



WARNING
VILLAGE OF OLD BENNINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
May 9, 2023

The legal voters of the Village of Old Bennington are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Old First Church Barn in said Village on Tuesday May 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business from the floor:

1. To hear the reports of the Village Officers and to act thereon.
2. To discuss and approve the budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024.
3. To set the taxes to be appropriated by the Village to pay the expenses of the ensuing year and to determine how and when the Village will collect such taxes.
4. To see if the voters will authorize the Trustees to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.
5. To elect the following officers
 - For a term of one year: Moderator, clerk, treasurer, tax collector & auditor
 - For a term of two years: three trustees
6. To transact any other business that may come before us, including election of Officers by newly elected Trustees.

By order of the Trustees April 9, 2023

Janet Buonanno

Janet Buonanno
Clerk, Village of Old Bennington

Road Commissioner's Report

James Warren

The maintenance and repair of Village streets remains the largest expense in our budget. Although most of our 3.1 miles of roads are sound, Fairview and Bank Streets are the exceptions and are the focus of the Trustees' attention. MSK Engineering has overseen subsurface investigations (borings) of both Bank Street and Fairview Street and submitted recommended actions and cost estimates for both. Due to the rapid deterioration of Fairview Street, the need for repeated patching and numerous public complaints, the Trustees have focused on reconstructing Fairview and are hoping for a Fall 2023 completion. We have again engaged MSK Engineering to prepare construction documents by early May for soliciting project bids. Funding for Fairview reconstruction may be through a drawdown of reserve funds, set aside in anticipation of major road expense, through low interest loans available to municipalities or a combination of the two.

The Village has again applied for state grant funds for Class II highways (Bank Street) for fiscal year 2024, but receipt of these funds is neither assured nor likely based on recent grant awards.

Winter snow and ice control for 2022-2023 has exceeded our projections. Our contractor cites increased labor, fuel and equipment repair costs; increased highway salt costs are also a factor.

Police Commissioner's Report

Anne Slattery

This year has seen major changes in police coverage for the Village of Old Bennington. After many years of dedicated service to and for the residents of Old Bennington our Police patrolman, Andy Cory, retired in August. At the same time the Old Bennington police cruiser owned by the Village was also retired and ultimately sold due to its age and lack of capacity to support up to date equipment such as body and dash cameras. Unfortunately the timing of Officer Cory's retirement occurred at a time when the Bennington Police Department was experiencing a shortage of qualified officers and thus no labor pool to draw from for a replacement. This was mirrored throughout Vermont. After several months of exploring and evaluating all options a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bennington Police Department was reached, approved and implemented by the Village to have the BDP provide incremental police coverage to the Village on a contract basis. The BPD now provides the manpower, police vehicles, modern equipment and in-depth statistics which were not previously available.

Since the Letter of Agreement went into effect the instances of speeding which had increased dramatically in the absence of Officer Cory, appear to have returned to prior levels and with signs of greater efficiency going forward.

If anyone has any questions, concerns or suggestions I can be reached via email at Amslattery@aol.com.

Tree Commissioner’s Report

Steven Anisman

This was a busy year. We oversaw a number of issues regarding trees that posed a danger to the public, and continue to work with homeowners to manage tree-related questions.

Please remember that the removal of trees within the village right-of-way (defined as 25 feet from the center of the road) requires approval of the trustees. The removal of mature trees beyond the right-of-way may need the approval of the planning commission. Contact the Tree Commissioner about trees in the right-of-way or the Administrative Officer about trees beyond the right-of-way if you have questions.

The Village no longer has the means to assist with tree removal on private property, including the right-of-way, so all tree matters are ultimately at the expense of the homeowner. The Village is financially responsible for trees on Village property, which is primarily the central islands in front of the Old First Church. Occasionally, if dangerous issues on private property are not addressed in a timely manner by the homeowner, the Village may step in and oversee necessary work, and then bill the homeowner in turn.

We remind residents to prune vegetation in the right-of-way that may impede safe passage on sidewalks or that may obscure signage.

Please contact me any time at clerkanisman@gmail.com with any questions.

Parks & Sidewalks Commissioner's Report

Susan Wright

The village parks will continue to be maintained by Pembroke Landscaping. The sidewalks have been attended to this past winter season by Jerome Construction. The majority of street light tops have withstood the elements better than expected. No replacements have been necessary to date.

Monument Avenue was striped in error this past summer by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. After discussing the stripes a majority of the village trustees opted for removal. This was done by VTrans at no expense to the village.

There is currently discussion on spraying the swales on Monument Avenue with glyphosate to deter growth of weeds.

The village has been in close contact with the 250th Celebration Committee to commemorate Bennington & Old Bennington over the next few years with special events.

We are happy to see so many new neighbors in the village. A reminder that village residents are responsible for any trees or shrubs or fallen branches that may infringe upon the sidewalks. Please keep them trimmed accordingly.

Planning Commission's Report

Bridget Gallant & Nancy Coseo

The Village Administrative Officers issued a total of 11 permits. One was a minor permit, three were administratively approved with the Planning Commission Chairperson, and seven were sent to the Planning Commission for review. One zoning compliance letter was issued due to a property sale. The permits were issued for two exterior paint changes, two patios, two shed/roof alterations, a temporary fence, window replacement, a structure demolition, an ADA compliant ramp and a backyard swing set. The Trustees appointed two new planning commissioners, Carl Feltz and Brian Scheetz, to four-year terms, replacing outgoing commissioners Suzanne Buchsbaum and Bob Bullington. Many thanks to both Suzanne and Bob for all their contributions to the Planning Commission. The commissioners elected Nancy Coseo as Presiding Chair. The Trustees appointed Bridget Gallant as Administrative Officer (AO) in October, for a three-year term. The Planning Commission meets as needed on the second Monday of the month. All meetings are public and notices are posted on the Village website. As a reminder, the Village of Old Bennington is a separate municipality from the Town of Bennington and we have our own village plan and zoning bylaws. As the Village is an historic district, the zoning bylaws are extensive and address a wide variety of topics, with a particular objective of maintaining the historical integrity of the Village. They cover topics such as land development, new construction, alterations, and relatively

minor changes and repairs. The bylaws regulate issues from razing of a building, exterior construction and repairs, tree removal, replacing windows and doors, fences, changes in exterior color or style, to trash can placement. Most exterior projects require a permit. The Village Plan, Zoning Bylaws, Subdivision Bylaws, Ordinances and Bylaws and contact information for all Officers (elected and appointed) are on the Village website at www.oldbennington.org. You can also find a fee schedule and the permit application form which you can download, complete and email to Bridget Gallant (AO), for review. Once the AO has received your permit application with the appropriate fee and has determined it is complete, you will be contacted to let you know if it can be granted or if your application needs to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. Should you have any questions whether you need a permit for your project, please contact Bridget Gallant at oldben.ao@gmail.com

Auditor's Report

Dale Cobb

I have examined all the records for the accounting year 2022-2023. Each month, Kathy files the bank statements, deposit slips, invoices, check stubs and the accounting software/village reports in a folder. I have reviewed all the documents within those folders, and everything appears to be in order and within normal operating procedures for the village.

Throughout the last 9 years Kathy has been very consistent regarding being organized and excellent handling of village finances. A special thanks and congratulations to Kathy for making a substantial monthly contribution to our community for those years. I recommend that Kathy be highly considered for the next Auditor of the Village of Old Bennington. She has a thorough understanding of the village finances.

VILLAGE OF OLD BENNINGTON
2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

	APPROVED 2022-23 BUDGET	ACTUAL 2022-23	Variance
INCOME			
Covid Relief-ARPA	\$ -	\$ 19,796	\$ 19,796
Donations	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150
Highway Fines	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,746	\$ (254)
Interest	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,254	\$ 1,254
Permit Fees	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,277	\$ 277
Property Taxes & PILOT	\$ 140,100	\$ 140,666	\$ 566
Police AutoSales	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
State Highway Fund	\$ 13,000	\$ 11,566	\$ (1,434)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 165,100	\$ 191,455	\$ 26,355
EXPENSE			
STREETS & ROADS			
Capital Construction--Highway	\$ -	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Lighting Fixtures	\$ 1,500	\$ 555	\$ (945)
Highway Maintenance (Salt & Plowing)	\$ 50,000	\$ 74,554	\$ 24,554
Highway Repair	\$ 15,000	\$ 6,533	\$ (8,467)
TOTAL	\$ 66,500	\$ 88,642	\$ 22,142
POLICE			
Police Auto Expense	\$ 48,000	\$ 1,152	\$ (46,848)
Police Coverage	\$ 17,000	\$ 9,447	\$ (7,553)
Police Equipment	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ (1,000)
TOTAL	\$ 66,000	\$ 10,599	\$ (55,401)
PARKS & RECREATION			
Parks	\$ 21,000	\$ 16,999	\$ (4,001)
Street Lighting (Power)	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,939	\$ 439
Trees	\$ 1,800	\$ -	\$ (1,800)
TOTAL	\$ 27,300	\$ 21,938	\$ (5,362)
OVERHEAD			
Clerical	\$ 800	\$ 656	\$ (144)
Flowers	\$ 100	\$ 72	\$ (28)
Insurance	\$ 1,600	\$ 710	\$ (890)
Legal & Zoning	\$ 1,000	\$ 188	\$ (812)
Memberships	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,998	\$ (2)
Planning Commission	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ (250)
Rent	\$ 300	\$ 440	\$ 140
Zoning Administration	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,570	\$ (1,430)
TOTAL	\$ 10,050	\$ 6,634	\$ (3,416)
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 169,850	\$ 127,813	\$ (42,037)
Net Income (Loss) Xfer to Reserves	\$ (4,750)	\$ 63,642	\$ 68,392
RESERVE ACCOUNTS			
	Proposed	ACTUAL 3/31/23	
General Fund	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	
Highway	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	
Police Auto	\$ 1,000		
Police Coverage	\$ -	\$ 8,000	
Police Equipment	\$ 7,000		
Capital Construction (Sidewalks)	\$ 140,000	\$ 233,570	
	\$ 333,000	\$ 426,570	

* Actual 3/31/23 Balance of all Deposit Accounts (\$448,233.66) Plus Uncleared Deposits (\$314.00) Less Uncleared Checks (\$21,978.14)

OLD BENNINGTON VILLAGE

TAX INFORMATION

Total Acreage in the Village	232.75 ACRES
Real Estate Appraised Value	\$37,729,000
Homestead Filings	\$27,009,000
Grand List Filings	\$31,696,700

Old Bennington Tax Facts

93 - Total number Properties

83 - Total Residential

2 - Total State Owned

Monument and Surrounding Park

Monument Gift Shop

2 - Total Commercial Properties

Green Mountain Power

The 4 Chimneys

6 - Total Not-For-Profit owned

First Congregational Church

First Congregational Church--Barn

Mt Anthony Cemetery Pres Society

Monument Elementary School

Old Bennington Village Greens

Sacred Heart Cemetery

2022 Tax Year

Total Property Tax \$ 31,696,700

Tax Rate 0.4042

Billed to Residents \$ 128,118

*Collected from Residents \$ 119,219

PILOT (Payment in Lieu) \$ 15,705

Total Paid \$ 134,924

Delinquent

2019 Taxes Past Due w \$ 1,700

2020 Taxes Past Due w \$ 1,564

2022 Taxes Past Due w \$ 4,145

Total Delinquent* \$ 7,408

Delinquencies for 3 residents

* Includes Penalties, Interest and Prior year delinquencies for 3 residents

OLD BENNINGTON VILLAGE
2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET

INCOME			
	Actual 2022-2023	Variance	Proposed 2023-2024
ARPA	\$ 19,796	\$ (19,796)	\$ -
Donations	\$ 150	\$ (150)	\$ -
Highway Fines	\$ 9,746	\$ 15,254	\$ 25,000
Interest	\$ 2,254	\$ (254)	\$ 2,000
Permit Fees	\$ 1,277	\$ (277)	\$ 1,000
Property Taxes & PILOT	\$ 140,666	\$ 334	\$ 141,000
Sales	\$ 6,000	\$ (6,000)	\$ -
State Highway Fund	\$ 11,566	\$ 434	\$ 12,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 191,455	\$ (10,455)	\$ 181,000
EXPENSE			
	Actual 2022-2023	Variance	Proposed 2023-2024
STREETS & ROADS			
Capital Construction--Highway	\$ 7,000	\$ 263,000	\$ 270,000
Lighting Fixtures	\$ 555	\$ 945	\$ 1,500
Highway Maintenance (Salt & Plowing)	\$ 74,554	\$ 446	\$ 75,000
Highway Repair	\$ 6,533	\$ 3,467	\$ 10,000
TOTAL	\$ 88,642	\$ 267,858	\$ 356,500
POLICE			
Police Auto Expense	\$ 1,152	\$ (1,152)	\$ -
Police Coverage	\$ 9,447	\$ 40,553	\$ 50,000
Police Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 10,599	\$ 39,402	\$ 50,000
PARKS & RECREATION			
Parks	\$ 16,999	\$ 1,001	\$ 18,000
Street Lighting (Power)	\$ 4,939	\$ (239)	\$ 4,700
Trees	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
TOTAL	\$ 21,938	\$ 2,762	\$ 24,700
OVERHEAD			
Clerical	\$ 656	\$ 144	\$ 800
Flowers	\$ 72	\$ 28	\$ 100
Insurance	\$ 710	\$ 290	\$ 1,000
Legal & Zoning	\$ 188	\$ 812	\$ 1,000
Memberships	\$ 2,998	\$ 2	\$ 3,000
Planning Commission	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250
Rent	\$ 440	\$ 10	\$ 450
Zoning Administration	\$ 1,570	\$ 1,430	\$ 3,000
TOTAL	\$ 6,634	\$ 2,966	\$ 9,600
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 127,813	\$ 312,987	\$ 440,800
Net Income (Loss) Xfer to Reserves	\$ 63,642	\$ (121,179)	\$ (259,800)
RESERVE ACCOUNTS			
	Actual 3/31/2023	Variance	Proposed 3/31/2024
General Fund	\$ 145,000	\$ (56,355)	\$ 88,645
Highway	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 40,000
Police*	\$ 8,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 30,000
Capital Construction	\$ 233,570	\$ (225,445)	\$ 20,000
TOTAL	\$ 426,570	\$ (259,800)	\$ 178,645

* Actual 3/31/23 Balance of all Deposit Accounts (\$448,233.66) Plus Uncleared Deposits (\$314.00) Less Uncleared Checks (\$21,978.14)

OLD BENNINGTON VILLAGE

2023 TAX YEAR

NO RATE CHANGE		
Tax Type	Old Bennington 2021 Tax	Old Bennington 2023 Tax Rate*
General	0.0400	0.0400
Highway	0.3642	0.3642
Total	0.4042	0.4042
*Rate is per \$100 assessed value		
EXPECTED TAX REVENUE		
	Total Property Taxed	Old Bennington 2023 Tax Revenue
	\$31,692,400	
*Tax Revenue		\$128,101
**PILOT		\$12,000
Total		\$140,101
*Not including delinquencies, interest or penalties		
**Payment In Lieu of Taxes from State - 2023 Estimate		