

Bennington City Council  
Regular Meeting  
12/11/2023

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. with a motion from Dennis Kelley, second by Brian Davidson. Motion Carried.

Additions to the agenda were: Bobcat.

Motion by Laura Bowers, second by Judith Swagerty to approve the printed list of bills and the minutes as written. Motion Carried.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Ward Stockamp, Judith Swagerty, Brian Davidson, Dennis Kelley, and Laura Bowers. Jeff Scheele was absent. Visitors were Shayne Haney, Jason Mauch (left at 7:08), Sheralynn Wagner (left at 7:20), Chris Lawson (left at 8:10), and Mark Walker.

Jason Mauch spoke to the council about the Kubota and suggested the city consider getting a lighter weight, gas powered type side by side since we do not utilize the Kubota as a heavy construction vehicle. The streets are very hard on the tires. The warranty expired in 2017 so any work needing done on it would not be covered. No Action was taken.

Chad Lawson with Lochner, discussed the findings of his Study on the City's water tower and systems.

The council looked over the 2022 audit done by Steven Connelly. Council had no issues, Ward Stockamp signed it.

The Council decided to give Chris Rose a thank you gift for all the work he did after leaving his position to get the city grants for the playground and splash pad. The council all agreed to give Chris Rose \$250.00.

Motion by Laura Bowers, second by Dennis Kelley to go into executive session at 8:22 for 10 minutes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Brian Davidson, second by Judith Swagerty to come out of executive session at 8:32 no action taken.

Motion by Brian Davidson, second by Dennis Kelley to give both full time employees, Adrienne Luthi and Shayne Haney a \$300.00 Christmas bonus and four part time employees, Amy Stevens, Jeff Scheele, Emily Debold and Taygen Watson a \$150.00 Bonus. Motion Carried.

Motion by Laura Bowers, Second by Judith Swagerty to give Amy Stevens \$15.00 per hour plus back pay to the time the other part time employees got their raise on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Motion Carried. Brian Davidson abstained.

Kirby Smith with Evergy requested permission to put in underground electric lines over by the new house Brad Weis is building. Kirby told Ward Stockamp it is not something generally done in small communities but that it is the customers preference in this case. Council discussed it and Ward Stockamp will call Kirby Smith and let him know that it is fine to go ahead with putting them in.

Motion by Dennis Kelley, second by Brian Davidson to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Motion Carried.