

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD**
2 **BENNINGTON TOWN OFFICE**
3 **CONFERENCE ROOM 2 (REAR OF BUILDING)**
4 **205 SOUTH STREET**
5 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**
6 **DECEMBER 17, 2018**

7 **MINUTES**

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Thomas Jacobs-Chair; Donald Campbell-Vice-Chair; Jim Carroll;
9 Jeanne Conner (left at 5:53pm); Chad Gordon; Carson Thurber and Jeannie Jenkins.

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

11 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Daniel Monks-Planning Director; Joel Lentzner; Bennington
12 Banner; Mike Cutler-CAT-TV and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

13 At 5:33pm, Chair Thomas Jacobs called the meeting to order.

14 **1. CONSENT AGENDA**

15 **A. MINUTES - DECEMBER 10, 2018**

16 **B. WARRANTS**

17 *Jim Carroll moved and Donald Campbell seconded to approve the Consent Agenda amended as*
18 *follows.*

19 *Line 242, change "Old Castle" to "The Bennington Community Theatre at Old Castle".*

20 *The motion carried unanimously.*

21 **2. CITIZEN PUBLIC COMMENTS**

22 Joel Lentzner asked for clarity as to how the Downtown Improvement District (DID) funding
23 proposals will be handled this year, what is the process, and when will the proposals be given.

24 Mr. Hurd answered that the Board has received the budget proposal this evening and generally
25 schedule to meet the first two or three Saturdays in January at the Fire Facility. The Budget as
26 presented is historically discussed first, agencies may present if they wish to do so, and there has been
27 mention of having the Bennington Downtown Alliance (BDA) also present at this time. It is at the
28 Board's discretion to change the order of this if they wish.

29 Mr. Carroll objected to moving the DID budget from April - when it has been presented - to
30 "cramming" it into the meetings in January, and Mr. Jacobs stated that the public should be able to hear
31 all presentations prior to the vote in March. Having said that, the DID presentations could take place in
32 February. Mr. Hurd added that the Town budget has to be warned by the end of January, however, the
33 DID budget is a Board decision that sets the DID tax rate.

34 In the past, there has been a contract for the entire amount of the DID budget awarded to the
35 BDA because no one else had expressed an interest in any of it. Mr. Lentzner doesn't want this to
36 happen again prior to his presentation and opportunity to request some of those DID dollars.

37 Mr. Thurber verified that there wouldn't be "any red tape" in February that changes the ability of
38 entities to vie for some of the DID dollars.

39 Mr. Jacobs stated that the Board will be having discussions as to whether we want the marketing
40 of the community to be the responsibility of the Town Departments, or do we want to contract it out.

41 Mr. Lentzner noted that Mr. Campbell had made the statement at the last meeting that
42 "advertising shouldn't be paid for with tax dollars", and he read from the Charter that "the powers and
43 duties of the District shall be exercised by the Select Board.....and shall include the following: To
44 advertise and promote the Improvement District". Mr. Campbell's objection was for the "individual ads,
45 for the individual businesses, that were being individually boosted". Mr. Lentzner rebutted that the tax
46 dollars in question are the DID tax dollars only, and wants to be sure that "there is a level playing field"
47 when allocating the DID funds.

48 3. OTHER BUSINESS

49 Mr. Hurd stated that the bids were opened for the HVAC at the Police Facility on Friday. There
50 were two bids with Hayden Plumbing being the low bidder and Bennington Cooling and Heating being
51 much higher. With ~\$350,000 in Capital Facilities money and \$124,000 from the solar settlement, we
52 have enough to do Phase 1 and Phase 2 - a \$440,000 project - without using taxpayer dollars. Mr. Hurd
53 will bring a more detailed presentation to the Board for approval.

54 Mr. Thurber: Asked for an update on the Armory, and Mr. Hurd answered that they're still
55 working on the final PCB removal which will be done soon. No date of completion is known at this time.

56 Mr. Thurber: Asked about the 209 Pleasant Valley Road auction, and Mr. Hurd responded that it
57 will take place at the Town Office in Conference Room 2 on January 7, 2019. There is no reserve and no
58 minimum. A non-refundable 10% down will be required on the day of the auction with the closing to
59 take place within 21 days. The restrictions are that all non-compliant buildings must be removed which
60 leaves the residence and two garage buildings. The timeline of having the buildings removed by April 1,
61 2019 will be negotiated with the successful bidder.

62 Ms. Jenkins: Noted that the solar lights on Pleasant Street don't work, and now that Friendly's is
63 closed, there is no street light by Adecco. Mr. Hurd will look into these.

64 Mr. Jacobs: Added that the solar lighting on Depot Street by the fitness center are sporadic
65 causing it to be dark, as well. Mr. Hurd will also look into that.

66 Mr. Carroll: Wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and stated that he had his first 'Meet and
67 Greet' at the Brown Cow Café with 14 people in attendance. "It was thrilling." His proposed legislation
68 on daycare assistance and retaining teachers, nurses, and police through loan forgiveness were
69 discussed.

70 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

71 A. CONTRACT

72 ***At 6:00pm, Donald Campbell moved and Carson Thurber seconded that the meeting was***
73 ***adjourned finding that an Executive Session be held on a Contract as premature public knowledge***
74 ***would place a person involved in the subject matter at a substantial disadvantage. The motion carried***
75 ***with Jeanne Conner absent.***

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79 Respectfully submitted,

80 Nancy H. Lively

81 Secretary

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