

Village of Old Bennington
Trustees Meetings Minutes
October 6, 2020

Meeting held via telepresence using Zoom.com

Officials present: Trustees Susan Wright, Jim Warren, Ron Rabidou, and Steven Anisman, as well as Clerk James Gallen and Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht

Officials absent: Charles Edson

Residents Present: Margaret Shwarzkopf

1. Opening. Ron Rabidou called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. Minutes.

a. There were no changes to the posted minutes.

b. Steven Anisman moved to approve the posted minutes for the September 1st Trustees meeting. Jim Warren seconded the motion, and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

3. Citizens Comment-

a. Margaret Shwarzkopf appreciated the effort the village put into making the sidewalk installation a smooth process.

4. Reports of Commissioners

a. Road Commissioner.

i. The new sidewalk has been completed.

ii. A public thanks was given to Andy Buchsbaum for his shepherding of the sidewalk project.

iii. There was an extra charge for stump grinding. The charge amounted to \$650.

iv. A crosswalk at the top of Bank Street has been put on hold until next year.

v. A winter maintenance proposal from Jamie Jerome was accepted. The terms are the same as last year.

vi. The salt supplier is still being negotiated, as two bids have been offered to the village. Jim Warren was authorized to negotiate a deal for the salt.

b. Tree Commissioner.

i. The tree on the island has been removed by Steve's Supreme.

c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner.

i. The stone for the commemorative bench has been delivered. The stonemason who was originally contracted to finish the job backed out, and Four Seasons has been contracted to complete the work at an estimated cost of \$500. The bench should be completed before the winter season.

ii. Susan Wright expressed her disfavor with the appearance of the marble crosswalk. She was hoping the method would match the look of the marble sidewalk in front of the Old First Church.

d. Police Commissioner.

i. No official report was given, but an update on the status of Officer Corey was discussed. At the present time, Officer Corey plans to continue to serve as the officer within Old Bennington.

e. Treasurer.

i. \$17000 of the \$90000 in expected tax revenue has been received at this point.

ii. Two outstanding balances from previous years are still due.

- A discussion was held about the village's ability to reserve the right to collect on past due taxes. Steven Anisman wanted to make sure that the village was not setting a precedent that would allow residents to not be held accountable for delinquent payment of taxes.

iii. The state matching fees for the sidewalk came in.

iv. The PILOT money is expected at the end of the month.

v. Kathy requested reimbursement in the form of \$5 a month for the cost of accounting related matters, which the trustees approved.

5. Warrants

Jim Warren moved to approve the warrants. Steven Anisman seconded the motion and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

6. Old Business- No old business was discussed.

7. New business - No new business was discussed.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.