Benn Hi held that wasn't on the Town website and why wasn't the public told? *Ms. Jenkins: At the April 24th Select Board meeting there will be a public presentation on the Benn Hi project and it was decided several years ago by the Seniors, themselves, not to charge non-residents to attend the Center. Mr. Spivak: We've had 4 public meetings on Benn Hi and there is a listing of all those meetings and every document related to the project on the website. We have been going to the Seniors on a regular basis since the onset of beginning discussions on the project. The April 3rd meeting at the Senior Center was the 5th one. These meetings are only for the seniors and they are not comfortable with them being recorded. All information we had at that time was shared, as always.*

Jenny Dewar-Better Bennington Corporation Director of Events: Shared the upcoming events calendar, such as First Fridays in July through September; Pop-Up shops on Saturdays; 5 Hemmings Cruises - May through September; Mayfest; Harvestfest; Queer Connect Parade and the Town Wide Tag Sale. Ms. Dewar introduced Jeanne Mintrone, the new BBC Director of Operations.

Jeanne Mintrone-Better Bennington Corporation Director of Operations: Spoke on the student's art project for the banners in the Downtown. Student's from elementary school to college will submit flags by May 10th and will be juried by the community with 48 chosen for display by Mayfest. All art work will be displayed on the BBC website. The State has agreed to match all fundraising dollars donated up to \$4,500 at a 2:1 rate. This is a Special Places Grant, if we can raise our portion by May 10th.

Jenny Dewar: Was disturbed by the number of people that complained about the Easter Egg Hunt this year. This was put on by volunteers who stepped up donating their own time and money to put on the event to only be criticized by those that did not step up.

Ned Perkins: Supports the Revolving Loan Program but feels the Select Board is approving these in Executive Session instead of Open Session and referred to 3 loans that totaled \$335,000 that were not approved in Open Session. This was a formal notice that the Town has violated the Open Meeting Law. *Mr. Carroll and Ms. Jenkins: The Select Board does not vote on Revolving Loans. The Community Development Director makes the decisions on Revolving Loans.*

Jack Rossiter-Mumley: The Bennington Community Café is open every Saturday from 1:30pm-3:00pm at 121 Depot Street outside of GBIC's. We have a full menu, take your order, and you decide what to pay even if that's nothing at all. We are building a strong volunteer base and have many homemade items. We also have clothing and music and are looking to expanding our hours.

Mary Ellen Mumley: Since we became aware of police presence in the elementary schools, there are a group of 18 citizens that are meeting regularly. We now have parents and teachers joining us, as well as, the Superintendent of Schools attending this week. We are working with the ACE summer school program who will be providing transportation to those elementary school children who would not be able to attend otherwise. Work being done is teachers and volunteers organizing a series of after school programs and distributing brochures to inform of services available at Sunrise. Also working with the YMCA summer school, the Juneteenth celebration, and Teacher Appreciation Week the 1st week in May are ongoing.

6. PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - CDBG APPLICATION FOR 612 GAGE STREET RECOVERY HOUSING

Ms. Barsotti explained that the Town is considering making an application to the State for CDBG/RHP funding under the Vermont Community Development Program. These are federal funds that flow through the State and to the municipalities to sub grant. The proposal is for Shires Housing to apply for \$500,000 in VCDP CDBG/RFP funds to rehab and retrofit construction of a 9-bedroom home located at 612 Gage Street for use as recovery housing. Turning Point Center will master lease the building to oversee the recovery housing program.

Madison Cramer added that she is leaving the area and Curan VanDerWielen will be taking over as the Shires Housing Development Director.

Public comments/questions answered by Madison Cramer:

Nancy White: Prior to the zoning changes done a couple of years ago, would recovery housing been allowed to go in across from the Rec Center? And, were home owners contacted prior to the approval of the first grant over a year ago? *We are following all current zoning requirements and we have followed all requirements as far as contacting neighbors.*

Sarah Perrin moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Resolution for Shires Housing to apply for the VCDP CDBG/RFP Grant for \$500,000.00 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7. BENNINGTON SPORTS FOUNDATION

Deborah Larkin stated the following:

- The Bennington Sports Foundation is a 501c3 organization that was formed in 2021 to give children and teens in Bennington an opportunity to reach their potential in sports and life.
- We are offering \$20,000 in grants at increments of \$2,000 each to programs who will seek out kids that are not currently participating in sports programs.
- We are also providing funding to programs to hire teens at \$15/hour to become leaders in the sports program.
- Last year we worked with Deshawn Hamlet/Back to the Future Basketball and the YMCA Camp, as well as, Counselor Training for the teens.
- We hope to raise \$500,000 this year and currently have \$300,000. Our intent is not to fundraise every year but once every 5 years.
- The volunteer Board and Staff are: Co-Chairs - Deborah Larkin and Jeannie Jenkins; Treasurer - Carolyn Blitz; Members - Angela Bevin, Jonathan Phipps, Steve Kimball, Melissa Morrison, and Carson Thurber.
- Website - www.benningtonsportsfoundation.org.

Board comments/questions answered by Ms. Larkin:

Ms. Conner: Do students have access to the Foundation if they want to play a school team sport? *Not at this time. However, the schools know who the kids are that need our help.*

8. STAFF UPDATES - COMMUNICATION

Jonah Spivak noted the following:

- The Bennington Banner and CAT-TV are good sources for information.
- He produces a monthly report in the Board's packet and on the Town website.
- Encourages participation on our Boards and Commissions. ~40 citizens take part in our 11 Boards and/or Commissions. Letters of Intent should be sent to the Town Manager.
- We will be having a Rail Trail Opening on May 6th at the Fire Facility Parking Lot. There will be an opening ceremony, ribbon cutting, the Annual Police Bike Rodeo, and free food and helmets.
- May 6th is also Green-Up Day and the Town provides bags at the Town Office. Town crews will pick up the garbage bags on the following Monday.
- The Community Policing Advisory Review Board (CPARB) will be having a listening session on June 29th.
- Our new Information Technology Director, Nick Cave, is mainly working on the Police Department's communication systems.
- The website is a great source of information. Let me know if you want to be made aware of anything new on a favorite page of yours through a new item, "E-Notify" and if there are any problems with it.

174 *Public comments/questions answered by Mr. Spivak:*

175 Sam Restino: Will there be a group coming back to reset the head stones that were vandalized
176 in the cemetery? *Shortly after the stones were vandalized in October, several people came*
177 *together from several towns and reset all of the stones in one day. But, since some were*
178 *broken, we will be getting together with the Vermont Old Cemetery Association on May 29th to*
179 *restore the broken stones.*

180 Bennington Resident: Stated that she is lucky to be able to walk the Rail Trail every day and is
181 “thrilled with the Rail Trail”. Her suggestion is to provide containers for owners to use for their
182 dog feces. *We have already started the process to do this.*

183 **9. TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

184 Mr. Hurd presented two amendments for our Traffic Ordinance Article 10 -

- 185 1. To extend the Winter No Parking overnight ban from March 31 until April 15 of a given
186 year. This will allow our DPW staff to fully clean up after the winter season. This Winter
187 No Parking ban begins on November 15th.
- 188 2. To increase the allowed speed on East Road from 35 to 40 mph. A study was conducted
189 by Jim Henderson at BCRC using the Guide to Setting Speeds on Vermont Roads
190 published by Vermont Local Roads. The results indicated that traffic can move safely on
191 the East Road at 40 - 45 mph. After discussions with the Chief and Lieutenant we
192 settled on 40 mph from Kocher Drive to the Shaftsbury Town line. This is just below the
193 average speed on the road of 42 mph.

194 *Public comments/questions:*

195 Mike Sausville: Lived on East Road for 35 years and said he has noticed over the last 2 years
196 that East Road has become “an Indianapolis Speedway” and there is no police presence. Said
197 he has spoken to others that live on East Road and they have complained to the police about
198 the speed, there is a lot of traffic since the store on East Road has re-opened, and accidents
199 have doubled or tripled in the last 1 ½ years. He also stated that the children at the Middle
200 School can walk to the store and back to get lunch without sidewalks.

201 Ms. Jenkins read an e-mail from the Michael and Sue Goldsmith disagrees with increasing the
202 speed limit citing that there are walkers, joggers, and bicyclists with no sidewalks after Duffy
203 Drive and feels this would encourage faster travel.

204 Debbie Matte: Heard on a news show that there was discussion about raising a speed limit on a
205 major highway to 65 or 75, and it was said that people were already going 85-90 and would go
206 faster if it was raised.

207 Tordis Isselhardt: A reminder that Willow Park will be attracting more traffic this summer.

208 *Board comments/questions:*

209 Mr. Corey: Verified that the school zone speed limit by the Middle School would remain 25
 210 mph. *Mr. Hurd: Yes.*

211 Ms. Conner: What is the benefit of raising the speed limit or the down side of not raising the
 212 speed limit? *Mr. Hurd: Not sure that there's a benefit or a down side. The roads were studied*
 213 *with ~9,000 vehicles on East Road travelling it from 11/9/2022 through 11/18/2022 and the*
 214 *thinking in the Standards is, if the speed limit is too low, people routinely ignore it and drive*
 215 *faster, whereas if the speed limit is set at the maximum that it should be on that road, people*
 216 *are more likely to drive at that speed.*

217 Mr. Woods: Do we know if traffic accidents have increased as Mr. Sausville has said? *Mr. Hurd: I*
 218 *don't have that information with me but we certainly can gather it. I don't believe, however,*
 219 *that accidents on East Road have increased. The intersection of Kocher Drive and East Road*
 220 *may be problematic at times but it is not one of our high crash areas.*

221 Mr. Woods: Understands the concept of people following a speed limit and the law that makes
 222 sense.

223 Ms. Conner: Can we gather information on how many people are walking that road? *Mr. Hurd:*
 224 *We don't have that information.*

225 Ms. Jenkins: Do we know where they were located when they did the study? *Mr. Hurd: I don't*
 226 *have that information but they looked at all of East Road.*

227 Mr. Haley: Would like to hear from more residents of East Road.

228 Mr. Corey: The Traffic Control Ordinance, 10-5.03 is Angle Parking, Generally. Do we still have
 229 angle parking? *Mr. Hurd: We do not. That will also need to be changed.*

230 ***It was decided to table Agenda #9. Traffic Ordinance Amendments until the May 8th***
 231 ***Select Board Meeting. Mr. Hurd will gather traffic accident information on East Road, ask Jim***
 232 ***Henderson if he can attend the May 8th meeting since he conducted the study on East Road,***
 233 ***and remove "Angle" from the 10-5.03 Ordinance section.***

234 **10. POLICE CONTRACT RATIFICATION**

235 Mr. Hurd explained that the contract with the Police New England Police Benevolent
 236 Association (NEPBA) will expire on June 30, 2024. I would seek to re-open the Contract to offer
 237 the police employees a raise similar to the DPW Contract. Currently contracted at 3%, we have
 238 agreed to increase that to 8.3%, matching the rate of inflation when the budget was built. In
 239 addition, we have agreed to an additional two years - extending the contract to June 30, 2026 -
 240 with raises at 5% or CPI-U in September of a given year whichever is higher, matching the DPW
 241 agreement. This is an incentive and retention move. The union employees have accepted this
 242 offer.

243 *Jim Carroll moved and Ed Woods seconded to ratify the NEPBA Contract as presented*
244 *and authorize the Town Manager to sign the contract as amended. The motion carried*
245 *unanimously.*

246 **11. IMPLEMENTING THE TOWN VISION**

247 Kelly Carroll, Chair of CPARB did the following presentation:

- 248 ✓ The next CPARB meeting is April 20th at the Fire Facility at 6:00pm.
- 249 ✓ We will be having a Listening Session on June 29th at the Fire Facility. More information
250 to come.
- 251 ✓ We have a comment area under the CPARB section of the Town's website for any
252 comments or concerns.
- 253 ✓ There is one open seat on the CPARB Board and applications are now being accepted.
254 Ms. Jenkins added:
- 255 ✓ We are going forward with Juneteenth on June 17th in the downtown at the old Tuttle
256 Lot across from Anytime Fitness.
- 257 ✓ Applications are now being accepted by Mr. Hurd for Boards and Commissions. The
258 open seats are on the website under Government, or News, or Public Notices, or search
259 for Boards and Commissions.

260 **12. MANAGER'S REPORT**

261 Mr. Hurd did the following report:

262 BBC Street Closures: Hemmings Cruise Ins and First Fridays -

263 *Jim Carroll moved and Tom Haley seconded to close Main Street from North Street to*
264 *Safford Street, School Street from Main to Pleasant Street, Pleasant Street from North to*
265 *School Street, and Valentine from Union Street to Main Street on May 18, 2023, June 15, 2023,*
266 *July 13, 2023, August 10, 2023, and September 14, 2023 from 4:00pm-8:00pm for the*
267 *Hemmings Cruise Ins, and close Main Street from North Street to Valentine Street on July 7,*
268 *2023, August 4, 2023, and September 1, 2023 from 4:00pm until 9:00pm for First Fridays.*

269 Ms. Perrin noted these are great events for the Town and we should approve these as
270 soon as possible.

271 *The motion carried unanimously.*

272 Armory Deal - Although currently off the table at some future point the Armory may yet again
273 become available. This is disappointing to both the Guard and the Town.

274 Information Technology Director - Reiterated the start of our new Information Technology
275 Director, Nick Cave, who will be focusing on the Police Department communications issues in
276 both the building and the vehicles. This has also freed up the Lieutenant's time to do police
277 work which is very helpful to us, as well.

278 Beech Street Violation/Foreclosure - We were told the owner of the building has appealed the
279 foreclosure. The Town has received fines totaling in excess of \$95,000 and will reimburse its
280 cost accrued this fiscal year to the General Fund and set aside the remainder for future clean
281 ups thereby reducing the pressure on the General Fund in future years. The new owner of the
282 building has already begun renovations and cleanup.

283 **13. UPCOMING AGENDA**

284 April 24, 2023 - Benn Hi Update

285 May 8, 2023 - Traffic Ordinance Amendments

286 **14. OTHER BUSINESS**

287 Ms. Conner and Mr. Carroll: Enjoy the warm weather.

288 Ms. Jenkins: Thank you to the Bennington Banner and all of the other sponsors of the Easter
289 Egg Hunt. It was spectacular.

290 Mr. Haley: Noted how nice the Bennington Museum is and urged everyone to go see for
291 themselves.

292 Ms. Perrin: Commented on what a nice time the Easter Egg Hunt was and thanked everyone
293 who participated.

294 Mr. Woods: Is looking forward to working with the Board and should we be revisiting the Rec
295 Center rate increases? Ms. Jenkins noted that we should be mindful of the effects of the
296 increase, and Mr. Hurd added to watch for the scholarships that the YMCA offers. We will be
297 providing those increases to the Board in February each year but they won't begin until July.
298 Mr. Woods is just concerned that there will be those that don't utilize the scholarships or
299 subsidies.

300

301 ***At 7:56pm, Jim Carroll moved and Sarah Perrin seconded the adjournment of the***
302 ***meeting. The motion carried unanimously.***

303

304

305 Respectfully submitted,

306 Nancy H. Lively

307 Secretary

308

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

2023 LICENSE APPLICATIONS

2023 1st Class Renewals

1. Chili's Grill & Bar
2. Elks Lodge #567

2023 2nd Class Renewals

1. North Bennington Variety
2. Elm Street Market
3. Bennington Beverage Outlet
4. Henry's Market

2023 3rd Class Renewals

1. Chili's Grill & Bar
2. Elks Lodge #567

2023 Outside Consumption Permit Renewals

1. Elks Lodge #567
2. Farm Road Brewing

2023 Tobacco & Tobacco Substitute Renewals

1. Bennington Beverage

**The Bennington Select Board hereby approves the above
2023 License Applications
Dated: April 24, 2023**

Jeannie Jenkins, Chair

MANAGER'S REPORT
April 24, 2023

ACTION

Nothing at this time.

INFORMATIONAL

Select Board Annual Calendar Attached you will find the Annual Calendar which provides a general time frame for the major programs/issues/actions that come before the Board annually.

Exceptions to the Purchasing Policy Attached you will find the Exceptions to the Purchasing policy memorandum provided annually as required by the Policy. It is updated annually to keep the Board fully advised.

Willow Park Playground Update See the attached update from Paul Dansereau.

Boards and Commission openings As of this writing, we have five individuals seeking appointment to one of fifteen openings.

FOLLOW UP

The Communications Coordinator's Report is attached.


The Police Department Report is attached.

SELECT BOARD ANNUAL CALENDAR

- Apr Board reorganization-first meeting.
Manager supplies Purchasing Policy exceptions
Staff evaluations performed by the Manager are to be completed by June.
- May Water /sewer budgets presented to Board. Board begins review.
Downtown Improvement District funding set by Board after review of requests.
BBC Workplan reviewed as part of DID funding determination.
Boards and Commissions appointment process begins.
- Jun Water/sewer budgets adopted by Board and rates set. Town and DID tax rates set.
Manager sets employee salary increases for the coming year.
Juneteenth celebration
- July Last opportunity to set tax rate for General, Highway Fund, and Fire Fund.
Last opportunity to hear and accept BBC Work Plan and set DID tax rate.
- Aug Tax bills are mailed. Nov 10th is the adopted due date. It may be pushed back due to weekend or Veteran's Day calendar.
- Sept Biannual Citizen Survey is published for return by November/ early December.
- Oct Staff begins General and Highway Fund budget development. Board may provide direction on salary increases for non-union employees and overall budget increase. If union contract expiring next June 30, negotiations may start.
- Nov General and Highway Fund taxes due. Manager evaluation performed by Board.
Manager continues review of department budgets.
- Dec Late December, Manager presents budgets to Board and Board schedules work sessions. Applications from agencies not petitioning are provided to Board.
- Jan Board reviews and adopts budgets by end of the month. Sets pay for Manager, Clerk and Treasurer. Petitioned Articles added to Warning.
Board signs Warning for Annual Meeting at last meeting in January.
- Feb At the 2nd Board meeting, the School/Town budgets presented to the public.
- Mar. Annual Town Meeting first Tuesday in March; floor meeting the night before.

MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board

From: Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager 

Re: Exceptions to the Purchasing Policy
Multi Year Agreements

Date: April 18, 2023

The Purchasing Policy requires notification to the Board no later than April 30th of a given year for Professional Services Exceptions. The Policy also requires notification to the Board for Sole Source Purchases within 30 days. I will be including these Sole Source vendors because this is the first year and some of these were in place before the Policy was revised. Multi Year Agreements must also be sent to the Board. I will include the current vendors as well.

Professional Services Exceptions

These exceptions are “characterized by a high degree of professional judgement, discretion and continuity including legal, financial, auditing, engineering, and insurance services”.

MSK Engineering

Provides engineering and surveying services for the municipal water system, for pathway projects, for forestry and land management purposes.

Roy Schiff

River science engineering

Paul Miller

Provides environmental engineering services for pollution/contamination matters.

Woolmington, Campbell, Bent and Stasny PC

Provides legal services for all departments except those covered by our Property and Casualty Insurer, PACIF (VLCT).

RHR Smith and Company

Auditing services

Newport Group

Provides retirement group actuarial services for the audit, a new GASB requirement.

A+E Engineering

Provides engineering and surveying services for the municipal wastewater system and treatment plant

White & Burke

Real estate development assistance

Sole Source Exceptions

These vendors have been selected because they are the only possible source.

A&K Slipforming

Concrete curb installation

Lafaso Electric

Provides traffic control services for signal lights and controllers.

Morse Repair

Provides repair services for all heavy equipment and large trucks not under warranty from dealer. They are the only one local with the capabilities.

Peckham Industries

Provides all concrete for municipal projects; the only one available.

Sherwin Williams Paints

Only provider of traffic paint.

Electrical Installations Ins

Provides WTF SCADA maintenance.

LCS Controls

Provides WWTF SCADA maintenance.

Hach

Provides water instrumentation service and calibration.

Green Mountain Pipeline

Slip lining services-only competitive bidder.

Surpass Chemical

Provides polymer and chlorine to WTF.

Airgas

Bulk carbon dioxide for WTF

Holland Company

Provides sodium bisulfate.

Evoqua

Provides sodium bioxide for odor at West Rd sewer pump station.

Endyne

Does water quality testing for water and wastewater.

EMA

Provide maintenance on variable frequency drives for water and wastewater.

BDP

Provides repair parts and labor for all dewatering and compost equipment.

Multi Year Agreements

These are agreements ranging in length from three years to five years.

Wells Communications

Provides radio maintenance services to all departments.

Repeat Business Solutions

Provides copier lease agreements for most departments ranging in length as noted above.

First Choice Communications

Provides telephone hardware and maintenance services.

Consolidated Communications

Provides telephone, internet, and ELAN Network services for all departments.

Ingram Micro

Provides Cisco/Meraki product and design services.

Streak Wave

Provides WIFI gear and managed products.

Promethean

Provides BPD smartboards.

RCS Consulting

Provides internet and computer software assistance.

R.C. Pembroke and Sons

Provides tree planting and maintenance and island planting and maintenance for multiple locations.

Sweet William Garden Design

Provides downtown planting design and maintenance.

Procom

Provides radio maintenance services to DPW.

Prue Electric/Hathaway Electric/Monument Electric/Bronson Electric

Provide electrical services for water, wastewater, buildings and grounds, and highway.

Brookfield

Provides Generator maintenance for DPW.

April 19, 2023

Town of Bennington Willow Park Play Structure Project Update

Prepared by: Paul T. Dansereau

- 1. Purpose:** Provide the Town of Bennington Select Board an update of the Willow Park Play Structure Project.
- 2. Recent Activities:**
 - a. On April 6th an onsite meeting was held with Play By Design Project Manager and Town of Bennington Willow Park Playground Committee to discuss:
 - i. The remaining scope of work requirements for the project which includes:
 1. Correct sections of rubber installation which did not meet required specifications of fall height protection in vicinity of the swings and slide areas.
 2. Emplace additional engineered wood chips on the Lower Playground
 3. Complete curbing around the Lower Willow Exercise Areas
 4. Install swings
 5. Complete final landscaping touchups
 6. Complete 3rd Party Safety Audit
 - ii. The project timeline
 - iii. Re-emphasized the Town of Bennington's position to ensure the project is completed to specifications, maintains design aesthetics, and is completed in a timely manner.
 - b. On April 13th Play by Design personnel and a rubber installation crew from JMCR Safety Surfacing Corp (from Carle Place NY) mobilized on site.
 - c. On April 15th it was discovered the top coat being emplaced on the Lower Willow Park was not the same color match as the top coat emplaced in November.
- 3. Work Remaining:**
 - a. Curbing:
 - i. On April 19th the Buildings & Grounds Dept began the excavation and stone preparation installation for the curb section.
 - ii. On April 21st the curbing contractor is scheduled to be on site to complete the curbing installation
 - b. Swing Installation:
 - i. Missing installation hardware was recently identified, and Play by Design has ordered the required equipment. The anticipated delivery is next week.
 - ii. Play By Design will mobilize to install the swings.
 - c. Lower Willow Park Rubber Status:
 - i. The rubber installation on both Upper and Lower Playground now meets required fall protection specifications.
 - ii. Play by Design acknowledges the aesthetics and design issues created by the mismatched colors of the Lower Playground
 - iii. Currently awaiting Play By Design plan to correct the Lower Playground rubber Top Coat.
 - d. 3rd Party Safety Audit:
 - i. Once swing installation is completed the 3rd Party Safety Audit May be conducted at the Upper Playground and the Lower Playground
 - ii. Date of the safety audit is to be determined.
- 4. Project Completion Date:** A final completion date is unknown. Anticipate Upper Willow Playground to be opened for use by Mid May. Lower Willow Playground rubber top coat corrections may delay its opening and additional details for the corrections are forthcoming.

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Town of Bennington

Communications Coordinator Report — April 24, 2023

It's Spring!

It looks like we are done with winter, and the town is busy getting everything ready for summer. We are also making good progress on a number of projects that have been in the works for some time now, including the Willow Park playground renewal which is now at the one year point from when we started. This was a short month for me as I was away for a week of vacation.

Get Involved in Your Local Government

A final call for folks who are interested in serving on a board or commission. Letters of Interest for those who would like to serve on a town board or commission are due by May 1st. This is a great way to be directly involved in your Town and community! For more information, visit the Town website and look under "Government" and select "Join Town Government."

Community Outreach

Planning is well underway for a public ribbon cutting ceremony for the Rail Trail on May 6, Green Up Day. The event is now also in collaboration with the annual Bike Rodeo which is a program run by the Bennington Police Association. The event will be from 10 am to noon at the parking lot behind the Bennington Fire House. A short ribbon cutting ceremony will occur at 10 am. There will be free food and free bike helmets given away. Bring your bike! Do the bike safety course and be entered to win a free bike. Other partners include the Bike Hub, the Garden Club and probably other community organizations. This event is also part of the Alliance for Community Transformations (ACT) Youth Appreciation Month. A community clean up of the trail is also part of the event in honor of Green Up Day, with the town providing garbage bags and pickup of the collected garbage.

Willow Park Playgrounds

No project is more on my mind than the Willow Park Playgrounds. With the return of nice weather, the completion of this project is of utmost importance. Completion of this work was delayed when staff discovered issues with the curbing and other punch list items that dragged on until winter prevented it from being completed before winter. Work on the playgrounds has resumed and is very close to being completed. We hope to have that work completed in the very near future.

Organizational Outreach

I met with BCCH, PAVE, as well as a GBCS grant leadership team as part of my outreach work to other organizations this past month. I also have a monthly meeting with the director of Turning Point as well as my counterpart at the SVSU to keep lines of communication open, to learn about upcoming issues, and to share information. I was also peripherally involved in assisting with the logistics of the State-directed community effort that has resulted in the "Project Alliance" which we hope will lead to good results in the future.

Citizen Outreach and Public Record Requests:

I was in contact with citizens seven times over this past month on a variety of issues, ideas, and concerns. There were three public record requests to my office.

250th Anniversary Planning:

Planning work for the 250th anniversaries continues with a major regional meeting with twenty 250th planners from NY, MA, CT, RI, and VT this past week. A full committee meeting of the Bennington 250th Anniversary committee happens this coming Monday right before the Select Board meeting. A launch of a website for the Bennington 250th is in the works and I will be asking the Select Board to give time for me to give an update on planning work in June or July.

Website Development

The new unified town websites are running smoothly. I continue to work on improving ADA accessibility with improvements to the site coding to make it more compatible with JAWS style web page readers that are used by blind people to navigate websites. I am now beta testing a new feature that allows site visitors to subscribe to pages on the website so they will be automatically notified when an update is made. This is handy for folks who want to know when minutes are posted, new bids are available, or when new public notices are available. If this is of interest, please do try out the service by going to the category "How do I" and choose "get notified of website updates"

Community Based Learning (CBL) Intern

Kayla Thompson, the assistant Town Clerk, has been the lead in overseeing our CBL intern Thomas Scheetz who continues to impress us with his tremendous work ethic and dedication. His primary work has been the digitization of cemetery maps.

Benn High Redevelopment

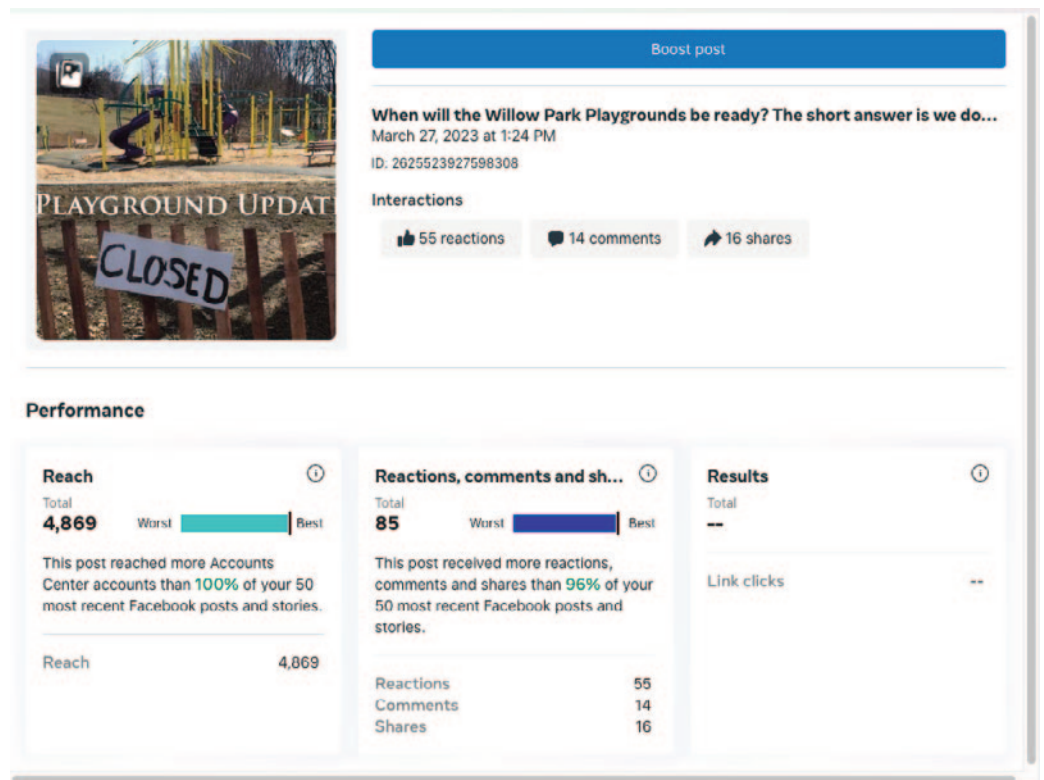
I am active in supporting Dan and Shannon who are the leads in the pre-development work planning around the Benn High project. Most recently we held an informational meeting with Seniors with an update on progress and I am currently working on the public presentation update that will be presented at this next Select Board meeting.

Facebook POST OF THE MONTH:

Not surprisingly, the update on the Willow Park playgrounds was our biggest post of the month.

While we don't always have good news to report, our goal is to get the information out there so folks know what is going on.

I am looking forward to being able to post about the playgrounds being finished and seeing what kind of reach that has!



Bennington Police Department
Public Safety

Report to the Bennington Select Board

APRIL 2023

Chief Paul Doucette and Lieutenant Camillo Grande represented the Bennington Police Department at Bennington College on April 4, 2023, when Senator Peter Welch presented to a group of local residents. Chief Doucette had an opportunity to speak with Senator Welch prior to the event explaining some of the issues law enforcement currently faces. Senator Welch was attentive and used some of the information as talking points during his presentation. It was a pleasure to have Senator Welch visit our community and listen to our local residents' voice issues.

The Bennington Police Department participated in the Distracted Driving Enforcement Mobilization - April 6-10, 2023. During this campaign we utilized grant funding and participated in high visibility patrols locating people texting or using hand held electronic devices. Many people are still using hand held electronic devices in violation of Vermont law. A total of 86 Vermont Civil Violations were issued during the campaign.

Working with IT Director Nicholas Cave is a priority at the Bennington Police Department. We are busy installing new technology in the police facility as well as the patrol vehicles. New computers are being deployed in the building as well as the patrol vehicles.

We just secured a grant from the State of Vermont Highway Safety Office for the purchase of in car scanners and printers allowing Officers to electronically issue and submit Vermont Civil Violation Complaints. This is a new process for the Bennington Police Department. Printers and scanners will be installed in all of the front-line police vehicles as soon as the equipment is received.

April 9 – 15, 2023 was National Telecommunicators Week. President Clinton signed Presidential Proclamation 6667, declaring the second week of April as NPSTW. This week is used as a time to celebrate and thank telecommunications personnel across the nation who serve our communities, citizens, and public safety personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated communications staff at the Bennington Police Department. They answer phone calls, dispatch police, fire and rescue personnel for Bennington and North Bennington as well as fire and rescue for the Town of Pownal. They are amazing!!!!

Planning is well under way for our next community event as we will be hosting at Bicycle Rodeo at the Bennington Fire Department on May 6, 2023. The event will take place beginning at 10:00AM and will end at noon. We will be fitting bicycle helmets, grilling hot dogs and instructing bicycle safety. We will also be participating in the opening celebration of the new rail trail.