

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

2 **130 RIVER STREET**

3 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

4 **MAY 23, 2022**

5 **MINUTES**

6 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner-Vice Chair; Bruce  
7 Lee-Clark; Jim Carroll; Gary Corey; Tom Haley; and Sarah Perrin.

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

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Jonah  
10 Spivak-Communications Coordinator; Stephanie Clarke-White & Burke; Rory Price-Health Equity  
11 Initiatives; Jenny Dewar-BBC Executive Director and Susan Plaisance-BBC President-BBC Work  
12 Plan and Budget; Police Chief Paul Doucette and Lt. Cam Grande; Jason Morrissey, Michael  
13 McDonough, and Robert Ebert-Land Use Regulations and Plan Amendment-Everett Estate;  
14 Wayne Goodman; Debbie Mann; Tordis Isselhardt; Michael Keane; Rose Telford; Nancy White;  
15 10 citizens; Jim Vires-CAT-TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

16 At 6:00pm, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order.

17 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

18 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

19 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

20 Ms. Conner read the Town’s Vision Statement that was adopted by the Select Board on  
21 August 24, 2020:

22 “Bennington is a welcoming, engaged, inclusive, resilient community where everyone  
23 regardless of identity shares in our vitality and benefits from an outstanding quality of life.”

24 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

25 **A. MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2022**

26 **B. WARRANTS**

27 **C. LIQUOR LICENSES**

28 *Tom Haley moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Consent Agenda amended*  
29 *as follows:*

30 *Lines 14 and 263, Change “Tortis Engelhardt” to “Tordis Isselhardt”*

31 *Line 72, Change “b” to “be”*

32 *Line 274, Change “Price” to “Pride”*

33 *The motion carried unanimously.*

34 **4. PUBLIC HEARING - TIF DISTRICT SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE - EXTENSION**

35 Dan Monks, Assistant Town Manager, introduced Stephanie Clarke from White + Burke  
36 to do the following presentation:

- 37 • White + Burke was involved with Bennington in setting up the Tax Increment Financing  
38 (TIF) District in 2017.
- 39 • TIF is a tool that a municipality can use to revitalize a section of town to incentify private  
40 development by investing in infrastructure that will generate tax dollars to pay down  
41 the debt service.
- 42 • 70% of the State’s Education Tax and 100% of the State’s Town Tax goes into the TIF  
43 Fund so State approval is needed from the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC).
- 44 • The debt must be incurred within 5 years from approval - by March 31, 2022. It was not  
45 so an extension needed to be applied for.
- 46 • If we are granted the 5-year extension, we must incur the debt by 2027 and have until  
47 2029 to complete the borrowing and 20 years to pay down the debt service.
- 48 • VEPC has requested that approval of the requested changes to the Plan be approved by  
49 the Select Board.
- 50 • The requested changes include:
  - 51 ○ Additional descriptions of the brownfield investments, housing impact, and  
52 viability of the Benn High project.
  - 53 ○ Updating the cost estimates for three of the infrastructure projects -  
54 Catamount School, Old Drysdale Building, and 120 Depot Street - as well as,  
55 looked for additional funding making the public investment \$3.6M.
  - 56 ○ Updating the projected assessed values for all five private development  
57 projects - Benn High, Putnam Phase 2, Catamount School, Old Drysdale  
58 Building, and 120 Depot Street - to \$13M.
- 59 • We have not updated anything beyond the financing plan and summary language of the  
60 projects.
- 61 • If the Board approves these changes they will be submitted to VEPC next week and we  
62 will be heard by the VEPC Board on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 63 • The summary and work flow update are on the Town’s website.

64 *Public questions/comments:*

65 Nancy White: Does the Town have to vote on a TIF District Debt? *Mr. Monks: The Town has to*  
66 *vote on incurring the debt - there is no vote on the Plan, itself.*

67 Nancy White: We have a contract for the Benn High building and we don't know what we're  
68 going to be paying for the next 30 years. *Mr. Monks: As previously discussed many times, we*  
69 *have a lease option on the building. We occupy the building now, we are maintaining it now,*  
70 *and we have a right to purchase it at any time or cease leasing it at any time during the 30*  
71 *years. We are currently doing a feasibility study that will be brought back to the Board for*  
72 *direction to the staff.*

73 Nancy White: Does every TIF town go through the same process? *Ms. Clarke: Yes, the projects*  
74 *are discussed, costs are established, the public is then involved, and financing is voted on.*

75 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded to approve the TIF District Plan's***  
76 ***revised updated materials and their submission to VEPC. The motion carried unanimously.***

## 77 **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

78 The following Public Comment Practices to make the experience for all involved a  
79 productive and informative use of the Public Comment period at Select Board meetings was  
80 placed on the podium for those that wish to make Public Comments to reference:

- 81 1. Public Comment is to allow residents an opportunity to share information or make  
82 announcements that benefit the community at large.
- 83 2. The topic should not be related to an agenda item. If a member of the public wants to  
84 comment on an agenda item they can do so during the discussion of that item.
- 85 3. Comments should be 3 minutes or less.
- 86 4. You are required to state your real name and town of residence.
- 87 5. Sharing comments, announcements and concerns are encouraged rather than asking  
88 questions. Public Comment is not a time for discussion. If you have specific questions it is best  
89 to call the Town Manager to get a full explanation and accurate information.
- 90 6. If the topic requires much discussion the item will be considered as an agenda item at a  
91 future meeting.

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93 Michael Keane: President of Center for Communication in Medicine, stated that there will be a  
94 Speak Sooner event on May 24, 2022 starting at 6:00pm at the Bennington Performing Arts on  
95 Comfort or Conflict in End of Life Care. Attendance may be in person or online at Speak  
96 Sooner.org. The event includes a Documentary on Prognosis, a panel discussion, and a Q&A  
97 discussion.

## 98 **6. HEALTH EQUITY INITIATIVES**

99           Rory Price, the Vermont Department of Health Chronic Disease Program Specialist, did  
100 the following presentation:

- 101       ➤ Health Equity is everywhere and not just in a doctor’s office.
- 102       ➤ To only consider an individual’s personal health decisions removes them from the  
103 context from which they operate and the opportunities they have available.
- 104       ➤ Everyone should have the opportunity to live a long, healthy life.
- 105       ➤ Bennington County is second to last in health outcomes for life expectancy and quality  
106 of life.
- 107       ➤ The Town of Bennington is divided into 4 census tracks for life expectancy, type 2  
108 diabetes, obesity, smokers, and median income with the best results in the western  
109 quadrant and the worst in the northeast quadrant with the eastern and northwest  
110 quadrants between those two.
- 111       ➤ We must understand that the outcomes do not necessarily reflect the choices that  
112 people have made.
- 113       ➤ When living on minimum wage with rising child care and living expenses, it is difficult to  
114 “pick yourself up by your bootstraps”.
- 115       ➤ The Town’s Vision Statement, affordable housing at the Benn High building, the pocket  
116 park, and the proposed State Park are all ways we are working to improve opportunities  
117 in our community.
- 118       ➤ The Department of Health is working with many agency partners, including the CDC and  
119 GBICS, to improve the availability of opportunities to everyone.
- 120       ➤ Going forward the Town should be considering fixing sidewalks in areas of physical  
121 activity, creating bike lanes in areas with the highest proportion of renters, and  
122 contacting the Department of Health as to proposed or ongoing programs.
- 123       ➤ This PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the Town’s website.

124 *Board questions/comments answered by Ms. Price:*

125 Mr. Carroll: Do you have the availability of insurance rates in the specific quadrants? *Overall*  
126 *Bennington is well insured, however, there is a rate/coverage difference in the northeast*  
127 *quadrant but I don’t have that information with me.*

128 Mr. Carroll: What are the counties up north that are better than 13 out of 14 doing to have  
129 better health equity? *I don’t know that there is one program that explains the difference*  
130 *because there are many variables in play.*

131 Mr. Carroll: Generally speaking those that smoke have a lower level of education. Do you have  
132 any information on education within the quadrants? *Not off the top of my head, however,*  
133 *though most have graduated from high school, the opportunities are not there to go farther.*

134 Mr. Corey: How are the tracks that you showed us developed? *Every year a census is taken*  
135 *within each track from 1,500-6,000 people and these 4 have been consistent for quite a while.*

136 Mr. Lee-Clark: How will you be addressing lead exposure primarily from paint? *We are working*  
137 *with the one person in the State that handles lead exposure and making homeowners that may*  
138 *be unaware of the presence of it, aware.*

139 Ms. Conner: Can you share a story where a community implemented an initiative that produced  
140 a successful outcome? *Economics is the core of people living a healthy life and some*  
141 *communities have taken this as their “credo” such as small bonds for them as they are born so*  
142 *they have some money toward college.*

143 Ms. Conner: Is Montpelier aware of the disparities around the State, and if so, are there any  
144 initiatives on the State level? *There are many initiatives at the State level, and legislatively, they*  
145 *have the data and need to figure out how to proceed with it.*

146 *Public questions/comments answered by Ms. Price:*

147 Nancy White: The hospital has offered free health care for a hundred years, Vermont is a rural  
148 state and people need their cars, and the Town should be considerate of the public when they  
149 decide where to put the bike paths. *The hospital has generously provided health care for the*  
150 *past hundred years and do have a generous financial policy, but what we see is a “kind of*  
151 *doughnut hole” of people that can’t afford that along with their other issues. Ms. Jenkins added*  
152 *that the Board receives an annual report on the bike paths with one due soon.*

153 No Name Given: Are there programs for landlords available? *Yes, there are sections for*  
154 *realtors, landlords, as well as, homeowners on what they can do to address the lead issue.*

## 155 **7. BBC WORK PLAN AND BUDGET**

156 Jenny Dewar, BBC Executive Director, did the following presentation:

- 157 ❖ She has been in her position for 6 months and noted the work that John Shannahan had  
158 done with the businesses in preparing their PPP loan applications during COVID no  
159 doubt saved many of the Downtown businesses.
- 160 ❖ Each Board member is expected to sit on at least one of these committees -  
161 Organization, Design, Economic Vitality, and Promotion - and each Committee is chaired  
162 by a Board member.
- 163 ❖ The BBC is funded by the Downtown Improvement District (DID) Tax, grants, sponsors,  
164 members, events, and donations. We do not report to the Select Board but do provide  
165 them with our financials, Minutes, and Directors Report monthly.
- 166 ❖ Our Board is made up of 15 members with our election at our Annual Meeting on June  
167 17<sup>th</sup> and we have volunteer docents at the Visitor’s Center.
- 168 ❖ Organization Committee - Working on more actionable fundraising strategies and  
169 expanding the DID.
- 170 ❖ Design Committee - Have helped the Town get the Transportation Grant for the  
171 Riverwalk improvement and local art businesses and individuals are being consulted on  
172 the art displays along the Riverwalk.

- 173 ❖ Economic Vitality Committee - Are putting together a Resource Library for businesses  
174 and potential businesses in conjunction with the Bennington Free Library.
- 175 ❖ Promotions Committee - Will decide the direction and what is needed for the  
176 Organization Committee and the Board.
- 177 ❖ Events are what draws people downtown.
- 178 ❖ We have a new website and social media design to draw the non-Bennington populous,  
179 as well.
- 180 ❖ We are always working on more internal efficiencies and partnering/co-producing  
181 events/fundraising efforts with other businesses.
- 182 ❖ President Susan Plaisance was awarded the Woman of the Year award from Women in  
183 Leadership; Kaiya Kirk-ED Assistant was awarded the Young Woman in Leadership  
184 award; and Bill Clark-Streetscapes and Maintenance was awarded the Support Person of  
185 the Year from the Volunteer Fire Department.
- 186 ❖ The ups and downs in the budget from the previous year was reviewed highlighting the  
187 additional \$7,695 for Security Expense, lack of grant dollars for the Thursday Night Live  
188 events, and the additional dollars to pay performing artists.
- 189 ❖ The July 2022 through June 2023 Annual Budget is \$167,198.60 with the DID request to  
190 be \$90,378.60 - up from \$82,000 last year to basically cover the Security Expense.

191 *Board questions/comments:*

192 Mr. Corey: Was surprised at the cost of security. *Ms. Jenkins: Our Events Policy states that*  
193 *security must be provided and paid for at events where there are more than 75 in attendance.*

194 Ms. Perrin: Is concerned about the cost of security and that it will discourage events to come to  
195 Town. This is a financial burden when an event is put on by only one or two people. We should  
196 reconsider our Special Events Policy. *Ms. Jenkins: We can put this policy on a future agenda,*  
197 *however, for now the BBC is paying this fee for any event in the Downtown where there are*  
198 *more than 75 people in attendance.*

199 *Public questions/comments:*

200 Nancy White: Verified that the DID Tax wasn't coming from the Town Budget. *Ms. Jenkins: It is*  
201 *not, it comes from the businesses that make up the DID.*

202 Nancy White: Does the Town Budget subsidize the offices at the Blacksmith Shop? *Mr. Hurd:*  
203 *Yes. We own the building and do not charge them rent. However, we have always received*  
204 *\$250/month. Ms. Dewar: Added that there are also two other tenants in the building and the*  
205 *Visitor's Center - although overseen by the BBC - is for the entire Town.*

206 Nancy White: And, don't we pay Mr. Clark from our Town Budget? *Mr. Hurd: Yes. We contract*  
207 *with the BBC for Mr. Clark's work but he is an employee of the BBC, and the BBC pays for his*  
208 *benefits.*

209 Susan Plaisance: Our hope is that our efforts to revitalize the Downtown will bring more  
210 merchants to the Downtown and reduce the DID tax to each business.

211 ***Jim Carroll moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to approve the Better Bennington***  
212 ***Corporation Annual Budget for July 2022 through June 2023 as presented. The motion carried***  
213 ***unanimously.***

214 **8. PUBLIC HEARING - LAND USE REGULATIONS AND PLAN AMENDMENT - EVERETT ESTATE**

215 Dan Monks did the following presentation:

- 216 ■ The Southwest Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) has purchased the Everett Estate  
217 property formerly known as Southern Vermont College Campus.
- 218 ■ The Planning Commission has prepared a proposed amendment to the Bennington  
219 Town Plan and Bennington Land Use & Development Regulations (IP District Table and  
220 Zoning Map) for the purpose of allowing and encouraging appropriate development and  
221 re-development of the Everett Estate property.
- 222 ■ This does not include the portion of the Everett Estate that is in the Forest District and  
223 does include protections to not negatively impact historic and scenic resources.
- 224 ■ With the additions of the Historic Preservation requirements, Act 250 requirements, and  
225 the Land Trust requirements, “this property is the most heavily protected property in  
226 the Town of Bennington, by far.”

227 *Public questions/comments:*

228 Wayne Goodman: Please highlight the areas that the zoning change applies to. *Mr. Monks:*  
229 *Reiterated the area as it relates to the existing SVMC campus, the former SVC campus, Mansion*  
230 *Drive with the Mansion at the top of the road, the pond between the dormitories and*  
231 *gymnasium, following the tree line to the property line of the Fox Hill property. None of the*  
232 *Forest District is part of the rezoning as it is protected by the Land Trust.*

233 Nancy White: Are any discussions concerning an exit/entrance to Monument Avenue coming  
234 before the Select Board? *Mr. Hurd: Those would be made by the developer and go before the*  
235 *Development Review Board (DRB), not the Select Board.*

236 Nancy White: Are the subdivision decisions made tonight going before the DRB? *Mr. Hurd:*  
237 *There are no subdivisions being discussed tonight, but if the developers do subdivide in the*  
238 *future, that would go before the DRB.*

239 Nancy White: In 2018, was this declared Rural Residential? *Mr. Monks: It has been Rural*  
240 *Residential and Rural Conservation for the last 30 years.*

241 ***At 7:31pm, Ms. Jenkins closed the Public Hearing - Land Use Regulations and Plan***  
242 ***Amendment - Everett Estate.***

243 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded to approve the Resolution for the***  
244 ***Land Use Regulations and Plan Amendment-Everett Estate as presented. The motion carried***  
245 ***unanimously.***

246 **9. ARPA UPDATE**

247 Mr. Monks did the following presentation on the Status of Ongoing Projects-May 2022:

- 248 • County Street/Benmont Avenue Sewer Line Upgrades Design
  - 249 ✓ Documentation of existing conditions has concluded and design of upgrades has
  - 250 begun.
  - 251 ✓ We will be seeking funding from other sources and do not anticipate using ARPA
  - 252 funds for implementation.
- 253 • South Street/Union Street Stormwater Study
  - 254 ✓ Monitoring equipment has been installed and data is being collected.
  - 255 ✓ Existing conditions will be documented, and once data collection is complete,
  - 256 alternatives for improvements will be developed and evaluated.
  - 257 ✓ We will be seeking funding from other sources for this, as well.
- 258 • Digitization of Town Land Records
  - 259 ✓ All land records recorded after April 15, 2022 are now online.
  - 260 ✓ Work to digitize 40 years of records recorded prior to April 15, 2022 will
  - 261 commence this summer and should be online this fall or winter.
- 262 • Skatepark
  - 263 ✓ Coordination with the architect working with the Town's private partner has
  - 264 begun and we hope to receive a cost estimate within the next 2 weeks.
  - 265 ✓ When the schematic design and cost estimate are complete, a presentation will
  - 266 be made to the Select Board.
- 267 • Willow Park Playground Replacement
  - 268 ✓ Jonah Spivak and Paul Dansereau have taken the lead on this project.
  - 269 ✓ The final playground designs were to be presented on May 19<sup>th</sup> but illness
  - 270 prevented that from happening.
  - 271 ✓ Final playground designs will be presented just prior to groundbreaking in late
  - 272 June or early July.
  - 273 ✓ Over 1,500 people participated in the public outreach process where comments,
  - 274 suggestions, and ideas were submitted - many of which were utilized in the
  - 275 design, including auditory/musical components; harness swing systems; different
  - 276 slide options in the 5-12 large play structure; additional age-appropriate spring
  - 277 rockers in the upper playground; benches for seating; and changing a Volta
  - 278 spinner to an accessible spinner.
  - 279 ✓ If the equipment is delivered as expected, we should have our new playgrounds
  - 280 by the end of summer.
- 281 • Benn High



- 282 ✓ In April, the Town took possession of the Benn High building pursuant to a  
283 Lease/Option Agreement.
- 284 ✓ After reviewing RFP's from design professionals, we chose Goldstone  
285 Architecture of Bennington to perform a feasibility study, and design and  
286 construction administration services for the public facilities proposed by the  
287 Town, i.e., Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, gymnasium, and workshops and  
288 offices for other entities.
- 289 ✓ Goldstone Architecture and Shannon Barsotti, Community Development  
290 Director, will be reaching out to all of our partners to find out their wishes for  
291 their new locations.
- 292 ✓ Work has begun on the feasibility study and will include schematic design and a  
293 cost estimate.
- 294 ✓ The Town has begun environmental due diligence and results of 11 air tests  
295 conducted within the building indicate that no PCB's are present in the air of the  
296 building. PCB's are the main contaminant of concern.
- 297 ✓ As of right now, it doesn't look like environmental issues will stop the re-  
298 development of the building, and it needs to be up and running by June or July  
299 2023 to be within the parameters of our current Lease/Option Agreement.
- 300 ✓ The Town is hoping to redevelop 30,000 square feet of the 100,000 square foot  
301 building.
- 302 ✓ Coordination with Shires Housing on the re-development of the balance of the  
303 building has begun. They have contracted with their own consultants and need  
304 to be much more extensive than what we have to do.

305 *Board questions/comments:*

306 Mr. Corey: Are the County Street and South Street projects off the list? *Mr. Monks: They're still*  
307 *on the list so they will be "shovel ready" when the federal infrastructure funding becomes*  
308 *available.*

309 Ms. Conner: Is Shires Housing developing the Pleasant Street side of the building? *Mr. Monks:*  
310 *The Town's re-development includes the first floor of the Pleasant Street side. Shires Housing is*  
311 *re-developing the first floor of the newer addition and almost the entire portion of the older*  
312 *section. Ultimately, there may be other partners involved, however, at this time it is only Shires*  
313 *Housing for the balance of the 70,000 square feet.*

314 *Public questions/comments:*

315 Debbie Mann: Was the building tested for mold? *Mr. Monks: Mold is basically in every building,*  
316 *and our due diligence, is to test for the harmful molds. As the building becomes more occupant*  
317 *ready with new HVAC ventilation systems, we will test again for mold and it should be better*  
318 *than most any other building.*

319 Debbie Mann: Have all of the ARPA funds been allocated? *Ms. Jenkins: The list of projects*  
320 *approved for a portion of the \$3.9M ARPA funding consideration are listed on the Town's*  
321 *website. Every project, except the digitization of the town records, will require additional*  
322 *funding from another source.*

323 Wayne Goodman: How would the entire project be affected if either the Town or Shires  
324 Housing did not get funding? *Mr. Monks: The feasibility studies that we're both doing will give*  
325 *us both a better idea going forward. But, if our funding is viable - and we already know we have*  
326 *half of it in ARPA funds - we do have access to other options than Shires Housing. They do,*  
327 *however, have access to the most funding faster.*

328 Nancy White: Is the \$4.1M for the 30,000 square feet? *Mr. Monks: Yes. ARPA funds would be*  
329 *for \$2M.*

330 Nancy White: If Shires Housing takes on a partner, who would that be? *Mr. Monks: That would*  
331 *be the Town's partner, not a Shires partner.*

332 Nancy White: Reiterated questions previously asked that were not germane to the ARPA  
333 update agenda item. *Ms. Jenkins: Ruled her out of order.*

## 334 **10. IMPLEMENTING THE TOWN VISION UPDATE**

### 335 **A. CPARB CONTRACT**

336 Ms. Jenkins stated the following:

- 337 ➤ There are two items to consider - a CPARB Training Schedule and a Contract with  
338 Cambridge Consulting Services Group for Brian Corr to provide Training and Support to  
339 CPARB.
- 340 ➤ She, Ms. Conner, Mr. Lee-Clark, Police Chief Doucette, and Police Lt. Grande have  
341 reviewed the CPARB Training Schedule and noted that it is more extensive than any  
342 other towns that they looked at.
- 343 ➤ This schedule will give CPARB a lot of information up front and provide continued  
344 training over time - particularly on topics of interest to CPARB and the Bennington Police  
345 Department (BPD).
- 346 ➤ We changed the 4 sessions to 3 sessions - 2 full day sessions and 1 in-person evening  
347 session given the work that is being done in the legislature on Review Boards.

348 *Board questions/comments:*

349 Ms. Perrin: Is unavailable on some of the meeting dates. *Ms. Jenkins: The dates were made to*  
350 *accommodate Mr. Corr and room availability at the Fire Facility and are not subject to change.*  
351 *Except for the August 25<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting from 5:00pm-8:00pm that anyone may attend, the*  
352 *other trainings are not available to the public or the Select Board.*

353 *Public questions/comments:*

354 Tordis Isselhardt: When will appointments be made to CPARB? *Ms. Jenkins: We are doing*  
355 *interviews on Tuesday and Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>, respectively, with some that will*  
356 *go into the following week. Appointments will be made at our next Select Board meeting on*  
357 *June 13<sup>th</sup>, as well as, the appointments to the other Boards and Commissions.*

358 Tordis Isselhardt: Did you receive 5-7 applicants? *Ms. Jenkins: Yes.*

359 Tordis Isselhardt: With so many communities facing this same situation, perhaps there will be  
360 some decisions made at the State level. *Ms. Jenkins: We haven't received any decisions at this*  
361 *time, but our thinking is, that both CPARB and the Select Board will receive training as we move*  
362 *forward and whoever has that authority will use it. The VLCT has indicated a sense that the*  
363 *precedent set by Burlington will be opened up to other communities.*

364 ***Jim Carroll moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to accept the Scope of Work for Brian***  
365 ***Corr, Principal, Cambridge Consulting Services Group for development and presentation of***  
366 ***civilian review and oversight training program, travel and lodging, and additional***  
367 ***consultation as presented in the amount of \$7,150.00. The motion carried unanimously.***

## 368 **B. BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

369 Will be Tuesday and Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, respectively, with some that will go  
370 into the following week.

## 371 **C. PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

372 Ms. Jenkins reported the following:

- 373 • She, Ms. Conner, Mr. Haley, Paul Dansereau, and the Vermont Center for Independent  
374 Living (VCIL) will be meeting this week to talk further about our ADA Transition Plan.
- 375 • Kudos to Senator Dick Sears and the community for making sure that Bennington got  
376 the Pathways Vermont funding to serve 30 homeless individuals for as long as they need  
377 support.
- 378 • We are asking the Select Board members to share what initiatives they would like  
379 addressed over the next year. This is what we have now:
  - 380 ✓ Pedestrian Walkways and Bike Pathways - an update on the Pathways and a  
381 criteria list for sidewalk improvements.
  - 382 ✓ Do an analysis of the current housing stock in Bennington - how many single  
383 units, how many multi-family units, the age of the buildings, how are they  
384 heated, and how to improve housing to make them more efficient to save  
385 money and be more saleable.
  - 386 ✓ Focus on and support recovery housing in Bennington.
  - 387 ✓ Anything that can be done to remedy the housing shortage in Bennington.
  - 388 ✓ Keeping an eye on our community health and tying that into the work of the  
389 Opioid Response Team.

- 390 ✓ Working on an Opioid Treatment Center Dispensary in Bennington with UCS and
- 391 the hospital to make it more convenient for those trying to recover.
- 392 ✓ Maintain good community partners so no one is siloed.

393 Ms. Conner added that Juneteenth will be June 18<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3:00pm at the Middle  
394 School

## 395 **11. MANAGER’S REPORT**

396 Mr. Hurd did the following report:

397 *Highway Equipment Borrowing -*

398 ***Tom Haley moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to approve, sign and waive the***  
399 ***reading of the Resolution, the Tax Certificate, and the Note with M&T Bank in the amount of***  
400 ***\$91,185.00 for 7 years at the interest rate of 3.00% per annum to purchase the Skid Steer and***  
401 ***a One-Ton Pickup Truck.***

402 Mr. Haley noted that this expense has already been approved by the voters.

403 ***The motion carried unanimously.***

404 *Monument Lighting to Support Ukraine* - The State approved the lighting of the Monument to  
405 support the Ukraine until May 26<sup>th</sup>. Several community members, including Mr. Hurd, would  
406 like to extend the period the Monument is lit until the end of the Ukraine/Russia war.

407 ***Sarah Perrin moved and Jim Carroll seconded to authorize sending a letter of support***  
408 ***to the Governor to extend the period the Monument is lit to support Ukraine until the end of***  
409 ***the Ukraine/Russia war.***

410 Mr. Carroll would like all Select Board Members, the Old Bennington trustees, and our  
411 representatives to sign the letter, or at least list all of the names. Mr. Hurd will get as many as  
412 he can but would like to see the Governor receive the letter by May 26<sup>th</sup>.

413 ***The motion carried unanimously.***

414 *Public questions/comments:*

415 Rose Telford: Was approached by an individual asking for money outside of the Rec Center and  
416 she is concerned for her safety. *Mr. Hurd: You’re correct, we have an ordinance against*  
417 *Panhandling and he will alert the police that this is happening around the Rec Center so they*  
418 *can take action.*

419 Rose Telford: Disagrees with the lighting of the Monument in support of the Ukraine because  
420 we are paying for that and that is money that could go to help our own citizens. *Mr. Hurd:*  
421 *Disagrees with her opinion.*

## 422 **12. UPCOMING AGENDA**

423 No comment.

424 **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

425 No comment.

426

427

428 *At 8:25pm, Jim Carroll moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting. The*  
429 *motion carried unanimously.*

430

431

432

433 Respectfully submitted,

434 Nancy H. Lively

435 Secretary

436