

Bennington Town Board

January 8, 2025

Workshop Session 6:30 pm

Audit of bills; Highway Dept. report; Review Board meeting agenda

In Attendance: Supervisor Ellen Grant, Council Members Jeff Burger, Chris Domes, Bernie Frounick,
Joyce Mohun, Highway Superintendent Jake Jensen, Clerk Joanne Rosenthal

2025 Organizational Meeting

Call to Order by Supervisor Grant at 7:30 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by B. Frounick.

Acknowledgement of Oaths of Office by Board Members & Elected Officials

A. Salaries, Fees & Financial Matters

2025 Town Salaries

Supervisor	\$ 6,400/year
Town Councilman (4) @	2,000/year
Town Justice (2) @	8,500/year
Highway Superintendent	77,000/year
Town Clerk/Collector/Registrar	17,750/year
Deputy Town Clerk I	21.50/hour
Deputy Town Clerk II	18.50/hour
Budget Director	600/year
Town Assessor (sole)	27,750/year
Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals Member I	40.00/meeting
Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals Member II	25.00/meeting
Planning Board/ZBA Chair I	50.00/meeting
Planning Board/ZBA Chair II	30.00/meeting
Planning Board/ZBA/Assessment Review Secretary	18.50/hour
Board of Assessment Review Members	35.00/hour
Board of Assessment Review Chair	45.00/hour
Court Clerk	8,750/year
Town Bookkeeper	5,750/year
Town Custodian	2,500/year
Town Historian	200/year
Attorney for the Town of Bennington	as per voucher
Town Park Maintenance Person	6,000/year
Prosecutor	4,000/year
Motor Vehicle Operator w/CDL (PT Seasonal)	23.50/hour
Laborer (PT Seasonal)	17.50/hour
Water System Operator (WSO)	20.50/hour
Assistant Water System Operator	18.50/hour
WSO/Assist WSO Emergency Call Out	3.00/hour premium
Water Clerk	600/year
Swim Instructors	16.50/hour
Life Guards	16.50/hour
Youth Recreational Coordinator	500/year

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Fees

Driveway Pipe Installation (initial)	300.00
Tower Special Use Permit Fee	2,000.00
Building Permit Fee for Towers	
First 100 feet	1,000.00
Next 100 feet (or part thereof)	600.00
Each 100 feet (thereafter or part thereof)	400.00
Co-location Application Fee	1,000.00
Co-location Building Permit Fee	1,000.00
Park Rental	50.00
Park Security Deposit	50.00
Copies of official documents	.40 per page
Official rate for Mileage while on Town Business	.45 per mile

Banking Accounts

General Fund Checking	Five Star Bank
Highway Fund Checking	Five Star Bank
Trust & Agency Account	Five Star Bank
Town Clerk Account	Alden State Bank
Tax Collector Account	Five Star Bank
Justice Court Funds	Five Star Bank
Cowlesville Water District	Five Star Bank
Escrow Accounts	Five Star Bank
Certificates of Deposit	Banks with the best interest rate

Authorized Personnel to Maintain Banking Accounts

General Fund/Highway Fund/Cowlesville Water Fund/Trust & Agency Account - Ellen Grant, Joyce Mohun, authorized signers; Ellen Grant, June Spencer, authorized electronic/wire transfers.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Accounts - Joanne Rosenthal, Deanna Nikiel, authorized signers.

Justice Court Funds - Mark Linsey, James Wawrzyniak, authorized signers.

B. Notice of Meeting Dates, Times, Locations, and other legal notices

Official Meeting Dates:	Location of all meetings: Bennington Town Hall.
Town Board	Second Wednesday; 7:30 pm with workshop session beginning at 6:30 pm.
Planning Board	2025 - January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17 @ 6:00 pm.
Zoning Board of Appeals	First Tuesday, monthly as needed @ 7:00 pm.
Zoning Update/Green Energy Comm.	2025 - January 15, 30, February 5, 20.
Official Election Places	District #1, 2 & 3 - Bennington Town Hall
Official Newspaper for Legal & Official Notices	- The Daily News, Batavia NY
Official Bulletin Board for posting of Town Notices	- Town Clerk's Town Hall, Bennington Center, NY.
Official Town Website	- www.benningtonny.com .
Legal ad placed in Daily News, Batavia NY and emailed to residents on file	- January 28, 2025.

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C. Appointments

Appointments

Attorney for the Town	DiMatteo, Roach & Kelly Retainer letter presented at Dec. 30 meeting.
Deputy Town Clerk I	Deanna Nikiel
Historian	Michael Mohun
Registrar	Joanne Rosenthal
Deputy Registrar	Deanna Nikiel
Bookkeeper	June Spencer
Budget Director	Ellen Grant
Town Prosecutor	Matthew Dillion (as appointed by WY CO DA)
Court Clerk	Christa Dake
Planning Board Chairman	Robert Gadd
Secretary, Planning Board	Donna Hummel
Secretary, Zoning Board of Appeals	Peggy Schmidt-Wlostowski
Town Hall Custodian	Carolyn Mruczek
Office for the Aging Representative	Faith Miller
Town Park Custodian	John Perl
County Planning Board Representative	Robert Gadd
Assessor	James Kirsch
Water System Operator (WSO)	Mark Pruitt
Deputy WSO	Keith Borden
Water Clerk	Judith Brown
Deputy Supervisor	Chris Domes, Joyce Mohun

***Motion by J. Mohun, seconded by J. Burger to approve Organizational sections A, B, C.
Ayes: All (5) Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.***

***Motion by J. Mohun, seconded by B. Frounck to close the Organizational Meeting.
Ayes: All (5) Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.***

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January 8, 2025
Regular Board Meeting 7:30 pm

Call Meeting to Order by Supervisor E. Grant
Set Agenda - no additions
Conflict of Interest - no conflicts

Open Public Hearing on Home Occupation Permit application - Stephen Perl @ 7:41 pm.

Financial Matters

General Fund Vouchers	#400 to #410	\$ 68,221.04.
Highway Fund Vouchers	#200 to #212	\$ 71,456.33.
Water Fund Voucher	# 18	\$ 133.92.
Lighting Fund Voucher	#001	\$ 149.89.

Motion by B. Frounick, seconded by C. Domes to approve vouchers for payment.
Ayes: All (5) Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Financial Reports Supervisor Grant presented the Monthly Report of Supervisor.

Motion by J. Burger , seconded by J. Mohun to approve the Financial Reports ending December 31, 2024.
Ayes: All (5) Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Hear Comments on Public Hearing for Stephen Perl, Home Occupation Permit

Stephen Perl presented and spoke: Location 157 Bear Rd. Cowlesville NY 14037. Hours of Operation 9 am - 5 pm for customer pickup. Processing hours may be prior to 9 am and after 5 pm. Building on the property is being converted and will operate as a custom exempt butcher service (Customer to Farmer); not a retail operation, Just in Time (JIT) delivery of processed animals. State Permit not required. Finished products cannot be sold as retail to the public. Animals (cattle, hogs only at this time) held in a holding room prior to processing (6-8 max). Cooler and freezer will be on premise. Waste from carcasses to be composted and covered with organic material on the property.. Wyoming Co. Health Dept. has approved a proposal for sewage and water treatment

Motion to Close Hearing J. Mohun. Seconded: B. Frounick.
Ayes: All (5) Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.
Close Public Hearing 7:55 pm.

Unfinished Business

Resolution #2025-1-1

Home Occupation Permit - Stephen Perl

Whereas the Town of Bennington Town Board held a duly advertised Public Hearing on the 8th day of January 2025 at the Bennington Town Hall to hear comments regarding the application of Stephen Perl, 157 Bear Rd., Cowlesville, NY to operate a custom exempt meat processing business on the premises; and

Whereas, the Town Board hereby determines that there is so significant reason to deny said application as per the information presented by the applicant, public comment, and the Zoning Officer's report;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Town Board hereby authorizes a Home Occupation Permit for a custom exempt meat processing business at 157 Bear Rd., Cowlesville, NY to be owned and operated by Stephen Perl, said permit to expire May 30, 2026.

Motion: C. Domes. Second: J. Burger.

Ayes: All (5) Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

New Business

Resolution #2025-1-2

Authorize Audit of 2024 Financial Records

Be it Resolved, that the Town Board hereby approves engaging the services of Donald E. Przybyl, Municipal Accountant, 205 Shoreline Parkway, Apt. 3, East Amherst, NY 14051 to perform an audit of the Town of Bennington financial records, including those of the Town Court, Town Supervisor, Town Bookkeeper, and Cowlesville Water Clerk for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 and to provide a written report of the same to the Town Board.

Council Member J. Mohun requested to be present during the audit period.

Motion: J. Mohun. Second: B. Frounick.

Ayes: All (5) Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Resolution #2025-1-3

Establish a Petty Cash Fund for Tax Collection

Be it Resolved, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the establishment of a petty cash fund in the amount of \$200.00 for use by the Town Tax Collector for the purpose of making change for individuals making cash payments for their property taxes.

Motion: B. Frounick. Second: J. Burger

Ayes: All (5) Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Minutes of Previous Meetings - accepted as presented.

Motion: J. Mohun. Second: B. Frounick
Ayes: All (5) Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Communications

Town Clerk

1. Town Clerk's monthly report for December 2024.
2. Vital Statistics for 2025. Births: 0. Marriage Permits Issued: 0. Deaths: 1.

Supervisor Grant

1. Court activity report from Judge Linsey for November/December 2024.
2. Audit of 2024 Justice Court. Copy to be sent to Office Court Administration.
3. Authorized from Board of Supervisors State of Emergency Order 2.123; hotels not allowed contracts to house illegal immigrants, rooms preserved for guests only.

Departments

Highway

- Presented at the workshop session from Highway Superintendent, quotes to replace the current fuel tanks at the Highway property. The Town Board will review and advise.
- Prioritization of road projects for 2025 being reviewed to work within funds available.
- Salt building, at the Highway property, was damaged by a delivery truck; insurance contacted, estimates for repair being gathered.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

- No report.

Assessor

- Accepting applications for exemptions for 2025.

Zoning & Planning

- 2025 Municipal Boot Camp Training to assist local governments, municipal officials and planning and zoning boards offered at no charge by MRB Group & Hancock Estabrook LLP. Qualify for the education requirements for members of Planning Boards and Zoning Board of Appeals.

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Recreation/Cultural

- Town Historian Mike Mohun presented the documentary entitled 'Conversations with Friends' at the Attica High School on January 7, 2025. Turnout of 80+. A fundraiser for the Preservation Society of Attica.

Water District

- Water District Operator renewed water license for a three year term.
- Out of commission - a fire hydrant in Cowlesville that was damaged in an accident.

Petitions and Public Concerns

- Dave Tczyka requested the Town Board to revisit increasing the Veterans Property Tax Exemption for Bennington.
- Dave Tczyka requested clarification of the meeting when legal notice updates are emailed to residents. He feels the legal notice was unclear on the Public Hearing - Hear Comments on Proposed Local Law #1, Year 2024, A Local Law Establishing the Amount of Exemption provided by Section 458-a and 458-b of the Real Property Tax Law for the Town of Bennington New York.

Any other Business to Come before the Board/County Matters

- Supervisor Grant will meet with the new Wyoming County Hospital Administrator, Jeff Perry, at his request, to review services or how to further engage the community.
- Town Board to inquire with the Wyoming County Planning Board regarding a new proposal from Waste Management.

Adjourn by J. Mohun
Time: 8:25 pm
In Attendance 14