M E E T I N G N O T I C E
BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD
Monday, March 25, 2024
Bennington Fire Facility
Multi-Purpose Room – 3rd Floor
130 River Street
Bennington, Vermont 05201

AGENDA
6:00 PM

1.	Pledge of Allegiance	6:00 PM - 6:05 PM
2.	Vision Statement	
3.	Consent Agenda A. Minutes of March 11, 2024 B. Warrants C. Liquor Licenses, if any	6:05 PM - 6:10 PM
4.	Public Comment	6:10 PM - 6:25 PM
5.	Bennington Career Month Proclamation	6:25 PM - 6:35 PM
6.	State of Vermont Motel Voucher Program Update	6:35 PM - 6:55 PM
7.	Better Places Grant Resolution	6:55 PM - 7:10 PM
8.	Manager's Report	7:10 PM - 7:20 PM
9.	Upcoming Agenda	7:20 PM - 7:25 PM
10.	Other Business	7:25 PM - 7:40 PM

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.

BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

130 RIVER STREET

BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201

MARCH 11, 2024

MINUTES

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

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Carroll.

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Jonah Spivak-Communications Coordinator; Shannon Barsotti-Community Development Director; Michael McDonough-Planning Commission Chair; Bridgette Elder-Planning Commission Member; Lora Block; Representative Mary Morrissey; Maria Krause; Debbie Matte; Nancy White; Sam Restino; Clark Adams; 10 citizens; Josh Boucher-CAT-TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. PERSONNEL

At 5:45pm, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order.

At 5:46pm, it was moved and seconded to go into Executive Session for Personnel. The motion carried unanimously with Jim Carroll absent.

At 6:00pm, the meeting returned to Open Session.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. VISION STATEMENT

Mr. Haley read the Town's Vision Statement that was adopted by the Select Board on August 24, 2020:

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2024

B. WARRANTS

C. LIQUOR LICENSES

Jeanne Conner moved and Ed Woods seconded to approve the Consent Agenda amended as follows:

Line 82, Change "Carroll." to "Carroll. Ms. Jenkins stated that this was ruled out of order."

Line 217, Change "Robe" to "Road"

Line 222, Change "We no longer say Jews or Colored, and don't tell Polish jokes." to "It is no longer acceptable to call Jews or people of color mini slang terms and telling Polish jokes is frowned upon."

The location of Hazara Food Mart is at the Gulf Station on South Street.

The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.

5. 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. Speakers are required to state their legal 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.

7. Once an individual's comment is finished, unless a Board member has a clarifying questions, the speaker is asked to take their seat.

8. When appropriate, Town staff and/or Select Board members will respond to questions or issues raised during public comment at the end of public comment. If additional explanation is desired, members of the public are encouraged to contact Town staff in person during regular business hours, or via e-mail or phone.

9. When an agenda item is a presentation to the board, and after the board has asked any questions, the public may comment. Any public comment on the presentation will be directed to the board chair. The board chair may answer or ask the presenter to answer at their discretion.

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Representative Mary Morrissey: 1. There will be a Public Hearing with Eye Care who will be purchasing the Bennington Health and Rehab on Monday, April 1, 2024, at the Fire House from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Hopefully this will answer some of the questions that folks have. 2. How can you go into Executive Session before we have a meeting and will you tell us what the Executive Session is about? *Ms. Jenkins: The meeting was called to order and went right into Executive Session and this was on the Agenda. An action related to this Executive Session will come up later on the Agenda.*

Maria Krause: We should have a list of non-profits, foundations, charities, and organizations where Select Board members, and our Town Manager are involved in to minimize potential conflict of interest. There should be a requirement to state why someone is stepping aside and consequences if they don't. Our current Conflict of Interest Policy isn't enough. *Ms. Jenkins: Our Conflict of Interest Policy does require stating why someone would be stepping aside and your broader issue should be taken on by a new Board which we will have very soon.*

Debbie Matte: 1. Was confused by the dual sign-up sheets - one for the road name changes and one for Public Comment - at the last meeting thinking that it wasn't necessary to sign up for Public Comment. *Ms. Jenkins: Open Meeting Law requires that we have those that are going to speak sign up so this can be recorded for public record.* 2. Had asked for an update on the voucher status at the last meeting and has yet to have an answer. *Ms. Jenkins: Has reached out to the Agency of Human Services (AHS) and "everything is status quo" at this time. AHS is working on it and we will know more when they do.* 3. Is curious how the additional $11M attached to the Benn High project will affect the project.

Nancy White: 1. Is curious why the Benn High project has gone from $29M to $41M and why that hasn't been announced? *Mr. Monks: There is a fixed amount from the Town that doesn't change with any cost increase. All Benn High project increases are Hale Resources responsibility. Mr. Spivak: Noted that the website does refer to the cost increase, however, that needs to be done - and will be - at the bottom for clarification. It also lists the Town's contribution portion and that the Town will help Hale Resources secure funding when possible.* 2. Is also concerned about the presence of asbestos in the building. *The Town did air quality tests in the part that we will be leasing and there is no asbestos in that part. Hale Resources has also done air quality tests in their part of the building and there is minimal presence of asbestos in the residential area. Hale Resources will be removing it.*

Sam Restino: 1. There was a fire on the West End that may affect the solar panels. We need contact information for the details on evacuation if necessary. 2. There should have been acknowledgements to Grace Christian and our Wrestling Team for their successes. 3. Some of the crosswalks that are more in need of repair should have work done on them prior to May. 4. We should put together an informational manual for new people coming to Town, as well as, those that have lived here instead of just referring everyone to the website. *Mr. Spivak: He will be working on a "cheat sheet" for people coming to Bennington.*

Clark Adams: Understands the partnership between the Town and Hale Resources. There has been an additional $1M procured for this project and is wondering what direction this money will be going in. *Ms. Barsotti: This money will be coming from the State through HUD as an Economic Development Initiative to Hale Resources probably for the Child Care Center but will be flowing through the Town like other funding does for housing.*

6. REVIEW CHELSEA SOLAR PREFILED TESTIMONY

Mr. Monks did the following presentation:

- Chelsea Solar, LLC have proposed a "substantial change" to the previously filed Chelsea solar project adjacent to the Apple Hill Subdivision.
- The only substantive change proposed is a revised grading plan that does not include the extensive excavation of the site to "lower" the solar array to improve screening of the array.
- In January of 2024, in response to the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC) filing regarding a "substantial change", the Planning Commission reiterated their recommendation that the revised Chelsea Solar Plan does not comply with the Town Plan.

Sarah Perrin moved and Ed Woods seconded to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation that the revised Chelsea Solar Plan does not comply with the Town Plan.

Lora Block: Thanked the Select Board for their motion in support of the PUC filing and the Planning Commission's recommendation. As a resident of Apple Hill, we have been dealing with Chelsea Solar for 13 years, and everything they have proposed has been denied by PUC and the Supreme Court. They knew years ago that they couldn't use that lot for commercial use but were proposing to dump the soil on it from the 18' dig to lower the solar array.

The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.

7. PLANNING COMMISSION PATHWAY NAME RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Barsotti, Mr. Spivak, and Mr. McDonough did the following presentation:

- A subcommittee made up of Ms. Barsotti, Mr. Spivak, Mr. Monks, Bridget Elder-Planning Commission Member, and Mark Anders-Bennington County Regional Commissions

(BCRC) submitted a report to the Planning Commission who made the following Pathway System Naming Recommendations.

- Pathway systems draw people to a community and encourage economic development.
- The pathway development was based on local themes and geography, and to target the users of the paths.
- Public outreach included social media, traditional media outlets, and the Town website with 25 people commenting on this process.
- We had a broad system to identify with very specific elements within that system that we wanted to identify with their own specific names recognizable to the community.
- Community input was very much in favor of the Walloomsac Valley Path, Willow Park Path, and the Molly Stark Path, whereas the Bennington Community Pathways was more of a combination of different suggestions.
    - ***Bennington Community Pathways*** - is the entire system/network of trails and pathways going North and through downtown Bennington but does not include mountain bike and hiking trails.
    - ***Walloomsac Valley Path*** - North/South shared use path (downtown to Bennington College and possibly to North Bennington) will be identified with prominent signs as the ***Walloomsac Valley Path***. *Rail/Trail and Ninja Trail* - to be subsumed by this name.
    - ***Riverwalk*** - Through the efforts of Tom Bluto and the Federal Government was built and has been there for years with some extensions to the East and to the West but didn't really go anywhere. The ***Riverwalk*** will be included as part of the ***Walloomsac Valley Path,*** but the ***Riverwalk's*** identity will be preserved in some manner and referred to as the ***Riverwalk*** since it was the first, as well as, being the home of the future Skateboard Park.
    - ***Willow Park Path -*** Kocher Drive and East Road paths.
    - ***Molly Stark Path -*** Orchard Village/Willowbrook/Molly Stark School path.
- Going forward we are looking at connecting Williamstown to Bennington with a pathway along the old trolley line and the Route 279 right-of-way. Meetings have been going on with the BCRC and representatives from Pownal and Massachusetts.

Jeanne Conner moved and Ed Woods seconded to accept the Planning Commission's naming/branding recommendations for the shared use path system in Bennington as presented.

Mr. Woods: Thanked the presenters for the shout out to Tom Bluto, who was his father-in-law, and for the work over the past 25 years that has been put into the pathway system that he had raised his kids on.

Ms. Conner: Hoped that the map of the pathways would be on the visitor "cheat sheet" that will be worked on soon, and offered to help organize some Town Walks on the pathways when the weather breaks.

Ms. Jenkins: Reiterated the tribute to Tom Bluto for his work on the Riverwalk and organizing walks on it.

Mr. Corey: Also thanked everyone for their hard work.

Sam Restino: This reinforces the history in our Town and we should embrace it.

Mr. Monks: There were two bridges on the Ninja Path that needed to be fixed - one has been fixed and the other one will be done within the next 3 weeks. Then the entire Waloomsac Park Path will be accessible.

The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.

8. BENN HI CONTRACT EXTENSION

Ed Woods moved and Sarah Perrin seconded to approve the amendment to the Lease/Purchase Agreement with Chris Gilbert extending the date the Town may terminate the agreement from June 30, 2024 to September 30, 2024 and to authorize the Town Manager to sign the amendment. All other terms of the Lease/Purchase Agreement remain in place.

Nancy White: Doesn't find where it is stated that Chris Gilbert will pay the Town $400,000 for the current Senior Center building, and urges to vote this motion down. Ms. Jenkins noted that this is "100% inaccurate information" and suggested that Ms. White meet with Mr. Monks or Mr. Hurd to review what is on the website.

Nancy White: What is the total cost of the project? Mr. Monks answered the total project cost at this time is $42M with the Town's portion is $2.9M. In January, 2024, Hale Resources had secured 60% of their funding and that percent is higher now.

The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.

9. STREET NAMING COMMITTEE

Ms. Jenkins explained that the purpose of the Executive Session prior to the meeting was to affirm the charge of the Committee and to name the slate for consideration.

Charges to the Street Naming Committee:

1. The Committee shall research the names of Squaw Hill Road and Gypsy Lane for the purposes of placing historical, rather than commemorative, signage in both areas and for the purpose of presenting at least two possible names for Squaw Hill Road.
2. The names shall be presented to the Town Manager by April 2, 2024 and presented to the Select Board at a public meeting on April 8, 2024. Street names chosen shall recognize any known history of the street or the area, shall not duplicate or nearly duplicate any other known street names already in existence

in Bennington to avoid 911 confusion, shall be a reasonable name, and shall not be considered derogatory or humorous.

Ed Woods moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to accept the Street Naming Committee charges as presented and for Bruce Lee-Clark, Martha Mackey, and Scott Frost to be the slate on the Street Naming Committee.

Scott Frost: Christine Lewis wanted to serve on the Committee but didn't realize the process to do so. Ms. Jenkins stated that there will be information forwarded to the Committee that can be shared with anyone that is interested. Mr. Monks added that the Committee meetings are open to the public for anyone to attend.

Nancy White: Will the residents of Squaw Hill Road have any input on the name, and Ms. Jenkins answered that they already have and that will be forwarded to the Committee.

Mr. Haley: Thanked everyone that expressed an interest in serving on this Committee but weren't chosen to volunteer again as we're always looking for those that want to participate.

The motion carried with Sarah Perrin abstaining and Jim Carroll absent.

10. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Monks read the following report prepared by Mr. Hurd:

Answers to Public Comment Questions from February 26th Meeting:

Scott Davis asked about the green space associated with the Skatepark, and its relation to the adjacent parking lot. The designers are working to expand the green belt associated with the Skatepark to ensure preservation of trees there.

Clarke Adams asked about placing Purple Heart Community signs since Appalachian Trail Community signs have been installed. I did approach Clarke after the meeting to let him know, we would be willing to look at how those signs were placed and see if there is an opportunity to do the same for the Purple Heart Community signs.

Martha Mackey asked about faded crosswalks. We paint crosswalks every spring, so they are refreshed and more visible.

The Winter Parking Ban notice and signage were questioned. The Winter Parking Ban is between November 15 and now April 15 of a given season. It is posted at the entrances to the community and highlighted every November before it takes effect. Usually, warnings are placed on vehicles when it first takes effect so that residents can find off-street parking for the winter months.

11. UPCOMING AGENDAS

March 25, 2024 - Bennington Career Month Proclamation

March 25, 2024 - Hometown Heroes

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Perrin: Wished her father a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Haley: Noted that Gary Corey's last meeting is March 25th.

Ms. Conner: Read the thank you card from the Vermont Old Cemetery Association for the Town's $500 donation.

At 7:09pm, the adjournment of the meeting was moved and seconded. The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy H. Lively

Secretary

SELECT BOARD
MINUTES ADDENDUM
March 11, 2024

Present: Jeannie Jenkins, Chair, Tom Haley, Vice Chair, Ed Woods, Jeanne Conner
Also Present: Dan Monks, Assistant Town Manager

At 5:45 PM, Jeannie Jenkins, Chair, called the Select Board meeting to order.

At 5:46 PM Ed Woods moved, and Tom Haley seconded, that the meeting be adjourned, and an Executive Session be held on a personnel matter. Action will be taken in Open Session after the Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 5:46 PM the Board went into Executive Session for a personnel matter.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:53 PM and at 6 PM resumed Open Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Monks

By Vendor For Check Acct 04 Checks 400555 To 400613

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
400555	ADS - CUSTOMER SUPPORT (4	03/07/24	70028590	State Email Accounts	10,561.76	01-4100.340
400556	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES,	03/12/24	1T6XCFAR1KMM	Hose for Shop	228.92	02-5170.210
400557	BENNINGTON HIGH LLC	03/12/24	03/12/24	Lease Agreement	5,252.00	01-7800.650
400558	BENNINGTON TIRE CORPORATI	03/05/24	119265	Junk Tire Disposal	13.50	02-5120.560
400559	BERKSHIRE CONCRETE CORP.	03/12/24	31234	Floor Drain Project	4,477.36	02-5170.220
400560	BERKSHIRE FAMILY YMCA	03/12/24	03/12/24	Management Services	12,000.00	01-7100.561
400561	BETTER BENNINGTON CORPORA	03/12/24	03/06/24	DT Maint01/29/24-02/25/23	1,007.60	01-3710.560
		03/12/24	03/12/24	Orerating Grant	7,874.41	62-8700.560
				TOTAL CHECK	8,882.01	
400562	BLUE FLAME GAS CO., INC.	03/12/24	104428	303869 - Benn Hi	144.30	01-7800.770
400563	BROWN FORESTRY PRODUCTS L	03/06/24	INV003218	Knife - 1 Hole Rev A	567.20	02-5330.220
		02/16/24	INV003200	Mower w/Mulching Head	16,296.51	02-5330.830
				TOTAL CHECK	16,863.71	
400564	CASELLA WASTE SYSTEMS, IN	02/19/24	740605	N. Benn - Trash	30.00	01-5430.560
		02/12/24	740577	Mt Anthony - Trash	31.07	01-5430.560
		02/19/24	740608	Mt Anthony - Trash	30.00	01-5430.560
		02/12/24	740571	Trash	701.76	42-5480.560
		02/26/24	740622	Trash	371.42	01-5430.560
		02/19/24	740602	Trash	390.23	42-5480.560
					91.45	02-5120.560
					13.31	01-5430.560
		03/01/24	740647	Trash	108.29	01-5430.560
					154.71	42-5480.560
		03/01/24	740649	N Benn - Trash	30.00	01-5430.560
		03/01/24	1213549	Recycling	5,247.09	01-5430.570
		03/01/24	1213681	Compost	433.00	01-5430.570
				TOTAL CHECK	7,632.33	
400565	CDW GOVERNMENT INC	02/26/24	PT96195	Printer Repair Parts	188.64	42-5400.680
					188.64	41-5900.680
				TOTAL CHECK	377.28	
400566	COMCAST	03/03/24	03/03/24	8773 50 030 0281422	106.83	02-5100.340
400567	CRAIG LEMIEUX	03/12/24	03/12/24	Wetlands Pk 2/18-3/16/24	120.00	01-7160.560
400568	CURTIS LUMBER COMPANY, IN	03/06/24	2403-025718	Blacksmith Renovation	13.68	01-3710.810
		03/07/24	2403-030062	Blacksmith Renovation	86.66	01-3710.810
		03/06/24	2403-H25450	Blacksmith Renovation	3,030.64	01-3710.810
		03/05/24	2403-022545	Blacksmith Renovation	157.82	01-3710.810
				TOTAL CHECK	3,288.80	
400569	DOMINION TECH, INC.	02/01/24	235224	Managed Services	155.00	03-4500.560

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
					465.00	42-5400.560
					465.00	41-5900.560
					465.00	02-5100.560
					1,550.00	01-3700.560
		02/28/24	235324	Office 365 Migration	3,750.00	01-9506.850
		02/01/24	235227	Jan InTune Licensese	78.39	01-3300.560
		02/01/24	235226	Mar InTune Licensese	81.00	01-3300.560
		02/06/24	235303	Bit Titan Migration	1,245.00	01-9506.850
		03/01/24	235415A	Apr InTune Licensese	81.00	01-3300.560
		03/01/24	235415B	Monthly Charge	20.14	01-3300.560
					7.55	01-3300.560
					1,494.00	01-3300.560
					659.48	01-3300.560
				TOTAL CHECK	10,516.56	
400570	ENDYNE, INC.	03/07/24	480878	Benn WW Analysis	296.00	42-5480.560
		03/13/24	481457	Benn WW Analysis	296.00	42-5480.560
		03/06/24	480838	Colilert	160.00	41-5980.560
		03/13/24	481458	Colilert	140.00	41-5980.560
				TOTAL CHECK	892.00	
400571	ER BENNINGTON SOLAR I, LL	03/04/24	003	Solar	9,620.64	01-1106.000
400572	F.W. WEBB COMPANY	02/29/24	84706680	End Cap	4.23	02-5330.220
		03/05/24	84763268	Supplies	27.17	41-5940.210
		03/06/24	84674574	Repairs-Woodford PS Pump	665.00	41-5940.680
				TOTAL CHECK	696.40	
400573	FERGUSON WATERWORKS #576	03/01/24	1209451	Water Main Parts (Stock)	1,508.74	41-5940.210
400574	FISHER SCIENTIFIC COMPANY	03/12/24	617230	Buffer Solution	299.74	42-5480.210
400575	GSS FIRE EXTINGUISHER	03/04/24	8091	Extinguisher & Bracket	379.80	02-5170.560
		03/04/24	8092	Co2 Tank	67.00	41-5920.210
				TOTAL CHECK	446.80	
400576	H L FUEL CO., INC.	03/06/24	1720425	273834 - Dewatering	354.36	42-5480.770
		03/07/24	1720474	273831 - WFP	601.91	41-5980.770
				TOTAL CHECK	956.27	
400577	H L PROPANE CO. INC.	03/08/24	1720276	4533 - West End PS	9.34	41-5910.770
		03/07/24	1720402	4527 - Rec Ctr	1,123.91	01-7170.770
		03/07/24	1720277	4521 - PD	395.27	01-4170.770
		03/07/24	1720278	4525 - Sr Ctr	109.15	01-7970.770
		03/07/24	1720400	6986 - Bowen	332.30	02-5170.770
		03/07/24	1720279	4535 - Willow Pk PS	62.92	41-5910.770
				TOTAL CHECK	2,032.89	
400578	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICE	03/07/24	20025	Kneeling Pad & Bucket	41.76	41-5940.210
		03/07/24	102091	Supplies	15.45	42-5480.210

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
		03/04/24	3101887	Bucket	8.96	42-5480.210
		03/04/24	3014468	Supplies	33.38	42-5480.210
		03/07/24	14770	Blacksmith Renovation	172.56	01-3710.810
		03/08/24	9030015	Blacksmith Renovation	197.60	01-3710.810
		03/07/24	94849	DC CO Alarm	21.97	01-7970.220
		03/08/24	9014919	Mason Line Yellow	54.90	02-5240.220
		02/29/24	7523929	Shop Floor Project	79.48	02-5170.220
		02/05/24	1011409	Floor Drain Project	29.91	02-5170.220
		03/07/24	20017	Bridge Repair Tools	282.77	02-5240.220
		03/12/24	5010400	Forged Loppers	39.98	02-5240.220
				TOTAL CHECK	978.72	
400579	JOHNS BUILDING SUPPLY CO.	03/12/24	19442/1	Concrete Sealer	2,202.00	02-5200.220
400580	LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT	03/14/24	41680450	Welding Glasses	207.11	02-5330.210
400581	LIVELY, NANCY	03/04/24	03/04/24	SB Meeting Minutes	216.00	01-3700.560
400582	M&T BANK	03/12/24	03/12/24	196212-4 Irene Principal	41,670.00	01-9120.900
400583	M&T BANK	03/10/24	03/10/24-1	Training,Food,Travel,Lodg	578.00	01-4130.410
					24.92	01-4130.741
					1,300.00	01-4130.410
					20.77	02-5330.660
					519.20	01-4130.743
					123.98	02-5240.220
					172.92	02-5100.742
					264.78	02-5100.742
					133.00	01-4130.741
					2.36	02-5330.210
					317.58	01-4130.410
					50.00	01-4100.400
					257.28	03-4510.210
					850.00	01-4100.410
					514.56	02-5100.742
					475.89	01-4130.743
					1,440.75	01-4130.743
					927.92	01-4100.740
		03/10/24	03/10/24	GoogleLaterMailChZoomAdob	55.99	01-3620.400
					42.39	01-3650.400
					15.99	01-3650.630
					1,151.15	01-3650.350
		03/10/24	03/10/24-3	OfficeFurniture-Blacksmit	4,979.85	01-3710.810
		03/10/24	03/10/24-4	Supplies	103.88	41-5980.220
					24.78	01-9506.850
					22.30	02-5240.560
					29.55	41-5980.220
					1,142.31	01-7150.680
					69.33	01-9506.850
					15.48	41-5980.220

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
					1,244.50	01-9506.850
		03/10/24	03/10/24-5	Permits,Title&Register	400.00	02-5240.560
					57.00	01-4180.680
					72.00	02-5100.720
		03/10/24	03/10/24-6	Down Payment VIN#2834	500.00	02-1001.000
		03/10/24	03/10/24-7	Victims Advocate Grant	110.22	01-4100.850
				TOTAL CHECK	18,010.63	
400584	M&T BANK/WILMINGTON TRUST	02/29/24	02/29/24	20242842RF3-303 South End	130,433.98	41-9100.900
					66,859.11	41-9100.910
				TOTAL CHECK	197,293.09	
400585	MADIGAN LIME CORPORATION	02/20/24	87803	Lime Delivery	7,577.88	41-5980.210
400586	MOORADIAN HYDRAULICS & EQ	03/05/24	03/05/24	Hose Repair	55.91	41-5920.220
400587	MORSE REPAIR INC.	03/01/24	46965	New Mower - Test	140.00	02-5330.680
400588	MSK ENGINEERING & DESIGN,	03/11/24	16584	Lead Line Replacement	79,405.76	41-5910.890
		03/12/24	16596	Gage St Upgrade	12,922.50	41-0873.000
		03/12/24	16595	Settler's Rd PFOA	20,295.00	41-0874.000
				TOTAL CHECK	112,623.26	
400589	NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER	02/29/24	170702	Leagal Notice	130.00	01-3620.300
		02/29/24	170702-1	VT Begins Here	1,250.00	01-3650.350
		02/29/24	170702-3	Vermont Country	500.00	01-3650.350
				TOTAL CHECK	1,880.00	
400590	NEXTDAY METAL BUILDING, L	03/08/24	1120	20% Pymt Building Plans	5,471.00	01-4170.810
400591	NORTHEAST MUNICIPAL LLC	03/05/24	10014	Safety Cans,Gloves&Blades	204.44	02-5330.210
		03/12/24	10065	Hand Tools Bridge Crew	2,694.31	02-5240.560
				TOTAL CHECK	2,898.75	
400592	OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	03/11/24	100401507963	Maint Service	407.09	03-4570.680
400593	RCS CONSULTING, INC.	03/01/24	22004	MANAGED SERVICES	134.65	03-4500.560
					403.95	42-5400.560
					403.95	41-5900.560
					403.95	02-5100.560
					1,346.50	01-3700.560
				TOTAL CHECK	2,693.00	
400594	RICHCO PRODUCTS, INC.	03/08/24	169335	Repaired Pro-Team Vac	151.71	01-7170.680
400595	ROY PLUMBING & HEATING, I	03/05/24	46846	Plumbing/Dewatering	596.98	42-5480.680
400596	S.B. COLLINS INC.	03/11/24	417556	Diesel Fuel	2,698.71	02-5330.211
400597	SAFETY SYSTEMS OF VERMONT	02/29/24	24779	Blacksmith Shop Door	5,328.35	01-3710.810

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description		Amount Paid	Account Number
400598	SECURSHRED	03/06/24	450811	Shredding		24.00	01-4100.560
		03/06/24	450844	Shredding		24.00	01-3700.560
					TOTAL CHECK	48.00	
400599	SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY	03/06/24	9093-6	Blacksmith Renovations		84.59	01-3710.810
		03/05/24	9065-4	Blacksmith Renovations		15.74	01-3710.810
		03/07/24	9134-8	Paint for Office		54.41	41-5980.220
		03/05/24	9073-8	Paint for Office		44.42	41-5980.220
					TOTAL CHECK	199.16	
400600	SOUTHWORTH-MILTON INCORPO	03/01/24	INV3174391	Bucket Teeth		1,303.99	02-5330.220
		03/01/24	INV3174660	Seal & Bearing		160.50	02-5330.220
		03/05/24	INV3177019	Hose Assembly		128.21	02-5330.220
		03/04/24	SCR0501897	Credit - Bearing		-213.93	02-5330.220
					TOTAL CHECK	1,378.77	
400601	SWEET WILLIAM GARDEN DESI	03/12/24	03/12/24	Payment 1		2,577.43	01-8060.440
400602	TRACTOR SUPPLY CREDIT PLA	03/08/24	128476	Blue Marking Flags		33.98	41-5940.210
400603	UNITED CONSTRUCTION & FOR	03/05/24	10432797	Gas Charging Kit		1,724.83	02-5330.680
400604	VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPO	02/29/24	02/29/24	Rt9 Bridge -Miller's Toll		58.86	02-9510.850
400605	VERMONT VOLTAGE	03/12/24	03/12/24	MOU Rental Space		3,000.00	01-7100.650
400606	VIKING-CIVES USA	03/06/24	4532502	Trap Tubes etc		651.01	02-5330.220
400607	VLCT EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE	02/23/24	REN037479-Q2Q2	Contribution		-425.00	01-3700.154
						1,977.00	01-3700.154
					TOTAL CHECK	1,552.00	
400608	VULCAN INDUSTRIES, INC.	03/04/24	24130-18253	Screen Parts		412.00	42-5480.680
400609	W.B. MASON CO., INC.	02/27/24	244845097	Paper Goods		360.26	42-5480.210
400610	WALTS AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE	11/17/23	10836	Towing Fees/23BN011443		175.00	01-4110.560
400611	WASSICK'S TIRE SERVICE	02/29/24	16262	Dismount/Mount Tires		287.90	01-4180.680
400612	WELLS FARGO VENDOR FINANC	03/06/24	5028936824	Copier Lease		303.00	01-3700.650
		03/02/24	5028911228	Copier Lease		210.00	01-3700.650
					TOTAL CHECK	513.00	
400613	WEST MOUNTAIN ANIMAL HOSP	03/07/24	541286	Gracie/K-9 Office Visit		722.73	01-4110.212
		03/04/24	541121	Gracie/Rimadyl		36.92	01-4110.212
					TOTAL CHECK	759.65	

				Report Total		513,750.88	
						==========	

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number

FOR THE SELECTBOARD

_____ _____

Chair Vice Chair

To the Treasurer of the Town of Bennington,
We Hereby certify that there is due to the several persons whose names
are listed hereon the sum against each name and that there are good
and sufficient vouchers supporting the payments aggregating $ ***513,750.88
Let this be your order for the payments of these amounts.

-This Pass Thru Grant is to be issued against the Community Development checking account: check #1009, dated 03/11/24, in the amount of $365,065.00, payable to Squire Recovery House LP.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

2024 LICENSE APPLICATIONS

2024 1st Class License Renewals
1. Fuji Hibachi & Asian Bistro
2. Veterans of Foreign Wars #1332

2024 Outside Consumption Permit Renewal
1. Veterans of Foreign Wars #1332

2024 2nd Class License Renewals
1. Elm Street Market
2. Maruti, Inc.
3. Walmart #2289
4. Willy's Variety

2024 3rd Class License Renewals
1. Veterans of Foreign Wars #1332

2024 Tobacco & Tobacco Substitute License Renewals
1. Maruti, Inc.
2. Willy's Variety

The Bennington Select Board hereby approves the above 2024 License Applications
Dated: March 25, 2024

_____
Jeannie Jenkins, Chair

cc: Town Clerks Office

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

PROCLAMATION
Bennington Career Month

WHEREAS, Bennington County Workforce & Education Committee Stakeholders, a robust, grassroots, community-based collaborative inclusive of members from community organizations, institutions, and employers; and

WHEREAS, Bennington County, consistent with State of Vermont as a whole, faces workforce challenges that includes but is not limited to current and forecasted labor shortages, declining labor force participation rates, and mis- conceptions of local job and career pathway opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Bennington County Workforce & Education Committee Stakeholders are instrumental in effectively collaborating on resolving workforce challenges one project at a time; and

WHEREAS, Workforce and Education Committee Stakeholders develop specialized K-Adult continuum of, career pathway exploration projects that help raise awareness of opportunities improving current and future talent pipelines in relation to engagement with the local job economies; and

WHEREAS, Workforce and Education Committee Stakeholders remain keenly in-tuned with project impact evaluation, trends, opportunities, and challenges within the local workforce economy; and

WHEREAS, the month of April is Bennington Career Month, a culmination of events and activities in Bennington County that celebrates career pathway awareness at every level and recognizes the positive impact collaborative workforce development has on labor force, employers and the Bennington County Economy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the Bennington Select Board, do hereby proclaim the month of April as Bennington Career Month.

Dated at Bennington, Vermont this 25th day of March 2024.
Select Board, Town of Bennington, Vermont

Jeannie Jenkins

Tom Haley

Jim Carroll

Sarah Perrin

Jeanne Conner

Ed Woods

Gary Corey

205 SOUTH STREET P.O. BOX 469 BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201
802-442-1037 FAX (802) 442-1068

April Career Month
Bennington County Activities
2024

Bennington County Works!
Bennington Banner columns by Bennington County businesses over the first two weeks of April.

Monday, March 27

- **Bennington Career Month Proclamation** at the Select Board

Wednesday, April 3

- **How to Dress for an Interview –** Learn tips on how to put your best foot forward…. Sponsored by HireAbility Workforce Partners. Two sessions to choose from 10-11 am or 3-4 pm. Free. For questions or information on how to register email bmaroney@vabir.org

Thursday, April 4

- **MAUHS College Fair –** Representatives from over 75 colleges will be available to talk with area high school students. 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, MAUHS gym.

Friday, April 5

- **Shadow Day Series –** Final day of Southwest Tech's first Shadow Day series. Students from Arlington Memorial High School, Burr and Burton Academy, and Hoosick Falls High School chose to spend a half day on Southwest Tech's campus exploring one of fourteen diverse programs over four planned days in March and April. Students were able to jump into hands-on activities, explore academics, and work with instructors and current students as part of the team as they plan for their futures. For more information about future events or program information, please contact Lisa Harrington at lharrington@swtech.org.

Wednesday, April 10

- **Arlington Art Day –** PreK – 12th grade Art Exhibition. Art activities, food, scavenger hunt and prizes. Bring the family! Art will be on display at the Martha Canfield Library, Fisher Elementary and Arlington Memorial High School. 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

- **The Do's and Don'ts of Interview Speak! –** What's good to share, how to handle difficult questions, and best ways to take care of nerves. Sponsored by HireAbility

Workforce Partners. Two sessions to choose from 10-11 am or 3-4 pm. Free. For questions or information on how to register email bmaroney@vabir.org

Friday, April 12

- **Molly Stark Career Carnival** – Half day hands-on event for k- 5 grades featuring parent presenters from professions ranging from race car driver, line cook, and labor and delivery nurse to hip hop rapper and archeologist. The fair is designed to highlight local talent and help students make real world connections with math, reading, and writing.

Wednesday, April 17

- **Mock Interview Day** – Participate in practice interviews with area employers who will give you feedback on how to give your best interview. Sponsored by HireAbility Workforce Partners, 30-minute sessions are offered between 10-Noon. Interview spots are limited and on a first come basis. For questions or information on how to register email bmaroney@vabir.org

- **VtSBDC Start Your Own Business Seminar –** Starting a business can be challenging, especially for first-time business owners. Join this session on Wednesday, April 17 to gain an overview of what it takes to start a business, including some tips and resources. Investing time into proper planning is key to turning your dreams into reality. Operating a small business is not just about working for yourself or working from home, it's also about having the necessary management skills, industry expertise, technical skills, finance, and a long-term vision to grow and succeed. Presented by Nancy Shuttleworth, Business Advisor, Vt Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC). 10 – 11:30 am at the Community College of Vermont, 324 Main St, Bennington. Registration is required. https://ic.vtsbdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=52440008

Saturday, April 20

- **Healthy Kids Day –** The YMCA will sponsor an outdoor fair at the Bennington Rec Center with games, activities, and food for the whole family. Kids can come by the Workforce and Education table to imagine who they want to be when they grow up. Adults can do the same… 12:00 - 3:00 pm

Monday, April 22

- **Bennington Workforce and Economic Update** – The Vermont Department of Labor, Bennington County Regional Commission, Southwestern Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and Better Bennington Corporation will share economic and workforce information at the Bennington Select Board meeting Join us in person or watch on CAT-TV. The Select Board meetings begin at 6 pm, 3rd Floor of the Bennington Fire Facility.

Wednesday, April 24

- **MAUMS Career Fair –** A broad cross-section of professionals will be on hand to talk with 6th - 8th grade students about career options and the skills necessary for success. 8:00 -10:00 am, MAUMS Gym.

Thursday, April 25

- **Burr and Burton Academy's 3rd Annual Career Expo and Job Fair –** Area professionals talk to approximately 500 young adults about possible future goals, and ways to explore those options now. The Career Expo is one tool to help guide students toward various high school courses, potential internships, and part-time jobs. Restricted to high school-aged students, 11am – 1:30pm.

Wednesday, April 27

- **Community College of Vermont Open House –** Visit CCV-Bennington to learn more about CCV's degrees, certificate programs, and pathways to employment. A financial aid counselor will be available to share information about financial aid, scholarships, and grant opportunities. Walk-ins are welcome. 324 Main Street, 12-2 pm 802-447-2361.

April 1- June 2

- **Calling All Artists! –** Annual Student Art Show at the Bennington Museum – The annual display of artwork by students in preschool through high school examines the process of artistic development and includes work from a dozen area schools. The Annual Student Art Show celebrates the continuing tradition of art education in the region.

March - April

- **Student Competitions at Southwest Tech-** March and April are busy times for student competitions! Many of our students participate in a CTSOs, Career Tech Student Organizations, such as Future Business Leaders of America, Skills USA, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and ProStart. Students prepare all year for the chance to compete against the best of Vermont for a chance at National competitions. Help cheer on our student participants as they defend their Vermont titles in Culinary Arts, Crime Scene Investigations, and others who are trying their hand for the first time. Participation in CTSOs help empower students to become world class workers, leaders, and develop skills for success in the future.

Weekly in April

- VT Department of Labor Virtual Workshops – Please visit Workshops and Events / Department of Labor (Vermont.gov) for more information.
    - **Virtual Resume Workshops –** Learn how to communicate your values and skills to an employer by developing a resume that gets results. Learn the steps to create a resume and about helpful resources that are available. Mondays at 9:00 am or Wednesdays at 1:00 pm.

    - **Virtual Interview Workshop –** Everyone brings a different set of skills and experiences to a job interview. Get Tips on how to make sure you make a great first impression and stand out among the crowd. Tuesdays at 9:00 am or Fridays at 1:00 pm.

    - **Virtual Re-employment Strategies Workshop –** Has your work situation been recently impacted? Learn how to prepare for and maximize job search efforts through planning and preparation. Wednesdays at 9:00 am.

Thursday, May 16

- **Spring Job Fest 2024 –** Three IN-Person OUTDOOR Job Fair events, sponsored by the VT Department of Labor (VDOL), are being held in Bennington, Rutland & Addison counties! There is NO COST to participate in any of the events. These unconventional job fair events will feel a bit more like a farmer's market. We have had good success with past events; jobseekers & employers provided positive feedback of their experience. Many reported they preferred the outdoor venue and felt as though conversations were easier. Bennington's event will be held between 11am-2pm at the Deer Park on North Street.

Connect to the full schedule at http://www.bcrcvt.org/workforce--education-committee.html

MEMORANDUM

To: Bennington Select Board

From: Shannon Barsotti, Community Development Director

Date: March 19, 2024

Re: Municipal Resolution for Better Places grant application

Town staff are preparing an application for the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development's Better Places grant program for the Bennington Skatepark Project. Better Places is a community matching grant program to create vibrant public spaces serving Vermont downtowns and village centers. The grant application will seek $40,000 in state funding for the new skatepark and will require the Town to raise an additional $20,000 through a crowdfunding campaign. The crowdfunding campaign will begin in May and last through June 30th.

A Municipal Resolution signed by the Bennington Select Board chair is required for the grant application and is attached. This resolution designates Stuart Hurd as the authorized individual for the Town of Bennington to apply for, accept, and expend grant funds for the project.

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION
TOWN of BENNINGTON

A Resolution authorizing that Stuart Hurd, Bennington Town Manager, is empowered to act on behalf of the Town of Bennington as the Authorized Official.

Resolved by the Select Board of the Town of Bennington as follows:

WHEREAS the Town of Bennington may be awarded funds from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development's Better Places grant program;

NOW THEREFORE, the Bennington Town Manager, Stuart Hurd, is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town of Bennington, to apply for, accept, and expend grant funds from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The named authorized official has permission to sign all ACCD investment documents that bind the applicant.

_____

Jeannie Jenkins, Chair, Bennington Select Board

Authorized to act on behalf of the Bennington Select Board

Passed and approved this 25th day of March 2024.

MANAGER'S REPORT
March 25, 2024

INFORMATIONAL

Vehicle Impound and Animal Control Buildings – 204 Orchard Road As noted in a previous Manager's Report, the Town plans to construct a storage building to safely and securely store vehicles impounded after vehicle crashes or pursuant to search warrants. In addition, a small building will be constructed for the use of the Animal Control officer. The site selected for the buildings is 204 Orchard Road, the location of the former Willow Road highway garage. Local permit applications have been submitted and a Development Review Board hearing is pending. No state permits are required.

Ninja Trail Bids The Town recently put out to bid the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Furnace Brook, including a boardwalk on either end of the bridge. The bridge is part of the proposed improvements to the Ninja Trail. Unfortunately, no bids were submitted for this project. The Town will contact contractors solicited for a bid in an effort to understand why bids were not submitted. After consulting with the project designers, the Town will either re-bid the project as is, or modify the project and re-bid it.

Congressionally Directed Spending – Downtown Bennington As reported in several media outlets, Senator Welch secured $5 million in federal funds for Phase 2 of the Putnam Block project and Representative Becca Balint secured $1 million in federal funding for the Benn High project.

Silk Road Roundabout Work to re-locate utilities in anticipation of the construction of the Silk Road roundabout (at the entrance of Bennington College) has commenced. According to an e-mail from VTRANS in January, construction of the roundabout should commence in late summer of 2024. However, recent information suggests that work may not begin until 2025. I have contacted VTRANS for clarification on a scheduled construction commencement date and may have an answer by the time of the Select Board meeting.