

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD**

2 **BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY**

3 **130 RIVER STREET**

4 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

5 **JUNE 25, 2018**

6 **MINUTES**

7 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Thomas Jacobs-Chair; Donald Campbell-Vice Chair; Jim Carroll;
8 Carson Thurber; Jeanne Conner; Chad Gordon and Jeannie Jenkins.

9 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

10 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Zoning Administrator and Assistant Town
11 Manager; Jennie Rozycki-Executive Director, Mary Rogers-Treasurer and Nicole Hall-Children's Library
12 Coordinator-John McCullough Library; Stephanie Lane-Shires Housing; Gene Rowley and Leonard Favre-
13 Chester Knoll Water/Sewer Main; 5 citizens; Mike Cutler-CAT-TV and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

14 **EXECUTIVE SESSION - INTERVIEWS**

15 At 6:00pm, Chair Thomas Jacobs called the meeting to order.

16 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

17 Recited by all present.

18 **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

19 **A. MINUTES - JUNE 2, 2018, JUNE 4, 2018 AND JUNE 11, 2018**

20 **B. WARRANTS**

21 *Donald Campbell moved and it was seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.*
22 *The motion carried with Jeannie Jenkins abstaining from the June 2, 2018 Minutes, Jeanne Conner and*
23 *Jim Carroll abstaining from the June 4, 2018 Minutes and Jeanne Conner abstaining from the June 11,*
24 *2018 Minutes.*

25 **3. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

26 None.

27 **4. JOHN MCCULLOUGH LIBRARY PRESENTATION**

28 Jennie Rozycki and Mary Rogers shared the following information with the Board:

- 29
- The monthly E-Newsletter is the best way to find out what is going on at the Library.
 - An update on the Operating Budget, gifts since January 2018, flyer on upcoming events, a brochure on an upcoming Digital Literacy Program and the Library's Staff Meeting Program lineup.
 - The Town of Shaftsbury increased their appropriation by 100% and the Town of North Bennington increased their appropriation by 56%.
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- 35 • The Annual Campaign that goes from June to June was our best fundraising effort.
- 36 • We have hosted a fundraiser dinner at Pangeae in April that raised a little over \$5,000.
- 37 • Our principal library group opted to fund all of our books, DVDs, audio books and subscriptions.
- 38 • Our 40-45 Friends of the Library members have increased their fundraising efforts by 186%.
- 39 • A donor thank you/educational event was held in March.
- 40 • Ms. Hall from the Children's Library is now involved in the budget work.
- 41 • Janitorial work is now done on a volunteer basis.
- 42 • We have received a grant for \$2,800 to put in a sump pump.
- 43 • We have been selected to receive a grant for \$7,000 from the Children's Literacy Foundation to
- 44 purchase children's non-fiction books.
- 45 • We have a sponsor to turn a storage closet into a playroom.
- 46 • We have applied for a grant to bring in a musician for our Summer Reading Program on August
- 47 3rd at Lake Paran.
- 48 • The only expense not funded for the Summer Reading Program is the "paper to print it on".
- 49 • The Fund for North Bennington is funding part of our outdoor book drop project and the Friends
- 50 of the Library is funding the rest.
- 51 • Ms. Rozycki attended the Vermont Library's Conference this year on scholarship.
- 52 • The Friends of Robert Frost have funded five years of the Vermont Humanities Council Bureau
- 53 Talks so we are looking forward to 20 of those over the next five years. The first one will be on
- 54 July 27th - "Good News from Less News".
- 55 • The staff of the Market Wagon donated their tips from the month of February and we get
- 56 \$1/Community Bag sold at Hannaford.
- 57 • Our efforts have been on "making this year work" and educating/informing the community about
- 58 the Library.
- 59 • We are still experiencing a shortfall this year and will be withdrawing \$2,000 from our
- 60 endowment in order to make payroll this month. We have already withdrawn the \$6,000
- 61 interest that it had earned.
- 62 • The Town of Bennington increased their appropriation by \$4,000 last year. We will be asking for
- 63 more than \$4,000 this year but "it won't be \$24,000".
- 64 • Worst case scenario we would withdraw less than half of the \$60,000 that we had withdrawn
- 65 from the endowment in previous years. The balance of the endowment is \$246,000.

66 Board questions/comments:

67 Mr. Jacobs: The necessity of repeated community support is paramount to the long term success of the
68 library and kudos to Ms. Rozycki for the efforts and successes that she has achieved in a short period of
69 time.

70 Ms. Conner: Congratulations on all of the work and successes. Are all of the fundraising initiatives new,
71 and Ms. Rozycki answered, yes, since January.

72 Mr. Thurber: Could not commit to the Board's appropriation for next year, but thanked Ms. Rozycki for
73 keeping the Board informed.

74 Mr. Carroll: Reiterated the comments from Ms. Conner and Mr. Thurber.

75 Mr. Campbell: Advised the Library, that as impressive as all of these new initiatives are, they don't want
76 to lose dedicated staff by not providing raises and burning them out.

77 Ms. Jenkins: Kudos to Ms. Rozycki for all of the impressive accomplishments.

78 Mr. Gordon: Thanked Ms. Rozycki for her work and presentation.

79 **5. MONUMENT VIEW GRANT AGREEMENT RESOLUTION**

80 Stephanie Lane stated that the Town of Bennington was awarded a Community Development
81 Block Grant of \$750,000 by the Agency Commerce and Community Development in July 2014. The grant
82 was provided as a deferred loan to Monument View Apartments Limited Partnership to support the
83 construction of 24 units of affordable housing on a parcel located on South Street (Route 7) and
84 bordered by Silver Street on the east.

85 The design for the project consists of seven buildings, five of which will be two-bedroom
86 duplexes located at 51, 50, 31, 30 and 19 Hilltop Drive. The remaining units will be located in a six-unit
87 building at 90 Hilltop Drive and an eight-unit building at 130 Hilltop Drive. These two buildings will each
88 have a common vestibule and central hallway. Ground floor units will have a back door to the outside
89 and the second floor units are designed with small balconies. The multi-unit buildings are a mix of eight
90 one-bedroom units, four two-bedroom units and two three-bedroom units. All the ground floor units in
91 the multi-family buildings will be adaptable with accessible entrances and one building will be fully ADA
92 accessible.

93 ***Donald Campbell moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Monument View Grant***
94 ***Agreement Resolution - Single Grantee as presented.***

95 The project began in March 2018 and full occupancy is expected in February 2019.

96 ***The motion carried unanimously.***

97 **6. MANAGER'S REPORT**

98 Mr. Hurd announced that the Town has submitted an application for a VTRANS Bicycle and
99 Pedestrian Grant in the amount of \$90,000 to fund the Applegate to Willowbrook path. The bids came
100 in higher than expected. The project has been re-evaluated and is expected to be satisfied with these
101 additional funds. The grant requires a 20% match which will be sought from those who have previously
102 provided generous support. They include Whipstock Hill Preservation Society, the Bennington School
103 District, United Way, SVMC, and BCRC. The Town will also provide funds that have been budgeted for
104 this project from its sidewalk fund.

105 Mr. Monks added that we expect to break ground this fall for project completion by the end of
106 the year.

107

108 Mr. Hurd reported that, due to some odors at the WWTF, the State agreed to let us take the
109 third row of existing RBC's off line and is being readied for the next RBC delivery in early August. We had
110 already replaced two rows that are working better than all four rows were before. Our employees
111 continue to do a great job and we should finish this before the December 2018 deadline outlined in the
112 Assurance of Discontinuance.

113 **7. CHESTER KNOLL WATER/SEWER MAIN ACCEPTANCE**

114 *Donald Campbell moved and Jim Carroll seconded to accept the Chester Knoll Water/Sewer*
115 *Main Easement Deed as presented.*

116 Mr. Hurd stated that the Chester Knoll residents are already paying water and sewer fees so this
117 doesn't gain the Town any income, however, it gives us control of the inner parts of their system and
118 relieves them of that responsibility.

119 *The motion carried unanimously.*

120 A closing date for signatures will be set up between the Town and the Chester Knoll
121 Homeowners Association.

122 **8. APPOINTMENTS - BOARD OF LISTERS**

123 *Jim Carroll moved and Donald Campbell seconded to appoint Peter Green to the Board of*
124 *Listers.*

125 Mr. Campbell noted his extensive experience in engineering, ownership of both residential and
126 commercial properties, as well as, personal experience of the grievance process and his commitment to
127 the position.

128 *The motion carried unanimously.*

129 **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

130 Mr. Campbell: Spoke very highly of the all-day Bridges Out of Poverty presentation that was
131 attended by around 100 people and stressed the importance of how you look at poverty.

132 Mr. Gordon: Thanked Police Chief Paul Doucette for the work that the police do in our
133 community and recommended the Monument Video - that currently is at 27,000 reviews - to everyone.

134 Mr. Jacobs: Noted how much fun it was to have the Great Race go through town - despite a
135 major waterline break.

136 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

137 *At 6:52pm, Jim Carroll moved and Donald Campbell seconded the adjournment of the meeting.*
138 *The motion carried unanimously.*

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142 Respectfully submitted,

143 Nancy H. Lively

144 Secretary