

Village of Old Bennington
Trustees Meetings Minutes
August 4, 2020

Meeting held via telepresence using Zoom.com

Officials present: Trustees Andy Buchsbaum, Charles Edson, and Ron Rabidou, as well as Clerk Steven Anisman and Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht.

Officials absent: Jim Warren and Susan Wright.

Residents present: Lucy Baldwin and Megan Schwarzkopf.

1. Opening. Ron Rabidou called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. Minutes.
 - a. There were no changes to the posted minutes.
 - b. Ron Rabidou moved to approve the posted minutes for the July 7 Trustees meeting and the July 28 Special Meeting, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.
3. Citizen Comments. Margaret Schwarzkopf noted that the sidewalk across from the Inn remains blocked. The branches have been cut back but are still interfering with pedestrians. Susan Wright will be asked to speak with the owners.
4. Reports of Commissioners.
 - a. Road Commissioner.
 - i. Andy Buchsbaum presented the report. There has still been no word from Jamie Jerome. The sidewalk project is dormant awaiting his involvement.
 - ii. Andy Buchsbaum has solicited a proposal from Ron Pembroke for salting and plowing the roads and sidewalks. The proposal would be more expensive than the current contract with Jerome. We will continue to work to reduce the amount of salting that might be necessary. A quote should be obtained from the town, as well. This year, due to the coronavirus epidemic, Pembroke was unable to get a permit to weed the cobbled gutters, and that will need to be addressed next year. Kathy Wagenknecht recommending considering industrial strength vinegar, which would not require a permit.
 - b. Tree Commissioner. Jim Warren was not present. It was noted that the tree at the corner of Fairview and Walloomsac has been taken down.
 - c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner. Susan Wright was not present. There was no report.
 - d. Police Commissioner. Charles Edson presented the report. In July, Officer Andy Corey worked 99 hours, performed 65 house checks, and issued 11 tickets worth \$3,004 in fines. Additionally, Paul Doucette has contacted Officer Corey about wearing a body cam, which will need to be paid out of the equipment fund.
 - e. Treasurer.
 - i. Multiple expenses were paid, details are in the Treasurer's Report.
 - ii. The state has paid the quarterly highway payment to the Village, totalling ~\$3,300.
 - iii. Other than reduced highway fines, finances were typical for this time of year with no unusually large or unexpected costs. A \$50 bill was received from the Caswells for

planting flowers. A new light pole was installed by Monument Electric, the police car got new brakes, and the election (mailing and posting ballots) was expensive.

- iv. Kathy Wagenknecht presented the warrant list. The warrant list has an error in the check numbers; one check was destroyed. Ron Rabidou moved to approve the warrant list, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

5. Old Business. There was none.

6. New Business.

- i. Ron Rabidou moved that the volunteers listed on the voting schedule should be accepted as temporary voting officials. Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion. He also moved that he be authorized to approve any additional volunteers that are needed, as temporary voting voting officials. Margaret Schwarzkopf agreed to fill an open slot. Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.
- ii. Some residents have expressed concerns that the mail-in ballots for the August 11 election are not secret ballots because voters are required to return their ballots in envelopes pre-labelled with their return addresses. Ron Rabidou reported that the Trustees needed to follow this process to ensure that each voter casts only one ballot. However, the tabulation process will also ensure that individual votes remain secret. On election day, one official will check off the names on the returned envelopes against the list of registered voters, open the envelopes, and place the folded ballots in the ballot box. After the first official completes that process, a second official will open the ballot box, unfold the ballots, and tabulate the results.

7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.