

Village of Old Bennington  
Trustees Meeting Minutes  
March 5,2019

Officials present: Trustees James Warren, Andy Buchsbaum, Charles Edson and Ron Ravidou as well as Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht and Clerk James Gallen.

Officials absent: Trustee Susan Wright

Residents present: Jill Jones, Pat Winburn

**1. Opening.**

Ron Ravidou, the presiding officer, called the meeting to order at 7:09.

**2. Approval of Minutes.**

Andy moved to approve minutes of the March minutes as amended with one modification suggested by Charlie. Charlie seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**3. Citizens Comments.**

- a. Pat Winburn: Funding for Phase 2 of Sidewalk Project
  - i. Pat presented a signed petition from 18 village residents to ask the Trustees to place an item for \$25,000 to be dedicated for funding for Phase 2 of the Monument Avenue sidewalk project within the budget for the upcoming year.
  - ii. Pat has expressed concern that the momentum for Monument Avenue sidewalk project phase 2 will wane without an approval of phase 2 funding at the annual meeting or a special meeting.
  - iii. Pat wants the Trustees to put forth a vote at the annual meeting for village approval of funding for phase 2 of the Monument Avenue sidewalk.
  - iv. Kathy suggested adding a sidewalk reserve for phase 2 of the Monument Avenue sidewalk.
- b. No other comments

**4. Reports of commissioners and officers.**

- a. Road Commissioner.
  - i. Andy asked the board of Trustees to confirm that the village owns the right of way for the area involved in the sidewalk project.
  - ii. Pembroke Proposal- Pembroke proposed the same rates as last year.
  - iii. MSK proposal update- Ron consulted with the League of Cities and Towns on whether the village could spend \$5,000 if it was not budgeted at the yearly meeting.
- b. Tree Commissioner
  - i. Dennis McCarthy has been notified about the tree clearing situation at the Bennington Museum.
- c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner-
  - i.No report
- d. Police Commissioner

- i. Andy worked 95 hours. 65 property checks. 18 tickets. \$3048 in projected finds.
  - ii. Charlie has not been attending the BCRC meetings because they have not been wheelchair accessible.
    - There was a TAC meeting that Charlie did not attend because there was nothing in the discussion that related to Bennington County.
  - iii. Charlie will have to raise the repair bill for the police vehicle.
  - iv. Charlie resolved a question about emergency shelters, and reported that we have an agreement with the town of Bennington.
- e. Treasurer
- i. The village still has two outstanding property tax bills.
  - ii. The village will be over budget for this year.

**5. Warrants**

Andy motions to approve the warrants. Charlie seconds the motion, and the motion is passed unanimously.

**6. Fiscal Year 2020 Planning.**

- a. Annual Meeting.
- b. Annual Report
- c. Budget
- d. Officer Openings and Nominations
  - i. James Gallen will not be returning as Village Clerk.
  - ii.

**7. Old Business.**

- a. Organization of Village Files- The records have been recovered. They are stored in the town records storage facility on Stark Street. Access can be arranged with Ron.
  - i. The records are in need of organization.

**8. New Business.**

None.

**9. Adjourn.**

Charlie moved to adjourn at 8:51. Andy Seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion