

M E E T I N G N O T I C E
B E N N I N G T O N S E L E C T B O A R D
Monday, November 25, 2019
Bennington Fire Facility
Multi-Purpose Room - 3rd Floor
130 River Street
Bennington, VT 05201
A G E N D A
6:00 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Consent Agenda (6:00 PM - 6:05 PM)
 - A. Minutes of November 11, 2019
 - B. Warrants
3. Citizens Comments (6:05 PM - 6:20 PM)
4. Bennington Marketing/Economic Development (6:20 PM - 6:50 PM)
5. Final Hearing Bridge 6 Route 9E (6:50 PM - 7:10 PM)
6. Manager's Report (7:10 PM - 7:20 PM)
7. Upcoming Agenda (7:20 PM - 7:30 PM)
8. Other Business (7:30 PM - 7:40 PM)
9. Executive Session
 - A. Contract

1 BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD

2 BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY

3 130 RIVER STREET

4 BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201

5 NOVEMBER 11, 2019

6 MINUTES

7 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Donald Campbell-Chair; Jeannie Jenkins-Vice Chair; Jeanne
8 Conner; Jim Carroll; Chad Gordon; and Bruce Lee-Clark.

9 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bill Scully (absentee verbal vote on Agenda Item #5 via Bruce Lee-
10 Clark).

11 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Daniel Monks-Assistant Town Manager and Planning
12 Director; Susan Sommer-Habitat for Humanity; Attorney Lon McClintock; Barbara True-Weber; Dan
13 Whitman; 18 citizens; CAT-TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

14 At 6:00pm, Chair Donald Campbell called the meeting to order.

15 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

16 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present followed by a moment of silence in
17 recognition of Veteran's Day.

18 **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

19 **A. MINUTES - OCTOBER 28, 2019**

20 **B. WARRANTS**

21 *Jeannie Jenkins moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Consent Agenda amended as*
22 *follows:*

23 *October 28, 2019 Minutes - Lines 13, 85, and 91, Change "Reddick" to "Redding"*

24 *Line 111, Change "two" to "ten"*

25 *Line 202, Change "Corporates" to "Corcoran's"*

26 *The motion carried with Bruce Lee-Clark abstaining and Bill Scully absent.*

27 **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

28 No comments.

29 **4. PUBLIC HEARING - CORCORAN'S WAY ACCEPTANCE**

30 Mr. Hurd stated that the Habitat for Humanity has met all of the criteria that would qualify
31 Corcoran's Way to be a public highway except one, and that is the closing of a former curb cut on
32 North Branch Street.

33 Susan Sommer, Executive Director for the Habitat for Humanity, spoke to the history of the
34 North Branch Street project and to the fine work of the Habitat, in general.

35 Mr. Carroll shared the story behind naming Corcoran's Way after the late Tim Corcoran.

36 Attorney Lon McClintock explained that there is still work to be done, such as sufficient trees
37 need to be planted, the North Branch Street curb cut needs to be closed at the cost of \$1,500, and
38 another curb cut requires an apron at the cost of \$3,000. A bond for the monies will be put into a
39 restricted escrow account controlled by Mr. McClintock. Upon completion, a Certificate of Completion
40 would be issued to the Town.

41 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to accept the Certificate of Completion and***
42 ***opening of Corcoran's Way as a municipal highway. The motion carried with Bill Scully absent.***

43 5. CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTION

44 Ms. Jenkins stated that she, Ms. Conner, and Mr. Lee-Clark worked to develop the Resolution
45 Concerning the Climate Emergency on behalf of the Town "that we felt would honor what we were
46 able to do, and also provide some milestones that the Select Board and the Town could be held
47 accountable". Ms. Jenkins thanked the Climate Advocates "for their advocacy of this".

48 *Board comments/questions -*

49 Mr. Lee-Clark: Looks forward to the time when we can set some clearer goals for the reduction
50 of fossil fuels.

51 Ms. Conner: This needs to stay in the forefront and maintain the Town's support as Select
52 Board's come and go.

53 Mr. Carroll: Vermont's carbon footprint is "miniscule" and an effort needs to be done
54 worldwide.

55 Ms. Jenkins: Invited everyone to the next Energy Committee Meeting on November 26th at
56 7:00pm at the BCRC Conference Room.

57 Mr. Gordon and Mr. Campbell: Thanked the Work Group for their work on the Resolution.

58 *Public comments/questions -*

59 A maple syrup producer from Pownal noted the negative effect that climate change has had on
60 maple syrup production in Vermont and the importance of addressing it so Vermont will be able to
61 continue it's production of maple syrup 100 years from now.

62 Barbara True-Weber: Thanked the Board for the inclusion of the Climate Advocates and looks
63 forward to following the work of the Energy Committee.

64 Dan Whitman: Sees this as an opportunity to “lead by example” to the rest of the world.

65 *Jim Carroll moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to accept the Town of Bennington Resolution*
66 *Concerning the Climate Emergency as presented. The motion carried unanimously with a verbal vote*
67 *from Bill Scully as stated by Bruce Lee-Clark.*

68 **6. UPCOMING BUDGET SEASON DISCUSSION**

69 Mr. Campbell stated that most of our budget direction “is embodied in the Town Plan” and
70 referred to the summaries on Page 2 and 3 of the Town Plan with the following areas of interest:

- 71 • Continued support of the BCRC, BCIC, BBC, and the Town’s marketing effort.
- 72 • Continued support of private efforts, such as, the Bennington Redevelopment Group, Grow
73 Bennington, etc., and the Department of Work Force Development as able.
- 74 • Support of creative efforts, such as, the Lightning Jar and the Four Corners North.
- 75 • Plan and maintain the Town’s historic settlement pattern, such as, the Planning Commission’s
76 development of form based zoning.
- 77 • Recognize the importance of significant natural and historic resources, such as, expansion of
78 the Walloomsac Park and trails to the One World Conservation Center, the needs of Willow
79 Park, completion of Stark Street, and the Merchants Splash Pad including an evaluation of
80 outdoor activities and staff needs in Bennington and North Bennington.
- 81 • Supporting the entities that are working on housing projects including options for the Ben Mont
82 building.
- 83 • Provide a safe, convenient, and efficient transportation system, such as, the Ben Mont
84 Redevelopment Project, the Applegate Pedestrian Connection to the school, the Kocher Drive
85 Pedestrian Connection, the Ninja Path, and revisiting the sidewalk plan.
- 86 • Finishing the sewer plant upgrade, the IACP Police Evaluation, PFOA work, get water trucks off
87 of Bradford Street and keep water rates as low as possible. Improve the Rec Center and the
88 parks, support the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services, and preparing for any
89 changes from Act 148.
- 90 • Support the safe and efficient use of energy and renewable energy resources.

91 Mr. Hurd stated that he will receive the department and agencies budgets before Thanksgiving
92 and will have the Town’s budget to the Board before the end of December. Budget meetings are
93 scheduled for January 4th, January 11th, and January 18th (if needed).

94 **7. MANAGER’S REPORT**

95 Mr. Hurd reported the following:

- 96 ➤ PFOA - Contracts #8 and #9 have gone out to bid that will bring water to Chapel Road and
97 Upper East Road. Contracts #5, #6, and #7 are underway and moving along.

- 98 ➤ Morgan Spring Delivery System - Negotiations continue, albeit slowing down, on the financing
99 of construction of the new delivery system. We have given them "our bottom line" and expect
100 to hear from them soon.
- 101 ➤ Opioid Lawsuit - The Attorney General sent out a statement to the League of Cities and Towns
102 recommending towns to join the settlement. Our attorneys are working with towns to join, and
103 because our lawsuit is against all of the responsible parties, we will not be settling now.
- 104 ➤ IACP - Have completed their work in Bennington and are back in Washington, D.C. We will have
105 their report in late December or early January.

106 Mr. Lee-Clark thanked staff for the work they have done on the policies, and noted that the policies
107 should be posted on the website. Mr. Hurd stated that if they aren't already, they will be soon.

108 Mr. Lee-Clark also stated that there should be a policy on the Board's methodology on the sale of
109 property, and Mr. Hurd said that will be done.

110 **8. FUTURE AGENDA**

111 The following are planned for the indicated meeting dates:

- 112 ❖ November 25th - Economic Development Marketing Strategies.
- 113 ❖ November 25th - 2nd meeting on the VTRANS Bridge #6.
- 114 ❖ November 25th - The Board may receive the budget.
- 115 ❖ December 16th - There will be a meeting on December 16th in lieu of the December 23rd
116 meeting.
- 117 ❖ December 23rd - Cancelled.

118 **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

119 Mr. Lee-Clark: Stated that the parking of tankards on the railroad tracks is a federal issue and
120 recommends that we write to our federal delegation and the Attorney General. He has read the
121 regulations and they do pre-empt the State but feels that the State "should be putting up a little more
122 of a fuss than they're doing". A second option is to join other states that are questioning the pre-
123 emption status. Mr. Hurd added that we have previously approached the State for them to speak on
124 our behalf, however, VTRANS has never done much with it. Mr. Hurd will draft a letter to our federal
125 delegation and Attorney General and bring it to the next Board meeting for the Board's review.

126 Mr. Lee-Clark: Encouraged everyone who has not done so to fill out the survey on the website.

127 Ms. Conner: Empty Bowls will be November 17th from 4:00pm-7:00pm at the Middle School.
128 Cost of a ticket ahead of time is \$10.00 and at the door is \$15.00. It is "fantastic" and her favorite
129 event of the year.

130 Ms. Conner: Encouraged everyone to take the Green Mountain Bus - they probably are going
131 where you need to be.

132 Ms. Conner: Congratulated everyone involved with the musical production at the high school
133 this past weekend. "It was astounding."

134 Mr. Carroll: Noted that Mert Cross, a longtime Town employee, had died and that "he was just
135 a really good guy".

136 **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

137 **A. CONTRACTS**

138 *At 6:55pm, Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Chad Gordon seconded that the meeting was*
139 *adjourned finding that an Executive Session be held on Contracts as premature public knowledge*
140 *would place a person involved in the subject matter at a substantial disadvantage. There will be no*
141 *actions taken on these items when going back into Open Session. The motion carried with Bill Scully*
142 *absent.*

143

144 Respectfully submitted,

145 Nancy H. Lively

146 Secretary

MANAGER'S REPORT
November 25, 2019

ACTION

MAUHS Sophomore Career Summit request Attached is the request for support for this event scheduled for April 8, 2020. Funds were budgeted in the Partnership Activities account in the Community Development budget.

Action Requested A motion to support the Sophomore Career Summit with a donation of \$500.

Create 4 way Stop at Weeks and Jefferson Heights Under Article 10-3.02 the Town Manager is authorized, as voted by the Select Board to "a.) place and maintain such traffic control signs, signals and devices at such locations as he deems necessary to regulate, guide or warn traffic". The steep decline of Jefferson Heights as it comes to Weeks is creating a dangerous situation. Vehicles have been known to slide into the intersection when the road is slippery. Vehicles traveling on Weeks are not required to stop creating a true hazard. I have determined that this intersection must be a 4 way stop.

Action requested Motion to support the Manager's determination.

INFORMATIONAL

PFOA Completed to Date

Contract #5 Asphalt patching along shoulder is underway. Weather reduced time worked.

Contract #6 Contractor has pressure tested the main on Houghton Lane and is also patching along roadway shoulders.

Contract #7 Ledge removal on Willow Road is complete. Installation of a long service connection on Willow Road is complete.

Morgan Spring Delivery System We have now entered the winter time frame where water draws are slowly reduced. Negotiations have slowed on the financing of construction of the new delivery system since construction is now not likely until Spring.

Opioid Lawsuit Bennington will remain in the negotiation class based on our attorneys' recommendation. The reasons remain privileged and confidential.

WWTF upgrade This project seems to have smoothed out and is running at a pace that indicates finishing sometime in February of 2020.

FOLLOW-UP

Nothing at this time.



Mt. Anthony Union High School

301 Park Street, Bennington, VT 05201

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Fax 802-442-1260



Steve Nixon
Principal

Christopher Barnes
Assistant Principal

David Beriau
Dean of Students

Ashley Hoyt
Activities Director

October 21, 2019

Dear Members of the Select Board,

Every year, all 10th grade students in Bennington County are invited for a day of Career Exploration called The Sophomore Career Summit. Now in its sixteenth year, this is an opportunity for our youth to connect with professionals in our community in order to learn more about possible career paths and start thinking about their futures. The ultimate objective is to have students start looking ahead and build a personalized learning plan and curriculum that reflects their individual interests and goals.

This year's Summit will be on April 8, 2020 at Bennington College. We expect over 250 tenth graders from MAUHS, Burr and Burton Academy, Arlington Memorial High School to attend pre-selected workshops based on their interests. In each of the workshops, 3-5 professionals from within a specific career cluster will speak to students in small groups about what they do for a living and what paths they took to get there. They may have interactive, hands-on activities or just small group discussions.

Each visiting school pays a per-student fee for this event, but those fees do not cover the significant expenses associated with using the facilities for the day; the School to Work Program covers the remaining amount. The overall cost each year is between \$4,000 - \$5,000. We pay for the facility use and set up, lunch, thank you gifts and print materials for panelists, bussing, snacks and signage. In the past, the town of Bennington has graciously donated \$500 toward this worthwhile event, and we are respectfully requesting that the select board consider the same amount this year.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter and hope that you will also agree that this is a valuable event that is worthy of your support. Thank you so much for your time.

Kindest regards,

Jenn Moore

MAUHS School to Work Director

jennifer.moore@svsu.org

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