

Village of Old Bennington
Trustees Meeting Minutes
November 3, 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 and Edward Wood

1. Opening. Ron Rabidou called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. Approval of minutes.
 - a. There were no changes to the posted minutes.
 - B. Ron 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. Citizen comments.
 - a. No comments were made.
4. Reports of commissioners and officers.
 - a. Road Commissioner.
 - i. Status of Bank Street Grant.
 - There are no grants for this year. Ideally, grants will be available from the state next year.
 - ii. Other.
 - Trees fell across the roads during a wind event earlier this month.
 - The town of Bennington dug into the road at the corner of Elm and Monument.
 - There was a charge from Jamie Jerome for 4 trees being removed due to the storm on 10/7. The total charges amounted to \$5600. An itemized list of services rendered will be requested by the tree commissioner.
 - A discussion was had about looking for an alternative tree removal service.
 - Our supplier for road salt met the lowest bid from another supplier.
 - The stump that was ground down was a stump that was in the way of the sidewalk.
 - b. Tree Commissioner.
 - i. No report was given, but Steven Anisman will be following up with Jerome Construction for a breakdown of costs.
 - c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner.
 - i. Storm Damage Repair.

-Three locations were damaged on the sidewalk during the storm. One section had to be replaced entirely. Another section of the sidewalk now has some cracking. Another section also has some cracking and had some damage done to it by the city doing the repairs.

-Susan checked if we had insurance on the sidewalks, but no such insurance exists.

- Susan asked individual homeowners if their homeowner's insurance covered the damage, but she has not heard back as of yet.

- Green Mountain Power, who did dig up some of the sidewalk during the repair, said they would cover the part of the sidewalk that they impacted.

-Jerome Construction gave a quote of \$1200-\$2000 for sidewalk repair.

-A break down of the cost of the sidewalk repairs has been requested.

ii. Other.

-Donna's bench is still in the process of being set. It's been delayed because of bad weather over the last month. It should be installed by next week.

-A number of lamps had to be replaced because they were staying on all day. A light at the crosswalk by the fountain is in such bad condition that it may have to be replaced entirely because it's in such bad condition. The whole head of the lamp is corroded and falling off. It's currently disconnected. The cost to replace that lamp would be \$2050. An alternative method of repair is being looked into. Susan is looking into if Monument Electric has any spare parts from the post that was replaced earlier in the year.

d. Police Commissioner.

i. No report was given.

e. Treasurer.

i. We brought in \$28,000 and change in property taxes. We also had income in the form of highway fines. In total, we had over \$30,000 in income this week.

ii. All the past and current taxes were paid to the village from a household that was past due.

lii. The fees for maintenance remained about the same.

iv. There was nearly \$300 in costs associated with advertising meetings in The Bennington Banner.

5. Warrants.

a. Ron moved to approve the warrants. Steven Anisman seconded the motion and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

6. Old business.

- a. There was no old business.

7. New business.

- a. There was no new business.

8. Adjourn.

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46.