

Village of Old Bennington
Trustees Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2022

Meeting was held at The Barn & Zoom

Officials Present: Trustees Jim Warren, Steven Anisman, Susan Wright, Anne Slattery, Ed Woods, Clerk Jan Buonanno, Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht

Citizens present: Nancy Coseo, Mary Lou Chicote, Bridget Gallant, Andy and Suzanne Buchsbaum, Jill Jones, Pat White, Gary Corey, Gallen Jones, Megan Schwarzkopf

1. **Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

2. **Minutes:** There was no change to the October minutes. AS moved to approve the minutes from the October meeting. JW seconded. The Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

3. **Guest Speaker – Chief Paul Doucette, Bennington Police Department**

- Nationwide policing shortage- should have 28 officers- 20 currently
- Issues revolving around drugs and violence- all over Vermont
- Working with dept of homeland security- now some detectives can cross state lines into MA and VT
- Supervisors vehicle now marked for more police presence
- Computer aided dispatch (Valcor)
- Old Bennington can still request property watches via dispatch
- Concerns about speeding, loud mufflers
- Highway safety grant for traffic enforcement on Rt 9 & 7
- Loss in ticket revenue (tickets paid for officer), police visibility with Officer Corey's retirement
- Possibility of off duty officer taking OB shifts
- New speed cart on its way (old one totaled in an accident)
- New body cameras coming next year

4. **Citizen Comments**

- Monument closed for season

5. **Reports of Commissioners and Officers**

a. Road Commissioner:

- MSK completed analysis & sent report of Bank and Fairview
- Class II road Fairview research
- Pembroke- too late for Roundup this year, storm drain on Elm overgrown- will be cleared when time allows

b. Tree Commissioner

- 43 West Rd

- Island trees need to wait until spring for trimming

c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner:

- Ann Jensen memorial bench- family organizing installation to match Donna's bench.
- Church parishioner tripped on marble in front of OFC. Mr. Dewey & Mr Dewey resetting stones where the accident happened.
- Researching larger sidewalk issues caused by snow removal near OFC.
- Attending 250th anniversary meetings.
- Bright light ongoing

d. Police Commissioner:

- 0 hours, 0 property watches, 0 traffic tickets, \$0 in potential fines. (no officer)
- 2009 Dodge Charger replacement title arrived- now available for sale to Sherriff. SA moved to approve the sale of the Charger to Bennington County Sheriff's Department for \$6,000. SW seconded. The trustees unanimously approved the motion.

e. Treasurer

- Not much to do without the police bills
- Taxes coming in

f. Planning Commission

- Bridget started work as administrative officer, going well
- Meetings back on monthly schedule

7. **Warrants:** SA moved to approve the warrant list. AS seconded. The trustees unanimously approved the motion.

8. **Old Business:** none

9. **New Business:** Road salt contract from Cargill \$90 ton, up from something in the \$80's. Estimate 100 tons needed. AS moved to authorize JW to sign a contract for road salt at \$90 or less. SA seconded. The trustees unanimously approved the motion.

10. **Adjournment:** SA makes a motion to adjourn, JW seconds. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.