

M E E T I N G N O T I C E
BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD
Monday, August 28, 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 - 6:10 PM |
| A. Minutes of August 14, 2023 | |
| B. Warrants | |
| 4. Public Comment | 6:10 PM - 6:30 PM |
| 5. ECDC Update | 6:30 PM - 6:45 PM |
| 6. Manager's Report | 6:45 PM - 7:00 PM |
| 7. Upcoming Agendas | 7:00 PM - 7:10 PM |
| 8. Other Business | 7:10 PM - 7:20 PM |
| 9. Executive Session | |
| A. Personnel | |
| B. Contracts | |

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 **AUGUST 14, 2023**

5 **MINUTES**

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

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Haley-Vice Chair.

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Shannon
10 Barsotti-Community Development Director; Chief Paul Doucette and Lt. Cam Grande-
11 Bennington Police Department; Sam Restino; Jack Rossiter-Munley; Mary Ellen Munley;
12 Representative Mary Morrissey; Clark Adams; Mike Bethel; Kelly Carroll; Ned Perkins; Nancy
13 White; Rhonda Maki; 15 citizens; Jim Therrien-Bennington Banner; Josh Boucher-CAT-TV; and
14 Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

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

16 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

17 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

18 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

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

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

23 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

24 **A. MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2023**

25 **B. WARRANTS**

26 **C. LICENSES**

27 *Jim Carroll moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to approve the Consent Agenda*
28 *amended as follows:*

29 *Minutes of July 24, 2023, Line 217, Change "a law suit against the*
30 *Town." to "a complaint in HRC alleging the Select Board's actions were detrimental to the*
31 *complainants."*

32 Ms. Conner verified with Mr. Hurd that any expense that references “Lead Line Project”
33 is reimbursable, and Mr. Hurd agreed.

34 Ms. Conner asked what the Service Contract was for that we have with HACH Company,
35 and Mr. Hurd answered that is for service on the variable speed drives at the water treatment
36 plant.

37 Mr. Corey asked if the Play By Design check for the Willow Park Playground was the final
38 check, and Mr. Hurd and Mr. Monks verified that they have completed their work.

39 Ms. Conner noted the liquor license application for Donovan’s on Main Street and
40 thought they had closed. Mr. Hurd stated that it’s under new ownership.

41 ***The motion carried with Ed Woods abstaining and Tom Haley absent.***

42 Sam Restino noted that the Minutes did not state that there was a police officer in the
43 room at the July 24, 2023 meeting.

44 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

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

59

60 Nancy White: 1. Questioned if the Select Board was following the Vermont Open Meeting Law
61 stating that the public has the right to participate in conversations on agenda items including
62 the Manager’s Report which is an agenda item. 2. The Select Board has been aware since
63 December 2021 that the Rec Center needed \$.5M worth of work. She mentioned this 3 or 4

meetings ago, and would like it put on the agenda of the next meeting. *Ms. Jenkins: We will get you answers.*

Jack Rossiter-Munley: 1. We have welcomed 3 new families to Bennington at the end of July who are now working to get settled. They have varying skill sets which include being multilingual, international business backgrounds, and military security experience. More will be coming in August. ECDC is looking for volunteers and donations of any kind. If interested contact jrossitermunley@ecdcus.org. *Mr. Carroll: Please let them know that the Select Board welcomes them.* 2. The Community Café is open every Saturday from 1:30pm-3:00pm at 121 Depot Street. Payment for meals is accepted but not required. The flour from our partnership with King Arthur Flour is being used to make all of the bread served. If interested in helping out, contact benningtoncommunitycafe@gmail.com or facebook/benningtoncommunitycafe.

Sam Restino: 1. The only time he was aware of an individual being asked to leave was when Mr. Hoyt was out of order. He didn't feel that there have been any meetings since that were uncivilized enough that warranted a police officer to have been present at the last meeting. 2. We need to address the fact that the Armory deal won't be happening, the PCB problem at Jard still exists, the CTC building, and infrastructure issues.

Clark Adams: Was uncomfortable and "appalled" by the demanding tone of the public comment restrictions and police presence at the last meeting.

Ned Perkins: Was pleased with the decision made by the Select Board for their participation on housing loans while leaving the decision for loans of no more than \$25,000 to the Town Manager. However, on July 19th, the Town Manager granted a \$100K loan to Hale Resources and explained that the \$25,000 limit is per unit, and this is a 4-unit building. Mr. Perkins feels that this policy should be readdressed to remove such a loophole that enables loans to be made for much larger amounts than was intended.

Kelly Carroll: Attends practically every Select Board meeting staying to the end or very close to it, and heard people in the audience at the meeting before the last one mentioning firearms. This may have some bearing on why there was police presence at the last meeting.

Mary Ellen Munley: Bennington Cares will be out in the public twice in August - 1st at the Riverwalk on August 19th starting at People's Park at 10:00am and ending at Bennington Elementary where the gardening efforts started by Bennington Cares will be seen, and 2nd, at the Bennington Museum on August 25th for a concert from 5:00pm-7:00pm featuring Jack Rossiter-Munley. Also, be sure to bring a drawing for a square to be part of the Bennington Community Quilt.

5. BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT (BPD) UPDATE

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

- Kudos to all that participated in and did all of the work for a great Bennington Battle Day Weekend.
- All surrounding fire departments and police departments put on a parade in front of Deacon's house to brighten his day as he is fighting cancer.
- The 2023 Experience Camp in July was fantastic.
- The National Night Out was also successful where many new members of the community attended.
- We have recently signed several MOU's, such as, with the Department of Public Safety for a State funded crisis worker specifically for the police department 24 hours/week, with United Counseling Service for continued 24/7 crisis access, and with the Bennington Rescue Squad for BPD members to get first aid training.
- We have 4 recruits at the Academy who will be on the road at the end of December 2023 or beginning of January 2024.
- We also have a Level II certified officer from another agency that will start on 8/21/23 and another candidate who will start Level I training in September 2023.
- There has been much discussion on the Academy extending the next class to 24 weeks, as well as, many upcoming trainings in town.
- We have been working with the Town's IT Director, Nick Cave, who has augmented what we have plus has added the following:
 - ✓ A new white board in our conference/training room.
 - ✓ New touchscreen mobile data terminals in the vehicles for real time information and report capability.
 - ✓ The grant funded e-ticket program.
 - ✓ New body cameras.
- We are working on the 2022 Traffic Stop Use of Force Report that will be completed next week.
- We appreciate the support from the community with many people expressing their appreciation for what we do. There has been a decrease in violent crimes in 2023 from 2022 but we are still on track for 13,000-14,000 calls for service this year. "We're doing a lot with a little" and definitely making a difference with our Federal and State partnerships.
- As a reminder, August 31st is Overdose Awareness Day and we need to be thinking about those that are struggling with their addictions.

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

Ms. Conner: Can you talk about the New Experience Camp? *The Experience Camp has been happening for over 20 years, police officers volunteer their time, we've had as many as 40 which is too many to manage - this year we had 29. We introduced them to the building trades (driving a backhoe and bulldozer), taught them firearm safety at a shooting range, took them to the hospital to teach them first aid and CPR, the fire department taught them how to use a fire*

138 *extinguisher with real fire, we taught teamwork with white water rafting, and taught them*
139 *kayaking, canoeing, and fishing. Next year we hope to raise the age to 16 and add some law*
140 *enforcement experiences to the agenda for the older kids. We feel this makes a difference with*
141 *the youth.*

142 Ms. Conner: Could the Select Board be invited to the Swearing In Ceremony of the police
143 officers? *It would be even better if we could bring the newly graduated recruits to a Select Board*
144 *Meeting so everyone in the community knows who they are.*

145 Ms. Conner: Is the new technology being well received? *Yes, and Nick is very popular among all*
146 *of the officers.*

147 Mr. Woods: Does the 24/week crisis counselor change your access to 24/7 with UCS? *No, that is*
148 *in addition to.*

149 Mr. Woods: Could a member of CPARB be invited to your upcoming meeting with the Attorney
150 General - if it is that kind of meeting? *Senator Sears asked about this when he set up the*
151 *meeting, but at this point, it is more or less for us to have a clearer understanding of each other.*
152 *The BPD was instrumental in some of the legislation that happened this year and there will be a*
153 *training for police officers only for privacy reasons.*

154 Mr. Woods: Noted that his son has now gotten a paying job as a camp counselor at age 15
155 because of the time he had spent in the Experience Camp. Thank you for that. *Thank you.*

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

157 Mary Ellen Munley: What does a crisis worker do? *They are called in when we encounter mental*
158 *health issues, if someone threatens to harm themselves, or has experienced a tragic event.*

159 Clark Adams: How do the cameras function? *You get car video and body cam video synced*
160 *together, they can be muted but an officer has to say he/she is doing so, and they automatically*
161 *download when the officers enter the police building. The recordings cannot be changed.*

162 Clark Adams: Perhaps we should consider more noticeable clothing for the officers and brighter
163 colors for the vehicles that stands out more so that police presence is more noticeable. *We do*
164 *have cruise lights on the vehicles and will be forming a committee to discuss uniforms as that is*
165 *part of the "working plan"..*

166 Sam Restino: Is there a plan to put cameras up at Monument Plaza, for example? *We would*
167 *have to do research on that but there is no plan to do so at this time.*

168 Mike Bethel: Is there a policy in Vermont concerning stealing and looting? *We have had some*
169 *businesses being robbed but not the 'stash and grab' that you're referring to.*

170 Mike Bethel: The BPD police officers do a great job.

171 **6. RIVERWALK - TREE REPORT**

Mr. Hurd did the following report:

- We have State grant funds to improve the width, lighting, and aesthetics of the Riverwalk.
- The current walk was built in phases so there is little consistency of design.
- It is narrow in places (3'), too close to the river in other places, and over-planted in certain sections providing a very dense but poorly grown canopy.
- In the section between Park and School Streets there is no space for lights to be installed given the growth of trees there.
- School Street to Park Street -
 - ✓ The County Forester has said that the seven (7) cherry trees here are near the end of their normal life.
 - ✓ The canopy is relatively bare as the trees were planted too close together and are now competing for the light. We need to add lighting to this area.
 - ✓ *After discussing with Ron Pembroke, Pembroke Landscaping, the plan is to remove every other cherry tree which will provide space for lighting, increase visibility and security, and help to improve the overall health of the canopy these cherry trees are providing.*
- North Street to School Street -
 - ✓ The walkway is only 3' wide with insufficient space to widen the walkway to comply with State and Federal standards without encroaching on the riverbank area.
 - ✓ *We recommend removing the four (4) Crimson Maples (a Norway maple) allowing the walkway to be widened to minimum compliance. One is already dead.*
 - ✓ The remaining trees appear to have sufficient space to allow the walkway to be widened while protecting the riverbank. It is understood that new trees will be planted to enhance the aesthetics of this entrance area. We will not use the Norway species.
- We hope to begin this project relatively soon.

Board comments/questions answered by Mr. Hurd and Mr. Monks:

Ms. Conner: Was safety a concern - bikes hitting pedestrians - where the walkway is so narrow? *That's true, and if we were to do nothing with the walkway, we wouldn't have to touch it. However, the community has advocated for lighting and walkway improvement, so we are acting on the behest of the Select Board to follow through on those requests and have State grant funds to do so. Because of the State funding, we have to comply with their standards for walkway width which will also make the walkway safer.*

Mr. Corey: The walkway goes from 3' to 5' to 7', correct? *Mr. Monks: We are going to go to the 7' which is the absolute bare minimum. They recommend 8' and prefer 10'-12'. We are not able to go that wide on this walkway. The Rail Trail is 10' wide.*

211 Mr. Corey: Is there any way to keep those trees on North Street? *As you face the walkway from*
212 *North Street, the trees are right adjacent to North Street and then it drops off. We were told we*
213 *can't widen the riverbank because it would affect flow and encroach on the flood hazard area.*

214 Mr. Corey: Will there be new trees planted there? *Yes, that is the intent.*

215 Ms. Perrin: Can we do part of the walkway and not remove the maples? They are gorgeous. *Mr.*
216 *Monks: It makes no sense to only do part of the walkway and this is where the walkway is the*
217 *narrowest.*

218 *Public comments/questions answered by Mr. Hurd and Mr. Monks:*

219 Sam Restino: What kind of lighting will there be? *There is already lighting along the Walloomsac*
220 *portion. We will be upgrading the fixtures on the trail and will bend them more downward to*
221 *better light the trail, itself, and not the surroundings.*

222 Sam Restino: We should also look at other areas in town where direct lighting would be more
223 beneficial.

224 Mike Bethel: Would like the project cancelled and it is a waste of money. The walkway is
225 beautiful as it is, the project will encourage bikes that can go 19 mph, and make it look like a
226 city pathway. However, If a compromise isn't going to happen, then we should close all
227 pathways in Town at dusk if people are afraid someone is going to get hurt, improve lighting
228 and cameras, and don't make it a bike path.

229 Rhonda Maki: Is School Street along Bennington Elementary being repaved? *Ms. Jenkins: Yes,*
230 *and widened.*

231 Rhonda Maki: North Street to School Street, the narrow part is supposed to slow bikes down,
232 however, it really is impossible to ride a bike on that path as is because you're always coming
233 up on pedestrians.

234 Nancy White: Doesn't feel the public has previously seen these plans. *These plans were*
235 *presented at a Select Board meeting when we applied for the grant.*

236 Nancy White: The plan that Mike McDonough had doesn't look like this one. *Ms. Jenkins: The*
237 *plan that Mike had was the BBC's conceptual plan and he did two presentations on the*
238 *Riverwalk. That was the Design Committee's conceptual plan. Mr. Woods: What we have*
239 *before us is what has been determined is necessary to make the improvements. This is the final*
240 *plan made available to the public and what is being discussed tonight.*

241 Ned Perkins: Do we have a tree development plan? *No.*

242 Ned Perkins: To take down trees, we have to have an officially warned Hearing. Is that what
243 this is? *Yes.*

Ned Perkins: Stated that he has had bad experiences in Burlington and Cape Cod where pathways were shared with bikes and pedestrians.

Kelly Carroll: Noted that her daughter was murdered on the Riverwalk in 2021. Though it could have happened anywhere in Town, it happened on the Riverwalk, and since then we have been advocating for more public safety and improvements on the walkway. We are thankful for the community and business support with the additional lighting, additional cameras, updated benches, and the community using the area in a positive way. All of the grants received have been discussed at several Select Board meetings. She, too, loves the trees, but this is a good compromise between the love of the trees and public safety. If this plan does not go forward, that section should be closed to the public with signage on both ends warning people to enter at their own risk. The Town should also do a risk analysis to the taxpayers on that section of the walkway.

Clark Adams: We should restrict e-bikes and power vehicles on this pathway. Is it safe for the pedestrians if power vehicles are allowed?

Jeanne Conner moved and Gary Corey seconded to accept the proposal as presented and explore restricting motorized vehicles with the exception of motorized wheel chairs and to explore signage.

Ms. Perrin cannot support this motion.

The motion carried with Sarah Perrin opposed and Tom Haley absent.

7. MARKETING REPORT

Ms. Barsotti did the following presentation:

- ❖ <https://vermontbeginshere.com> is the Town's marketing website.
- ❖ There is a directory of "all things Bennington" with things to do, shopping, events, attractions, recreation, restaurants, hotels, wedding venues, etc.
- ❖ The marketing campaign was launched in September 2019 to switch the focus from economic development to town wide destination marketing for tourists including our history, attractions, and recreation.
- ❖ This is being done through the website directory, e-newsletter, and social media.
- ❖ We started with a \$50,000 budget that was decreased over the last couple of years to \$40,000.
- ❖ We used our original budget to hire 802 Marketing to create the website and manage the visual campaign.
- ❖ We use ~\$25,000 for digital ads on Google and Facebook, with the rest of the funds used for website management, Facebook and Instagram accounts, photography, ads through Vermont Country magazine and the Chamber of Commerce.
- ❖ We track the searches showing that 52,000 have used the sponsorship searches, 18,000 have done the organic searches, 2,500 have subscribed to the e-newsletter, 3,300 are

281 Instagram followers, and 2,300 are Facebook followers. We also have printouts of the
282 magazine ads and rack cards from the Chamber.

- 283 ❖ People are looking at 1.6 pages with an average time spent on the site at 1 minute 18
284 seconds with just over a 15% conversion rate of people going directly to the websites of
285 the businesses, such as the restaurants, the Museum, etc.
- 286 ❖ The order of interest from top to bottom is restaurants, things to do, fall foliage,
287 shopping, Vermont foliage drives, discover Old Bennington walking tour, and covered
288 bridges with several others beyond these.
- 289 ❖ Our goal is to have more photos, more events, recreation for all seasons, and more
290 collaboration and promotion with the Chamber and BBC, as well as, new Welcome signs
291 coming into Town.
- 292 ❖ All talent is locally hired - the photographer, creative writer, and 802 Marketing.

293 *Board comments/questions answered by Ms. Barsotti:*

294 Ms. Conner: Do you have a sense how the number of followers has increased over time? *In a*
295 *presentation that was done at the end of 2018 there were only 300 e-mail subscribers so it has*
296 *gone up 2,000-3,000 followers.*

297 Mr. Woods: Do you know what portion goes to management fees? *Yes, that is \$3,925 annually*
298 *with the rest going to vendors.*

299 Mr. Woods: That is a good deal and we need to thank 802. *They're wonderful. When we did*
300 *RFP's in the beginning they came in at half the price of anyone else.*

301 Ms. Jenkins: Is there anyway of knowing if the 81,000 total visits is a high or low number? *We*
302 *saw a bump during COVID because people were staying closer to home whereas this summer is*
303 *has waned a little because people are now flying more and going farther away. Good question*
304 *and we can check with 802 Marketing for an answer.*

305 Ms. Jenkins: The Chamber has said that businesses in the area are feeling good about what is
306 happening. Is there a way to target some of the questions that the Chamber asks such as what
307 makes them feel like they're doing well? *Definitely.*

308 Ms. Conner: Is there a way to parse out whether or not the businesses have seen a change from
309 the marketing strategy? *We could survey them for their input.*

310 Ms. Conner: Is the website at all interactive so those visiting it could ask a question? *We can*
311 *direct people to the Visitor's Center but we don't really have a question/answer section.*

312 Ms. Perrin: Thank you for coming to report and would you come to report again at some point?
313 *Sure.*

314 *Public comments/questions answered by Ms. Barsotti:*

315 Sam Restino: Do we still get bus tours in town? Encourages having CAT-TV do more Bennington
316 Begins Here videos. Have Green Mountain Express have video screens on their buses.

317 Mike Bethel: On our own, we had 2 half page ads in the Banner twice a month in July, August,
318 and at the end of Garlic Fest. Some of our marketing funding should go to the Banner, to BBC
319 to put on more concerts, and \$1,500 to CAT-TV for videos to go throughout the State. *This list*
320 *is what people are searching for in their organic searches with entertainment not being in the*
321 *top list. It could be argued that the events in Town are also entertainment. It shows what*
322 *Bennington is known for and what people are looking for. We can measure digital marketing*
323 *where we can't measure the impact of hard copy ads. Ms. Jenkins: Remember that this is to*
324 *bring people to Bennington from the outside. This is not internal advertising. Mr. Woods:*
325 *Encourages putting the ads on the sides of buses and advertising locally if we had an unlimited*
326 *budget. There's nothing wasted in what we're doing here.*

327 **8. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS**

328 Ms. Jenkins stated that we have two openings on CPARB - one to fill an unexpired term
329 ending in June 2024 and one for a 3-year term expiring in June 2026, and one opening on the
330 Historic Preservation Commission to fill an unexpired term ending in June 2024.

331 ***Jim Carroll moved and Gary Corey seconded to open up applications for CPARB and the***
332 ***Historic Preservation Commission.***

333 Ms. Perrin would like to send out a reminder of the openings to those that had
334 previously applied, and Ms. Jenkins agreed.

335 Mr. Woods asked if these three positions were terms that would be ongoing, and Ms.
336 Jenkins responded that we have expirations of - CPARB June 2024; CPARB June 2026; and
337 Historic Preservation Commission June 2024.

338 ***The motion carried with Tom Haley absent.***

339 **9. MANAGER'S REPORT**

340 Ms. Jenkins clarified that the reason the Manager's Report isn't open to questions is
341 because it is literally a report by the Manager to the Select Board on things that we need to be
342 aware of. So, if you have questions on anything on the Manager's Report, contact him at his
343 office. He is accessible and returns calls.

344 Mr. Hurd reported the following:

345 *Garlic Town Road Closures* - The Chamber is seeking to close Depot Street on Saturday,
346 September 2, 2023 from 6:00am until 6:00pm for Garlic Town. Prior to the event small sections
347 of Depot Street may be temporarily closed or traffic flow altered for preparations beginning on
348 August 30, 2023. This only requires Manager approval based on Section 10-3.02(f) and (g) of

349 the Traffic Control Ordinance. All adjoining properties will be notified by the Chamber prior to
350 a temporary closing or of a directional traffic change.

351 Ms. Jenkins is uncomfortable voting on this until it has been verified that the Chamber
352 has notified the businesses on Depot Street of the closure on Saturday, September 2, 2023.
353 Last year we didn't vote until the Chamber had spoken to each business about the closure.

354 Mr. Carroll noted that we only have one meeting left a few days before the event.

355 Ms. Perrin added that the Chamber typically notifies the businesses of the closure the
356 day before or a day leading up to the event so they can make accommodations for their
357 business.

358 Mr. Hurd recommended that the motion be contingent upon them having notified all of
359 the businesses. We close streets all of the time and some businesses may not approve.

360 ***Sarah Perrin moved that we close Depot Street as requested. There was no second so***
361 ***the motion died.***

362 ***Ed Woods moved and Jim Carroll seconded to close Depot Street on September 2, 2023***
363 ***from 6:00am until 6:00pm for Garlic Town with the stipulation that the Chamber will contact***
364 ***each impacted business with accommodations for parking and signage for their business will***
365 ***be in that parking area.***

366 Ms. Perrin stated that, if that is a compromise, she would approve the motion.

367 ***The motion carried with Tom Haley absent.***

368 Mr. Hurd will notify the Chamber of the motion.

369 Notice Requiring Reappraisal - We have received an anticipated notice requiring reappraisal
370 since we had received that our most recent Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) from Property
371 Evaluation and Review had dropped below 20%. The Town must first sign indicating receipt of
372 this letter and the Select Board Chair must sign the document. Within 150 days, the Town must
373 develop a plan to bring the Town into compliance. For around 20 years, the State of Vermont
374 has been sending the Town ~\$40,000/year for reappraisal. We have over \$700,000 in reserve
375 for the reappraisal. Property purchases in the State during COVID has skewed almost every
376 Grand List in the State. There are only 2 or 3 companies to do all of the reappraisals that are
377 necessary in the State, however, we are obligated to attempt to schedule our reappraisal of our
378 6,000 properties within 150 days.

379 *The Chair will sign the attached document beginning the process to reappraise.*

380 Certificate of Approval - Salvage Yard Location - Every five years, Joshua Greene must have his
381 salvage yard location certified as approved by the Town. This requires the Board, after review

by the Zoning Office, to certify by signing the document provided. The Development Review Board (DRB) has already signed off on this.

Jim Carroll moved and Gary Corey seconded to approve the Salvage Yard Location at 471 Chapel Road and to sign the Certificate.

Ms. Conner asked if salvage yards are subject to inspection, and Mr. Hurd answered that the State inspects them and the DRB has the authority to revoke permits. Mr. Monks added that this salvage yard has been in place for at least 40 years and there are no environmental issues.

The motion carried with Sarah Perrin abstaining and Tom Haley absent.

Willow Park Playground Equipment Closure - The Mesa Climber - a bridge which runs to the slide - has created concerns with three recent incidents with minor injuries although it had been certified as safe by the contractor. Based on a thorough review by staff and our insurer, we have closed this equipment pending replacement. The replacement piece - a different piece of equipment - is on order and expected to be in place before the month is out. We can't hold the contractor responsible because this piece of equipment has been installed elsewhere without any problems.

10. UPCOMING AGENDAS

August 28, 2023 - ECDC Refugee Resettlement

September 11, 2023 - Benn Hi Update Presentation

Mr. Carroll noted the number of agenda items and the over 2.5 hour meeting this evening.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Carroll: Kudos to Sarah Perrin and Betsy Shapiro Greenwalt for the success of their food truck at Battle Day Weekend.

Ms. Conner: Thank you to Bernie Sanders for coming to Town and talking with people at the pavilion on East Road.

Mr. Woods: Is the Tuttle Lot listed for sale? Mr. Hurd answered that the Tuttle Lot has been sold and Mr. Monks added that it and its plans are listed for sale.

At 8:35pm, Jim Carroll moved and Sarah Perrin seconded the adjournment of the meeting. The motion carried with Tom Haley absent.

414

415 Respectfully submitted,

416 Nancy H. Lively

417 Secretary

08/23/23

Town of Bennington Accounts Payable

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12:22 pm

Check Warrant Report # 7

By Vendor For Check Acct 01 Checks 330805 To 330894

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
330807	*DANIELLE MONE	08/15/23	08/15/23	Tax Credit Refund	3,134.99	01-1200.000
330808	*VICKIE SQUIERS	08/21/23	08/21/23	Tax Credit Refund	2,254.00	01-1200.000
330809	802 RESTROOMS	08/14/23	I1567	County St Project	180.00	02-5110.220
330810	ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	07/31/23	07/31/23	Fleet Parts	1,457.66	02-5330.220
330811	ALL-OUT WASTE MANAGEMENT	08/07/23	17355	Beech St Field	135.00	01-7160.560
		08/07/23	17356	SVC Soccer Field	135.00	01-7160.560
		08/07/23	17357	Stark St	135.00	01-7160.560
		08/17/23	17465	Portable Toilet Rental	135.00	01-9538.850
		08/15/23	17446	Jet line @ Sr. Ctr.	250.00	01-7970.680
				TOTAL CHECK	790.00	
330812	ALLEN ENGRNG & CHEMICAL C	08/11/23	504236-01	Liquid Chlorine	330.00	01-7150.210
		08/17/23	504231-01	Pool Filter	5,375.00	01-7150.230
		08/17/23	500466-01	Liquid Chlorine	529.00	01-7150.210
				TOTAL CHECK	6,234.00	
330813	ALLIED AUTO PARTS OF BENN	07/21/23	586725	8" WS Brush	15.99	01-3710.220
		07/10/23	586422	Credit - Core Deposit	-74.07	02-5330.220
		08/11/23	587329	Alarm	33.99	41-5920.220
		08/17/23	587460	Non-Deter 30 Qt/WD40	127.84	01-7180.220
				TOTAL CHECK	103.75	
330814	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES,	08/10/23	1GT7K71LFV97	Ramp lift Assist	97.90	02-5330.220
330815	AT&T MOBILITY	08/11/23	930X08192023	Water iPads	164.92	41-5900.340
		08/11/23	30X08192023	WW iPads	82.46	42-5400.340
				TOTAL CHECK	247.38	
330816	BAZIN BROTHERS TRUCKING,	08/10/23	27353	Gravel	7,000.00	42-5440.560
					13,000.00	41-5940.560
					52,308.33	02-5110.560
				TOTAL CHECK	72,308.33	
330817	BENNINGTON HIGH LLC	08/17/23	08/17/23	Lease Agreement	5,252.00	01-7800.650
330818	BENNINGTON TIRE CORPORATI	08/08/23	117383	Engine 36 Tire Repair	70.00	03-4580.680
330819	BERKSHIRE FAMILY YMCA	08/17/23	08/17/23	Management Services Aug	12,000.00	01-7100.561
330820	BETTER BENNINGTON CORPORA	08/17/23	08/17/23	Operating Grant	7,874.41	62-8700.560
		08/15/23	08/15/23	DT Maint 07/17-08/13/23	1,007.60	01-3710.560
				TOTAL CHECK	8,882.01	
330821	BIG BOYS TOYS OF THE NORT	07/06/23	623422	Seat Covers&Floor Liner	460.00	02-5330.220
330822	BRENNTAG LUBRICANTS, LLC	08/09/23	BLN23-359265	Mobile Grease	110.55	02-5330.210

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Check Warrant Report # 7

By Vendor For Check Acct 01 Checks 330805 To 330894

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
		08/16/23	BLN23-364859	Antifreeze	111.73	02-5330.210
		08/16/23	BLN23-364414	Credit -Drum Return	-80.00	02-5330.210
				TOTAL CHECK	142.28	
330823	CASELLA WASTE SYSTEMS, IN	08/01/23	739831	Trash - MAU	83.39	01-5430.560
		08/14/23	739892	Trash - MAU	63.29	01-5430.560
		08/01/23	1189017	Recycling	8,139.35	01-5430.570
		08/14/23	739890	Trash - N. Benn	15.00	01-5430.560
		08/07/23	739860	Trash - N. Benn	15.00	01-5430.560
		08/01/23	739827	Trash	348.60	01-5430.560
		08/07/23	739858	Trash	262.12	42-5480.560
		08/14/23	739887	Trash	66.39	42-5480.560
					67.30	02-5120.560
					102.33	01-5430.560
				TOTAL CHECK	9,162.77	
330824	CDW GOVERNMENT INC	08/07/23	LD84294	IT Supplies	136.40	01-3410.230
					34.10	01-3410.230
		08/10/23	LG32186	Symantec Endpoint	480.00	01-4140.680
				TOTAL CHECK	650.50	
330825	CENTURY ACQUISITION INC.	08/12/23	11041458	County St	2,967.00	02-5200.560
330826	COMCAST	08/09/23	08/09/23	8773 50 030 0151849	24.95	01-3700.340
		08/03/23	08/03/23	8773 50 030 0281422	91.59	02-5100.340
				TOTAL CHECK	116.54	
330827	CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIO	08/18/23	08/18/23	Phone Charges	391.57	42-5400.340
					308.29	01-7900.340
					493.98	02-5100.340
					280.53	01-7100.340
					197.26	41-5900.340
					915.65	01-4100.340
					308.29	41-5980.340
					659.17	01-3700.340
					502.61	03-4500.340
				TOTAL CHECK	4,057.35	
330828	COTT SYSTEMS INC	09/01/23	155089	Monthly Subscription	210.00	01-3500.560
330829	COYNE, EDWARD JR.	07/20/23	07/20/23	Reimb for CDL Renewal	39.00	02-5100.720
330830	CRYSTAL ROCK	08/15/23	28546 081523	Bottled Water	67.40	01-3710.560
					67.40	01-4170.560
					36.95	02-5170.210
				TOTAL CHECK	171.75	
330831	CS ONE BENEFIT SOLUTIONS	08/01/23	18104-853196	New Hire & Cobra Notice	4.35	01-3700.560
					47.00	01-3700.560
				TOTAL CHECK	51.35	
330832	DOXSEE ROOFING COMPANY, L	08/08/23	26010	Repair - Town Office Roof	619.00	01-3710.680

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
330833	EIGHT OH TWO MARKETING	07/31/23	JUL23VBH	Digital Marketing	400.00	01-3650.350
330834	ENDYNE, INC.	08/16/23	458470	Lead & Cooper Pkg	100.00	41-5980.560
		08/16/23	458391	Colilert	120.00	41-5980.560
		08/09/23	457587	Colilert	160.00	41-5980.560
		08/11/23	458018	Benn WW Analysis	296.00	42-5480.560
				TOTAL CHECK	676.00	
330835	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE AS	08/14/23	51225	DMRQA Study	914.92	42-5480.210
330836	F.W. WEBB COMPANY	08/10/23	81908594	Supplies	21.01	41-5940.210
		08/15/23	81970225	Supplies	1.93	41-5940.210
		08/15/23	81962830	Toilet Repair Kit	15.23	01-7160.220
				TOTAL CHECK	38.17	
330837	FERGUSON WATERWORKS #576	08/09/23	1175776	Hydrant Parts	171.51	41-5940.210
330838	FIRST CHOICE COMMUNICATIO	05/12/23	27226	Labor & Phone for Mark	360.00	01-3710.340
					359.00	01-3710.340
				TOTAL CHECK	719.00	
330839	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHUR	08/14/23	08/14/23	10/26/23 DEI Mtg	30.00	01-3620.560
330840	FOG HILL & CO., INC.	03/17/23	1670	Map Appraisal	350.00	02-5100.560
330841	GRAINGER	07/31/23	9788238245	Chlorine Parts	17.10	41-5940.210
		07/31/23	9788238237	Chlorine Parts	42.35	41-5940.210
				TOTAL CHECK	59.45	
330842	GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SE	08/23/23	34663716	Postbase Service	137.20	01-3700.650
330843	GSS FIRE EXTINGUISHER	08/10/23	7376	Inspect,Refill & Test	77.55	01-3710.560
330844	GVH STUDIO, INC.	07/06/23	70623-9	Trailfest Lawn Signs	213.50	01-9538.850
330845	H L PROPANE CO. INC.	08/10/23	1703653	4527 - Rec Ctr	1,035.21	01-7170.770
		08/10/23	1703616	4526 - Meals On Wheels	71.80	01-7970.770
		08/11/23	1703910	4523 - Fire House	131.62	03-4570.770
				TOTAL CHECK	1,238.63	
330846	HANNAFORD	08/17/23	2242	Weed Killing Supplies	36.07	02-5120.220
330847	HAYDEN PLUMBING & HEATING	08/15/23	6847	Service Call/Unclog Sewer	200.00	01-3710.680
		08/15/23	6846	Service Call/UnclogShower	100.00	01-7170.680
				TOTAL CHECK	300.00	
330848	HOLLAND COMPANY INC.	08/04/23	PI-22773	Sodium Bisulfite	2,357.64	42-5480.210
330849	HOLLISTERS APPLIANCE	08/22/23	34772	2 Industrial Refrigerator	6,400.00	03-4570.230

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By Vendor For Check Acct 01 Checks 330805 To 330894

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
330850	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICE	08/02/23	8143286	Orange Fencing	35.86	41-5940.210
		08/07/23	31433466	Orange Fencing	35.86	41-5940.210
		08/09/23	1021516	Supplies	44.63	41-5940.210
		08/07/23	3102767	Supplies	15.96	01-4170.210
		08/09/23	1102892	Bowl Cleaner	11.96	01-7160.210
		08/11/23	9092098	Sanitizing Wipes	17.58	01-7170.210
		08/14/23	6103258	Degreaser	55.92	01-7170.210
		08/11/23	9143612	Hose	195.90	01-7170.230
		08/10/23	143557	Supplies	171.96	41-5940.210
		08/17/23	3092512	Disinfect, Cloths	71.86	03-4570.210
		07/26/23	5013278	Supplies	39.84	01-7160.210
					168.37	41-5910.680
		08/08/23	2021433	Plastic-County St	66.98	02-5200.220
		08/15/23	5010783	Level & hose	38.58	41-5940.210
		08/11/23	9021673	Batteries & Wrench	35.34	41-5940.210
		08/18/23	2011215	Hole Dozer/Bottled Water	40.39	01-7170.220
		08/19/23	1011350	Extention Cord	16.58	01-7970.220
				TOTAL CHECK	1,063.57	
330852	HP FAIRFIELD, LLC	08/08/23	823105	Parts for Push Camera	205.04	42-5420.680
		07/13/23	8596413	Skid for Camera	350.00	42-5440.210
				TOTAL CHECK	555.04	
330853	IDS IDENTIFICATION SOURCE	08/04/23	24-115	2024 Dog Tags	439.91	01-3500.200
330854	JONAH L. SPIVAK	07/28/23	229031150	Trailfest-Folding Chairs	184.44	01-9538.850
330855	KOFILE, INC.	08/12/23	INV-KT-01216	Recording Paper	288.02	01-3500.200
330856	LEONARD NICOLAS CAVE	08/15/23	08/1/23	Fiber Optic Supplies	426.62	01-3410.560
330857	LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT	07/31/23	37506875	Acetylen & Oxygen	114.85	02-5330.210
330858	LIVELY, NANCY	08/24/23	08/14/23	SB Meeting Minutes	364.50	01-3700.560
330859	M&T BANK	08/10/23	08/10/23	Google, FB & Mail Chimp	1,681.99	01-3650.350
		08/10/23	08/10/23-2	Tranning,Food,Zoom,Adobe	240.00	42-5400.720
					55.99	01-3620.400
					171.47	02-5100.742
					1,590.00	01-4130.410
					2.00	02-5330.220
					42.39	01-3650.400
					15.99	01-3650.630
		08/10/23	08/10/23-3	Misc. Supplies	56.41	01-4100.200
					36.04	02-5330.220
					39.99	01-4110.210
					47.94	01-4100.190
					81.84	01-4100.200
					-60.00	01-4130.410

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By Vendor For Check Acct 01 Checks 330805 To 330894

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
					38.52	01-3410.560
					19.76	01-4140.210
					55.96	01-4110.210
					514.56	02-5110.210
		08/10/23	08/10/23/4	N.NightOut, supplies	281.06	01-9534.850
					68.96	01-9534.850
		08/10/23	08/10/23-5	Off Chairs,Pkg, BussCards	259.98	01-4100.230
					81.47	01-4100.360
					52.99	01-3210.200
		08/10/23	08/10/23-6	RKI 4-Gas Meter	635.00	02-5100.850
				TOTAL CHECK	6,010.31	
330860	MORSE REPAIR INC.	08/09/23	46247	Western Star Tire Repair	971.22	02-5330.220
		08/09/23	46251	#318 R&R Tube for Tire	85.00	02-5330.680
				TOTAL CHECK	1,056.22	
330861	MSK ENGINEERING & DESIGN,	08/15/23	16084	Putnam St	300.00	02-5100.560
330862	NFPA CERTIFICATION PROGRA	08/02/23	3509093	NFPA 8564290X #1	175.00	01-3620.400
330863	OLIVER FORD OF BENNINGTON	08/07/23	5006922	Tube Asy & Seals	141.86	02-5330.220
		08/08/23	5006937	Return Tube Asy	-117.86	02-5330.220
		08/08/23	506930	2016 Tube Asy	82.26	02-5330.220
		08/10/23	5006952	2015 Oil Coler Asy	77.60	02-5330.220
		08/08/23	5006929	Return Sealant Return	-65.74	02-5330.220
				TOTAL CHECK	118.12	
330864	PAUL FRANK & COLLINS PC	03/13/23	202594	Professional Services	2,081.83	02-5100.600
330865	PECKHAM INDUSTRIES, INC.	08/12/23	1052105	County St	890.40	02-5110.220
		08/12/23	1052106	Stone-FullerRd&MainStPRV	1,787.98	02-5110.220
					949.56	41-0870.000
		08/19/23	1052972	Patching	249.48	02-5110.220
				TOTAL CHECK	3,877.42	
330866	PETE'S TIRE BARNS, INC.	08/10/23	62567	318 Excavator Tires	5,427.28	02-5330.210
		08/14/23	62632	Credit - Tires	-14.08	02-5330.220
				TOTAL CHECK	5,413.20	
Pre-Paid 330805	POSTMASTER BENNINGTON	08/22/23	08/22/23	Tax Bills 2023-24	3,157.00	01-3700.360
330867	PRIMMER PIPER EGGLESTON &	06/16/23	06/16/23	Water System Improvements	708.00	41-5900.600
330868	PROCOM SERVICES	08/14/23	3761	Trk 122-New Radio Install	2,918.04	02-5330.680
330869	PRUE ELECTRIC	08/13/23	1562	MorganSpring PowerSupply	390.00	41-5940.680
		08/20/23	1563	Infrared Instection	560.00	42-5480.560
				TOTAL CHECK	950.00	
330870	PYROTECNICO FIREWORKS, IN	08/22/23	08/22/23	Contract# C23-0262	14,300.00	01-8042.440

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By Vendor For Check Acct 01 Checks 330805 To 330894

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
330871	RICHARDSON COLLISION	07/31/23	07/31/23	Body Work / Damages	933.42	03-4580.680
330872	SALEM FARM SUPPLY, INC.	08/15/23	P64179	Supplies-Roadside Mower	845.69	02-5330.220
330873	SKI DOOR INC.	08/03/23	31332	Garage Door Repairs	4,037.00	42-5480.680
330874	STAPLES BUSINESS CREDIT	08/09/23	761295457601	USB Flash Drives (10 pk)	90.39	01-3700.230
		08/07/23	761271862101	(4) Lexmark Cartridges	750.76	01-4100.200
		08/10/23	761309987001	Supplies	19.89	01-7900.200
					50.89	01-7900.200
		08/08/23	761287714501	Bankers Boxes	42.78	01-3440.200
		08/07/23	761270752501	Copy Paper	50.89	01-3700.200
		08/07/23	761274915501	Office Supplies	61.98	01-3700.200
		08/08/23	761284503401	Toner	55.19	01-3620.200
				TOTAL CHECK	1,122.77	
330875	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	07/07/23	3296884991	Pop-Up Sticky Notes	15.68	01-3210.200
330876	STATE OF VT AGENCY NATURA	08/21/23	3-1261 2023	WW Operating Fee	12,500.00	42-5400.720
330877	SURPASS CHEMICAL COMPANY	08/10/23	379831	Chlorine	5,081.41	42-5480.210
		08/10/23	379833	Chlorine	1,388.57	41-5980.210
		08/10/23	379832	Chlorine	423.42	41-5980.210
				TOTAL CHECK	6,893.40	
330878	SWEET WILLIAM GARDEN DESI	08/17/23	08/17/23	Payment #5	2,851.00	01-8060.440
330879	TOWN OF BENNINGTON	08/21/23	51535800.23	SPAN# 0051-015-67831	4,802.09	01-7800.720
330880	TOWN OF POWNAL	07/31/23	3114.2023	SPAN# 495-156-10132	473.30	41-5900.720
330881	TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY	08/04/23	180244.2023	SPAN# 573-180-10079	504.79	01-3700.720
330882	TOWSLEE, JOHN	08/01/23	08/01/23	Reimburse CDL Renewal	39.00	02-5100.720
330883	TRACTOR SUPPLY CREDIT PLA	08/08/23	67401	Lynch pins	5.07	41-5940.210
		07/27/23	64055	Expanding Foam	29.97	02-5200.220
		08/21/23	71082	Grass Seed - Woodlot	79.99	01-9506.850
				TOTAL CHECK	115.03	
330884	UNITED CONSTRUCTION & FOR	08/16/23	10163094	Parts & Freight	27.10	02-5330.220
Pre-paid 330806	UNITED STATES TREASURY	08/18/23	08/18/23	Form 720 HR Fee	237.00	01-3700.720
330885	UTILITRONICS CORPORATION	08/08/23	144157	Knobs for Metal Detector	47.29	41-5920.680
330886	VERMONT VOLTAGE	08/17/23	08/17/23	MOU Rental Space	3,000.00	01-7100.650
330887	VLCT PACIF	08/07/23	INT041080223	Endorsement #13-17	673.00	01-4100.480

08/23/23

Town of Bennington Accounts Payable

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By Vendor For Check Acct 01 Checks 330805 To 330894

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
					368.00	02-5100.480
					186.00	02-5100.480
					203.00	03-4500.480
					201.00	01-7100.480
				TOTAL CHECK	1,631.00	
330888	VMCTA	08/17/23	08/17/23	VMCTA Conference	175.00	01-3500.740
330889	W.B. MASON CO., INC.	08/08/23	240262937	Bathroom Supplies	499.06	01-7970.210
		08/10/23	240322203	Cleaning Supplies	572.92	01-7160.210
					108.56	01-7160.210
					108.56	01-4170.210
				TOTAL CHECK	1,289.10	
330890	WASSICK'S TIRE SERVICE	07/07/23	15397	Tires	580.00	01-7180.680
		07/24/23	15419	Computer Alignment	99.95	01-7180.680
		07/21/23	15394	Mount & Dismount Tires	247.95	01-4180.680
		08/07/23	15444	Mount & Dismount Tires	148.00	01-4180.680
		07/26/23	15418	Mount & Dismount Tires	247.95	01-4180.680
				TOTAL CHECK	1,323.85	
330891	WELLS FARGO VENDOR FINANC	08/05/23	5026233970	Copier Lease	303.00	01-3700.650
		08/12/23	5026305160	Copier Lease	169.00	02-5100.650
		08/08/23	5026258941	Copier Lease	190.00	01-7900.650
				TOTAL CHECK	662.00	
330892	WEST MOUNTAIN ANIMAL HOSP	07/29/23	532207	Gracie K-9 Office Visit	111.10	01-4110.212
330893	WHITMAN'S FEED STORE	05/19/23	189615	Fencing Bike Path (Benmont	55.36	02-5110.220
		06/02/23	189727	Shredded Straaw	35.98	01-7160.220
				TOTAL CHECK	91.34	
330894	ZEP SALES AND SERVICE	08/10/23	9008858437	Zep Groovy	265.34	02-5120.220

Report Total

234,274.58

-39.00 Ck# 330730

-91.34 Ck# 330336

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234,144.24

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Town of Bennington Accounts Payable

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Check Warrant Report # 7

By Vendor For Check Acct 01 Checks 330805 To 330894

Check Number	Vendor Company	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	Amount Paid	Account Number
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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 \$ ***234,144.24
Let this be your order for the payments of these amounts.

MANAGER'S REPORT

August 28, 2023

ACTION

VLCT Annual Meeting – Voting Delegate Each year, I represent the Town at the VLCT Annual Meeting as its voting delegate wherein its Policies for the coming year including the Legislative Session are set. It's that time again.

Action requested Motion to appoint the Manager Bennington's voting delegate.

INFORMATIONAL

Town Staff Teamwork I wanted to share this communication from the Chief received August 22.

"On August 21, 2023, the Bennington Police Department and Bennington Fire Department responded to a motor vehicle crash with a vehicle in the river by Walgreens. After a mishap with the wrecker, I immediately shut down the operation and called RJ Joly seeking assistance with removing the vehicle from the river. RJ promptly notified Walt Sweet and members of public works responded to the crash scene.

The scene was evaluated for safety. With assistance from public works, we were able to safely remove the vehicle from the river. This is just another example of different town departments working together promoting public safety as well as environmental safety. It is advantageous for our community with the Town of Bennington having such a great staff!"

River Walk Update Work by municipal staff is scheduled to begin at the Bennington Station parking lot where a connection to the rail trail will be constructed. This is the first step in this upgrade.

EPA - the Jard Site I spoke with EPA representatives. No public hearing is scheduled yet. They are working up the alternatives and cost estimates before making a presentation to the community. I have no timeframe.

FOLLOW UP

The Communications Coordinator's Report is attached.



Town of Bennington

Communications Coordinator Report – August 28, 2023

A Busy Summer

This is when major infrastructure projects are in full swing, parks and outdoor recreational facilities are being heavily used, events are happening, and we welcome many visitors to our community. It's also the time when our local history is in the forefront with the annual Battle Day commemorations.

Public Outreach

I continue to assist the Community Policing and Review Board (CPARB) in their work, most recently around developing more outreach to inform the community about their work. A lot of my daily work involves sharing information about what the town is doing with the community. The primary vehicles for this is through our website and through our Facebook page.

250th Anniversary Planning

I typically attend at least four meetings a month related to 250th anniversary planning. This is partly because the planning has three levels... a local region level, a state level, and a regional state level. Each bears on one another and are very important! At the local level, we have a draft schedule of events for the 2025-2027 period, as well as planning for new monuments, an active education task force that is bringing local history into our classrooms, as well as developing a local "Bennington Mob" of re-enactors. At the state level I am chair of the Education and Teacher Outreach committee and we are working on getting 250th related educational themes into classrooms statewide. I also helped create a "250th Resolution" for towns to sign that is coming soon. At the regional state level, we are working with NY, VT, MA, and CT to plan for the anniversary of the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga in 2025.

Community Events

The second annual Bennington Trailfest was held on July 29. The event is to increase awareness and stewardship of the trail by locals, and to encourage hikers to visit Bennington as part of their journey and to build our reputation as an outdoor recreation destination. The event was not as well attended as last year, perhaps due to the bad weather outlooks, but it was very well received by those who did attend. Plans are already being made for improvements for next years event.

I also helped with planning with the Bennington Fire Department for their Battle Day weekend activities, as well as assisting the police department with some preparation work around National Night Out.

Organizational Outreach

I continue to work with organizations such as BCCH, Turning Point, Hale Resources, and others to provide solutions for the those suffering from homelessness. I also partner with Shannon Barsotti in Community Development so at least one of us attends the monthly Project Alliance meeting. I've also been working with the Bennington Museum on a crossover project with my 250th work, namely pursuing the idea of a monument to Sipp Ives and the Green Mountain Boys.

Projects

I am constantly working on a wide range of projects. Lately that has included helping create maps for an upcoming presentation for renewal of our Growth Center designation, working on a draft communications policy, drafting an event planning sheet, helping Shannon Barsotti with marketing ideas and planning, revisiting the design of our town welcome signs, as well as

working on an accounting of where we are on the IACP recommendations. I'm also working on some new informational pieces about how the town is using its forest land, water system improvements, and helping with outreach for new board and commission members for the CPARB and Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

By The Numbers

This past month I interacted with twenty citizens and I had two public records requests and related followups. I've also been doing outreach to local business people and met with three this past month.

FACEBOOK POST OF THE MONTH: National Night Out

Our biggest post last month was about the National Night Out with over 7,700k reach! This is in addition to the original post about the event which also had over 7,000k reach. This years event was again a huge success with hundreds coming out to enjoy the free food, activities, and free school backpacks. The purpose of National Night Out is to build bridges, trust, and good will between the police department and the community it serves.

Kudos to the police department for organizing and running an amazing event! Shout out also to the DPW who brought their trucks and tractors much to the delight of kids and parents alike. A slip and slide courtesy of the fire department was a big hit. Thanks also to those town staff who participated as well. A truly great annual community event.

