

Bridgewater-Hebron Village District
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Present were Commissioner Terry Murphy; Commissioner Derry Riddle; Bridgewater Selectman Wes Morrill and B-HVD Counsel Laura Spector-Morgan

The commissioners discussed with counsel the petitioned warrant article to amend the funding formula for the cooperative school district (NASD), their position on it, and possible actions they might take in response. They discussed retaining Atty. Dean Eggert to assist in evaluation of issues related to the petitioned article. Derry Riddle moved to retain Atty. Eggert and to authorize Terry Murphy to sign the agreement; Terry seconded the motion—the motion passed unanimously, and Terry signed the agreement.

The commissioners then discussed with counsel the lease of the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School by the NASD. That lease provides that if the funding formula is changed from 100% ADM, that B-HVD may terminate the lease. At this time, the commissioners' inclination is to cancel the lease if the petitioned warrant article passes because the new formula would likely result in a large increase in the towns' school contributions.

The commissioners discussed with counsel the upcoming NASD informational meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 2. The school district has allotted 10 minutes for B-HVD to raise any issues it deems appropriate. Those issues were discussed, and counsel was asked to draft an outline for Terry to utilize.

The minutes of the September 8, 2021 meeting were approved as written on motion by Terry and seconded by Derry.

The commissioners reviewed and signed vendor approvals for Needham Electric Supply, LLC and Fresh Picks Café, LLC.

The manifests were reviewed and signed.

The commissioners briefly discussed the fix needed for the oil tank monitoring system.

The need for the playground to be upgraded was also discussed. B-HVD is hoping to be able to do this once the bond for the roof is paid off in about 1.5 years, although the feasibility of this depends on the outcome of the school funding issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. on motion by Derry and seconded by Terry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derry J. Riddle, Commissioner

Bridgewater-Hebron Village District
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2022

Board Members Present: Terry Murphy, Derry Riddle, Bill White (by phone)

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m.

The minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting were approved as written on motion by Terry and seconded by Derry.

On January 19, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. the commissioners were invited by the principal at B-HVS to come to the school and answer general questions from the school staff about the lease agreement between B-HVD and NASD and its relationship to the NASD petitioned warrant article #5 regarding school funding. Jennifer Larochelle, NASD Budget Committee member from Hebron, and Hebron Selectman Patrick Moriarity also attended and participated. It was stated that B-HVD (comprised of Bridgewater and Hebron) owns the school building and grounds and leases it to NASD for \$1 a year, and in the lease agreement between NASD and B-HVD if the school funding should change the lease agreement could be terminated by either party. Various consequences were discussed, but it was made clear that no decision had been made by the B-HVD Commissioners as to what would happen if the article should pass. The commissioners were unaware that because two of us attended their meeting it should have been posted as a B-HVD meeting. We will be aware of this in the future.

To receive the \$24,458 ESSR Grant for the UV lights in the air handlers, an approval from the NH State Fire Marshall's office is needed. Terry sent the paperwork to obtain the approval. Once we get that, we will send it to NASD who can submit it to the appropriate agencies.

A discussion ensued about the amended NASD warrant article #5 which if passed would result in a study group being formed to research the school funding formula (rather than changing the formula to 50 percent ADM and 50 percent equalized valuation as originally submitted).

The veeder-root monitoring system for the underground oil tank is still on order.

This summer we need to modify the septic tank pumps for easier access. The estimated cost is \$8,000.

Terry will draft our annual report and send it to Derry for editing. She will then send it to the board for review.

Our annual meeting will be Tuesday, April 12. We will need to schedule a budget hearing in early March. The budget should be very similar to last year's. Terry will email us with a proposed date. He will also check with Colleen to see who is up for reelection. Notifications will need to be posted.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. on motion by Derry, seconded by Terry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Derry J. Riddle, Commissioner

Bridgewater-Hebron Village District
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2022

Board Members Present: Amy Cunningham, Terry Murphy, Bill White (by phone)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

The minutes of the February 16, 2022 meeting were approved as written on motion by Terry and seconded by Bill.

The profit and loss report was reviewed.

The proposed budget was discussed. The budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23 at 9 a.m.

Bill moved to appoint Terry as the B-HVD representative for the NASD Funding Formula committee. Terry seconded with the vote in the affirmative.

Derry had emailed the revised annual report (after updating the info on the NASD election) to the group. She will get it to the Town of Hebron for the annual report. And the copy is ready for our annual meeting on April 12.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. on motion by Bill, seconded by Terry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Murphy, Commissioner

Bridgewater-Hebron Village District
Budget Hearing and Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2022

Board Members Present: Amy Cunningham, Terry Murphy, Derry Riddle, Bill White (by phone)

No others were in attendance.

The budget hearing was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

The proposed budget was discussed. It is exactly like last year's. The taxes to be raised are \$168,750.

The \$24,458 application for the ESSR Funds has been accepted by the NH Dept. of Ed. Hopefully we will receive that money soon to reimburse us for the UV lighting installation. That money could be put into surplus toward maintenance expenses.

Terry moved and Bill seconded to raise and appropriate \$168,750 for the proposed budget. The motion passed.

Derry moved to close the hearing at 9:10 a.m., Bill seconded the motion, and the vote was in the affirmative.

The business meeting began at 9:10 a.m.

Terry suggested we obtain email addresses from the residents of our towns so that voters can receive newsletters, etc. It would be beneficial to get numbers of our voters to attend next year's NASD Deliberative Session. If we had a large presence, we could vote to squelch the funding change issue for five years.

Amy suggested having a sign posted at town/federal elections warning about the threat of our taxes being raised to educate and alert local residents.

Terry suggested we consider adding two classrooms to B-HVS in the future to help solve the need for quality classroom space in NASD. The facility was constructed with this in mind. Various NASD configuration scenarios were discussed such as remodeling New Hampton Community School and moving students to other buildings (such as middle school students to the high school and/or sixth graders to the elementary schools). Perhaps Bristol Elementary School could be repurposed with some of those students going to other elementary schools and/or the middle school. The sense was that options should be considered that would benefit the students of the entire district. It was also felt that "throwing good money after bad" at old facilities might not be in the district's best interest.

Terry will contact Architect Brackley Shaw to get an estimate on the cost of drawing the additional classrooms.

Newfound Lawncare submitted a proposal to maintain the fields (\$4,800) in addition to the lawns around the school (\$870) which they have been already doing. This would mean that Merrill's would no longer need to do the fertilizing but would continue doing the mowing. The group agreed to accept Newfound Lawncares' proposal.

We are still waiting for the veeder-root system for the oil tank.

Another maintenance item on the horizon is the need to modify the access port to the septic pump chamber.

Terry will ask the custodian to wash the sign in the front of the building with soapy water to prevent oxidation.

Our annual meeting is April 12 with the voting from 5-7 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. per usual. Derry has reminded the Hebron Supervisors of the Checklist and Terry will check with Bridgewater's. Terry will double-check with Moderator Mike C. re Matt Denton filling in for him.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m. on motion by Derry, seconded by Terry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Derry Riddle, Commissioner

Corrections of minutes will be reflected on the next meeting minutes

**Bridgewater-Hebron Village District
Annual Election & Meeting
April 12, 2022**

The Annual Bridgewater-Hebron Village District Election and Meeting opened at approximately 7:02 pm. Present were appointed Moderator, Matt Denton, Commissioners Derry Riddle, Terence Murphy, Treasurer Amy Cunningham and Village District Clerk, Colleen Kenny and approximately 3 residents. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Moderator Denton began reading the results of the ballots cast during this election, as follows:

Article #1: “To choose a District Commissioner and other officers for the ensuing years.” This was done by paper ballot of which there were 15 ballots cast. Votes cast were as follows:

Office of Commissioner (3 year term):

Derry Riddle – 15 votes*

No Write-Ins

Village District Moderator (2 year term):

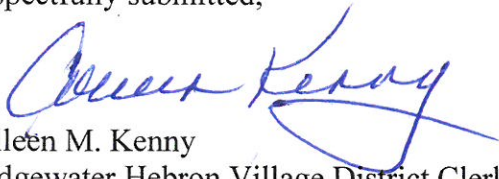
Write In: Matt Denton – 15 votes*

Article #2: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$168,750 which represents the operating budget. Said sum does not include amounts appropriated in other warrant articles. Recommended by the Commissioners. This article was moved by John Dunklee and seconded by Robbie Flynn. No further discussion. All in favor.

Article #3: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.” Commissioner Murphy reminded residents about the potential issues with the Newfound Area School District and their attempt to change the towns of the District apportionment ratio. In the event the District is successful in their apportionment change, the Towns of Hebron and Bridgewater would see significant tax increases. Commissioner Murphy stated there may be hearings surrounding this issue and residents need to keep informed to understand the potential increase. Commissioner Murphy also stated that the Committee representatives that will be participating in this study include Erik Piper as the Bridgewater representative, Terry Murphy as a BHVD representative and William Lutti as a Hebron representative. A reminder the meetings regarding this issues are open for the public to attend which is encouraged.

Motion to Adjourn was brought by Derry Riddle and seconded by Maurice Jenness. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen M. Kenny
Bridgewater Hebron Village District Clerk

Bridgewater-Hebron Village District
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2022

Board Members Present: Terry Murphy, Derry Riddle, Bill White

No others were in attendance.

The meeting began at 9:03 a.m.

Going forward it was decided that Julie will email all board members with meeting dates and times so everyone receives adequate notice and reminders of the meetings.

The minutes of March 23 were approved as written on motion by Bill, seconded by Terry.

The manifests were reviewed and signed and new vendors were approved.

The Profit and Loss Report was discussed. The bond payment for the roof and boiler will be paid this month. The bond will be paid off in mid-2023.

Our savings account balance is \$100,048.88.

Although the reimbursement of \$24,458 for the UV lighting from the ESSR Funds has been accepted and approved, we still have not received the money (which will come through NASD/SAU4).

The greenhouse programs have started up again at the school. Thank you to Louise Migliore for volunteering during COVID closures and for getting the program up and running again. Louise purchased new hoses to replace the broken ones and Derry purchased step stools for the younger students to reach the tables. Both have been reimbursed for the expenses.

We need to obtain a credit card for the village district so that purchases like this can be made directly online rather than by reimbursing individuals.

Terry has not contacted Brackley Shaw yet regarding the estimate to draw the additional classrooms.

The veeder-root system for the oil tank has been installed.

We still are having issues with the chimney. It appears to be sulfur and water condensing on the exterior of the chimney inside the building. Terry will contact BP&S about getting a specialist to assess the issue. We may need to install a stainless-steel liner. Unless it is deemed to be needed right away, this will probably not happen this year. We also should investigate whether insurance will cover it.

The septic pumping system access port still needs to be done. We also need to replace the two pumps. A rough estimate of costs is \$8,000-\$10,000.

The gymnasium floor is scheduled to be refinished on June 20.

The floors in the boiler and generator rooms need to be repainted.

The night custodian is being outsourced to an independent contractor by NASD/SAU4.

Terry asked Jerry, the daytime custodian, to wash the painted sign at the front of the building. He will check to see if it has been done.

The manholes need to be cleaned out.

The fields and lawn are doing well.

Corrections of minutes will be reflected on the next meeting minutes

The utility shed by the soccer field needs some repair. Hogan & Co. Builders will be hired for this.

The server for the camera surveillance system needs to be upgraded sometime this year.

Some projects for the future include:

- Paving
- Redoing the ballfield
- Installing a sprinkler system, possibly using the well from the old Wescott property
- Replacing the playground equipment and adding new equipment for the younger and special needs students for the back of the building
- Replacing the locks in the building
- Upgrading the fire alarm and burglar systems

Security of the building was discussed. Some school doors have been left propped open quite often. This practice needs to be addressed. It was also mentioned that our local police have been encouraged to drive through the school grounds on a regular basis to show police presence.

Terry reported about the SAU4 Apportionment Committee meetings. They have had two meetings with the next one scheduled for June 8. Terry presented some figures to our board including the real town tax contributions to SAU4 considering the SWEPT (State-Wide Educational Property Tax). Any discussion about apportionment is incomplete if SWEPT (which goes directly from some NASD towns to SAU4) is not also considered. SWEPT is effectively a state mandated form of equalized value. It was also pointed out that some towns in NASD also receive state funds in addition to this. Terry also mentioned that the 50/50 formula that had been proposed would not benefit NASD, but only shift the payment responsibility to other towns. These along with some other facts will be presented at the June 8 meeting.

The group felt that in addition to the devastating financial consequences that changing to the 50/50 formula could have on some towns in NASD, there could also be various unexpected consequences impacting the entire Newfound community such as jobs, educational impacts, etc.

Terry moved: **If the SAU4 apportionment formula is modified, the lease agreement between B-HVD and SAU4 will be terminated by B-HVD and the school will be closed to SAU4.** Bill seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The group discussed that if the formula changes it is effectively incentivizing other actions that might be taken, some of which could be:

- Creating a charter school
- Having Bridgewater and Hebron and possibly other towns leave SAU4
- Converting the school to a K-8 hybrid model with students from Bridgewater, Hebron and likely Groton, plus charter school students

It was noted that the current lease agreement with SAU4 is good through June 30, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m. on motion by Derry, seconded by Terry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Derry Riddle, Commissioner

Bridgewater-Hebron Village District
Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022

Board Members Present: Terry Murphy, Derry Riddle, Bill White. No others were in attendance.

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

Terry moved to go into executive session to discuss an attorney-client communication from Wadleigh, Starr & Peters, LLC. Bill seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

It was noted that Wadleigh, Starr & Peters, PLLC are specialists in education issues and had been referred by our attorney, Laura Spector-Morgan. The commissioners confirmed the decision to hire the firm as legal counsel.

The group discussed legal issues regarding the Newfound Area School District and the Village District's lease agreement with them.

Derry moved to come out of executive session at 10:40 a.m. with Terry seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m. on motion by Terry, seconded by Bill.

Respectfully Submitted,
Derry Riddle, Commissioner