

35 Kayla Becker and Taylor Haynes from the YMCA did the following presentation:

- 36 • All active members were transferred into the Y's new Daxko data base system. As of 11/8/20
37 there are 1,434 Bennington Rec Center members.
- 38 • Membership Types are:
- 39 ○ Resident - 64 Adult Individual; 80 Youth Individual; 92 Family; 110 Senior Individual; 35
40 Senior Family
 - 41 ○ Non-Resident - 15 Adult Individual; 7 Family; 26 Senior Individual; 5 Senior Family
 - 42 ○ Corporate Rate - 91 Individual; 123 Family (many non-residents are in this type for a total
43 non-resident membership of ~25%)
 - 44 ○ BFYMCA Membership - 5 Adult; 5 Senior; 18 Youth/Teen; 3 Family
- 45 • Many programs fall into these three major summaries - Youth Development, Healthy Living, and
46 Social Responsibility.
- 47 • The Rec Center reopened on June 15th with distanced equipment, limited capacity, red/green
48 "clean" indicators, pool reservation system, and masks and travel restrictions.
- 49 • Internal controls were also incorporated with staff training, screening, control plan, and working
50 closely with Town of Bennington facilities team ("who are amazing").
- 51 • Some new programs are - infant movement playgroup, outdoor group exercise, teen hour, COVID
52 restricted swim lessons and modified water exercises, and additional programs to fill the
53 calendar at the Senior Center.
- 54 • Also, we revised the usual Fall Soccer Program, conducted the Green Mountain Summer
55 Program, and created the School Age Child Care HUB at Lake Paran that was grant supported by
56 the State.
- 57 • Other grants received were from COVID Relief, United Way, Ben and Jerry's, and Bank of
58 Bennington.
- 59 • We are doing our best to keep program fees down. Members are seeing the benefit of the
60 BFYMCA membership which is all inclusive, as well as, grant and local agency contributions and
61 financial assistance availability.

62 Beth Wallace, Betsy Rathbun-Gunn, and Lorna Mattern from UCS and Jack Byer and Jeff
63 Goldstone from Goldstone Architects did the following presentation:

- 64 • The Select Board did a tour of the UCS addition to the Rec Center prior to tonight's meeting.
- 65 • Part of the project has expanded the parking lot and put in a drive-thru for parents to have a
66 safer child drop off option.
- 67 • We have also re-established the softball field as promised, and playground development with a
68 tricycle track will be completed this fall.
- 69 • Funding not only has come from the federal government, but we have received dollars from the
70 USDA, CARES, Vermont Building and Grounds, Herrmann Construction, the Community
71 Development Block Grant, and private donations for ~\$210,000.
- 72 • A new sprinkler system has been installed throughout the entire building and work has been
73 done with the existing staff on the new entrance to the Rec Center with a new reception desk
74 area.

- 75 • The hope is to have the project completed by mid-February, take a couple of weeks to move in,
76 and when COVID restrictions relax, be able to move children in.
- 77 • Ms. Barsotti added that the Town has received another grant from Vermont Building and
78 Grounds and will be fencing the green space toward the Community Garden for additional
79 programing space.
- 80 • There will be a Zoom/Pulse Meeting on December 16th at 5:30pm if anyone has questions.

81 *Board questions/comments:*

82 Mr. Campbell: Will the air purification system be throughout the whole building? Mr. Byer answered
83 that the air purification system would be in the lobby and shared community kitchen, and the entire
84 new addition.

85 Mr. Carroll: Thanked everyone for their work and the benefit it will be to the community.

86 Ms. Conner: Thanked everyone for their hard work, as well.

87 Mr. Lee-Clark: Asked that the YMCA slides be available to be put on the Town's website. Ms. Becker said
88 that they would be.

89 Ms. Perrin: Asked that the membership and fee structures be put on the Town's website also. Ms.
90 Becker stated that the membership fees are on the Town's website and the program fees are on the Y
91 website. She will see that the program fees are put on the Town's website, as well.

92 Mr. Campbell: Thanked all involved with the project.

93 *Public questions/comments:*

94 Nancy White: Noted that the public had no input on the changes that were going to be taking place at
95 the Rec Center but will ultimately be asked to approve a bond for the Town's portion of the changes.
96 Mr. Campbell stated that no consideration has been given for Phase 3 to take place at this time. Mr.
97 Hurd added that the gym, indoor track, and pickle ball court were part of Phase 2 which is on hold with
98 no plans to go forward with it at this time. It was presented to show people what it could be, but it is at
99 least 2-3 years before it would even be considered.

100 Nancy White: Will you be discussing membership fees tonight? Mr. Campbell answered no, that
101 discussion will take place at budget time after the Board has the recommendations from staff.

102 Nancy White: When was the last time the membership rates were raised? Ms. Becker stated that it's
103 posted in the lobby of the Rec Center as 2011. Ms. White added that if they had been raised regularly
104 then we probably wouldn't have needed the Y.

105 Nancy White: What is the total size of the UCS addition - it started at 5,500 square feet? Mr. Byers
106 stated that it has always been ~11,000 square feet and doesn't know where the 5,500 square foot
107 number came from.

108 Nancy White: Do the program fees go to the Town Office or to the Y in Massachusetts? Mr. Hurd
109 answered that eventually it goes to the Y in Bennington. We have a contract with the Y, and if they
110 generate more money than the contract is for, then that excess is applied to the next year's contract.

111 4. NET-METERING AGREEMENT-NORTH BENNINGTON HYDROELECTRIC

112 Mr. Monks explained that when Bill Scully rejuvenated the Tissue Mill several years ago, the
113 Town partnered with him in a 20-year Hydroelectric Net-Metering Agreement to purchase the credits
114 from the project.

115 The new owners wish to update the Agreement for a 20-year term and provide a 4% discount to
116 the Town on the energy credits purchased. In other words, the Town will pay \$96 for each \$100 worth
117 of credits applied to electric meters of the Town. The proposed agreement has been reviewed by the
118 Town's attorney and is virtually identical to the existing agreement except the existing agreement does
119 not include the proposed 4% discount.

120 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the proposed Hydroelectric Net-*
121 *Metering Agreement - Tissue Mill with North Bennington Hydroelectric, LLC and authorize the Town*
122 *Manager to sign on behalf of the Town. The motion carried unanimously.*

123 5. COMMUNITY POLICING UPDATE

124 Ms. Conner reported the following:

- 125 ❖ The third question will be up until Thursday, November 12th, when we will then be posting the
126 fourth, and final, question.
- 127 ❖ There are 16 comments on the third question so far with the one at the Town Office getting the
128 most activity due to availability when people go to pay their property taxes.
- 129 ❖ The new question going up on November 12th is "How can the community better engage with the
130 Bennington Police Department?" This puts some of the responsibility back onto the community
131 as the relationship "is a two-way street".

132 Mr. Lee-Clark reported the following:

- 133 ❖ On November 4th, the Committee completed the review of the Responding to Those in Mental
134 Health Crisis Policy where the Committee had to construct a policy for 2020.
- 135 ❖ The draft will be coming back to the Committee tomorrow and then will be going to our legal
136 counsel and State's Attorney, etc.
- 137 ❖ On November 18th, we will be discussing Motor Vehicle Stops and Traffic Enforcement.
- 138 ❖ At the Select Board Meeting on November 23rd, we will be reviewing the first three policies
139 looked at. Those are, The Use of Force, Duty to Intervene, and the Use of Conductive Electric
140 Weapons. The Board will receive both the red lined version and the clean version.

141 Ms. Jenkins reported the following:

- 142 ❖ On December 2nd, we will have the list of the next set of policies that we will be taking up in this
143 order during the winter/spring: Social Media, Special Events, Body Worn Cameras, Collaborative
144 Partnerships, Nepotism and Fraternalization, and Code of Conduct.
- 145 ❖ In early January 2021, we will open up the opportunity to participate in these policy reviews to
146 anyone who works or lives in Bennington.
- 147 ❖ We're still looking for more information from the legislature for their plans on oversight and
148 review boards. However, we have still been working with the IACP under our original contract
149 and they have put us in contact with the National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law
150 Enforcement (NACOLE). The link to this group will be up on the Town's website later this week.
151 There is a lot of information from the bibliographies on citizen oversight already on the website.
- 152 ❖ We are still working with Mr. Reed's Partnership who are now spending most of their time
153 working with the Police Chief and Lieutenant on upcoming trainings that they will facilitate.
- 154 ❖ On December 14th, we hope to have a presentation by the Police to the Board on the trainings
155 that they've had over the last several months.

156 6. MANAGER'S REPORT

157 Mr. Hurd reported as follows:

- 158 ▪ Tax Collections - Taxes are steadily being taken at the window at the Town Office. On November
159 10th, we will have a better idea of where we stand with delinquencies. We urge everyone to pay
160 what you can and to speak with Town staff for what you cannot. Mr. Carroll added that there is
161 legislation for people and/or towns for those that cannot pay their taxes due to the negative
162 financial impact that COVID 19 has had on them.
- 163 ▪ Projects Out to Bid - The project to upgrade the pressures in the southerly higher elevations of
164 the water system is out to bid. The Morgan Spring relocation project should also be bid this
165 month. Both projects are aiming for a spring 2021 start. We are bidding the Morgan Spring
166 project to better understand the cost which will allow for non-speculative negotiations with our
167 vendors.
- 168 ▪ Staff Changes - Tony Onorato has retired after 41 years and his position will be filled by Brian
169 Billert. We are currently advertising for two operators in the Water Department and welcome
170 Deb Madden as our new Administrative Assistant.
- 171 ▪ Additional Comments -
- 172 ➤ The Mayoral Issue will be on the ballot, and since it is a charter change, two public
173 hearings will need to be held in a timely fashion.
- 174 ➤ There is a COVID19 Arrearage Program available to towns for unpaid utility bills - water
175 and sewer - due to COVID19. If people qualify, the State will pay their delinquent water
176 and sewer bills directly to the Town. The application process will be posted on the
177 Town's website tomorrow.
- 178 ➤ What "a gem" the Stark Street Playground is and wish it was more visible. Kudos to all
179 that made it possible.

180 7. UPCOMING AGENDA

181 November 23, 2020 - Review the First Three Community Policing Policies

182 December 14, 2020 - Police Department Training Presentation

183 **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

184 Mr. Lee-Clark: Reminded everyone that November 11th is Veteran's Day and to thank someone who has
185 served, as well as, remembering that it used to be called Armistice Day - a Day of Peace.

186 Mr. Carroll: Noted that Walmart, and other businesses, have refused to participate in the State hazard
187 pay that their employees are eligible for. If you are one of the employees affected by this, please
188 contact Mr. Carroll.

189 **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

190 **A. CONTRACTS**

191 **B. PERSONNEL**

192 *At 7:36pm, Jeannie Jenkins moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded finding that an Executive*
193 *Session be held on Contracts and Personnel as premature public knowledge would place a person*
194 *involved in the subject matter at a substantial disadvantage. No decision will be made this evening.*
195 *The motion carried unanimously.*

196

197 Respectfully submitted,

198 Nancy H. Lively

199 Secretary

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