

Village of Old Bennington  
Trustees Meeting Minutes  
February 2, 20201

Meeting held via telepresence using Zoom.com

Officials present: Trustees Charles Edson, Susan Wright, Jim Warren, Ron Rabidou, and Steven Anisman, as well as Clerk James Gallen and Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht  
Residents Present: Ed Woods, Margaret Schwarzkopf

1. Opening. Ron Rabidou called the meeting to order at 7:02.
2. Approval of minutes.
  - a. There were no changes to the posted minutes.
  - b. Ron moved to approve the posted minutes for the December 1st Trustees meeting. Steven seconded the motion, and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.
3. Citizen comments.
  - a. No comments were made.
4. Reports of commissioners and officers.
  - a. Road Commissioner.
    - i. Bank Street Grant Update
      - The documents from last year can be resubmitted.
    - ii. Plowing and Salting
      - The town of Bennington has expressed no interest in bidding on plowing and salting.
      - VTrans has said they would work with us, along with the VLCT, on creating a plowing and salting plan that will be part of all future proposals.
  - b. Tree Commissioner.
    - i. 31 Bank Street had 2 trees removed that were rotten. According to the person who removed the trees, everything was kosher.
  - c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner.
    - i. Streetlights
      - Monument Electric is trying a new method for replacing the old caps. The cost is about \$100 per cap; the caps are not made of metal. A strobing effect on a light was fixed.

d. Police Commissioner.

i. For January, Officer Corey worked 87 hours, performed 47 property checks, and issued 8 tickets with an estimate of \$1422 in fines.

ii. Kathy is keeping a spreadsheet of fines and working hours for Officer Corey.

iii. Charles Edson estimates that the police car can last at least two more years.

e. Treasurer.

i. We received \$10,890 from the state through the PILOT program.

ii. Two more outstanding tax payments have come in. Only one outstanding tax payment remains.

iii. State highway funds were also distributed this month.

iv. Over \$10,000 was spent on salt and plowing in January.

v. Payments were made to Kathy for stamps and Ron for website maintenance fees.

5. Warrants.

a. Ron moved to approve the warrants. Charles Edson seconded the motion and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

6. Annual Meeting Planning

a. Ron raised the issue of what will be done for the annual meeting. An annual meeting can't be held via Zoom. The Barn is not large enough to hold the meeting in person. Ron proposed that the Australian Ballot be used again. A similar method to last year will be used this year: a combination of mail-in ballots and in-person ballots for those who wish to use them.

7. Old Business

a. Approval of Planning Commission's appointment of Danielle Gallen as Zoning Administrative Officer.

i. A discussion was had about whether or not an executive session was needed, but nobody felt they had anything to say on the matter.

ii. Danielle Gallen is working as an independent contractor and is not an employee of the village.

iii. Ron moved to approve Danielle Gallen as Zoning Administrative Officer. Steven Anisman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 8. New Business

### a. Revised Zoning Permit fee Schedule.

i. Bob Bullington wanted to make sure that the fees would be sufficient to cover the cost of advertising in the Bennington Banner.

-A discussion was had about whether we are required to post in The Bennington Banner. Ed Woods said that there could be alternative options.

ii. Ron moved to approve the fee schedule as proposed. Jim Warren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 9. Adjourn.

a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32.