

Town of Bethel
Selectboard Agenda
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
6:00 pm at Bethel Town Hall (318 Main Street) & via Zoom

ZOOM LINK Meeting ID: 881 4350 9607 Passcode: 792531 Phone # 1-646-558-8656

6:00 pm: Call meeting to order and approve the agenda.

Public Comment

2024 Town Meeting Warning

Sign by Selectboard

Resignation of James Key from Equity & Inclusion Committee

Motion to accept

Designation of Stitzel, Page & Fletcher as attorneys for tax sale collection

Motion to authorize Chair to sign

Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage, year ending 2/10/2024

Motion to approve

Authorize Fire Chief David Aldrighetti to sell the 2000 Ford F-550 Rescue and sign all documents related to sale.

Motion to approve

Discussion of sale of cruiser

Discussion only

Minutes and Communications:

1. Town Manager's Report
2. Selectboard Minutes from 1/8/2024
3. Other Communications
4. Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board

Selectboard Meeting Agenda Notes for 1/23/2024 Meeting

Just a reminder this is a Tuesday night meeting

1. The warning for the March 5th Town Meeting is ready for your signatures. I think an updated discussion of the projected increase in property taxes via the school and the Town should be had, as the school is now up to a twelve-cent increase on the tax rate.
2. James Key's resignation from the EIC is in your packet.
3. We are moving forward with a tax sale in March or April. We need your motion to continue with Stitzel Page & Fletcher as our tax sale attorneys.
4. Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage – with the one change of Wright Road.
5. The new rescue truck has arrived and is in service, please authorize the Fire Chief to move ahead with the sale of the old rescue, and authorize him to sign all paperwork. The proceeds of the sale will be deposited back into the Fire Department's Capital Equipment Fund.
6. Windsor County Sheriff, Ryan Palmer, has inquired about purchasing our cruiser. He thinks it would make a good vehicle to work details.

Town Manager's Report

1. The Town Report postcards have been sent to the printers and will be out in the mail shortly, if not already.
2. Work continues on submitting all FEMA projects and I am up-to-date on submitting all requisitions to Federal Highway.
3. The plan is for Town Report to go to the printers by the end of the week.

WARNING

TOWN OF BETHEL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Bethel are hereby warned, and notified, to meet at the **WHITE RIVER UNIFIED MIDDLE SCHOOL, BETHEL CAMPUS GYMNASIUM**, in said Bethel on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 10:00 am to transact the following business from the floor: Voting on Article 1 will be via Australian ballot, at the same location, and polls will be open from 8 am to 7 pm.

Article 1. To elect by Australian ballot the following Town Officers as required by law: one Town Moderator for a one-year term, one Town Clerk for a one-year term, one Town Treasurer for a one-year term, one Selectboard Member for a three-year term, one Selectboard Member for a two-year term, one Trustee of Public Funds for a three-year term, one Lister for a three-year term, one Lister for a two-year term and one Lister for a one-year term.

Article 2. Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$3,099,876 of which \$2,605,628 shall be raised by taxes and \$494,248 non-tax revenues?

Article 3. Shall the voters appropriate up to the additional sum of \$27,500 to the Bethel Library, for continued service to Bethel residents?

Article 4. Shall the voters appropriate up to the additional sum of \$25,000 to the Bethel Food Shelf, for continued service to Bethel and surrounding community residents?

Article 5. Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$32,165 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691? (See the Town Report for a detailed description of each agency.)

Article 6. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure (*additional sum*) of \$6,000 for the non-for-profit operation of the South Royalton Area Senior Center, for continued service to Bethel residents?

Article 7. Shall the voters appropriate up to the sum of \$155,328 to the White River Valley Ambulance, Inc., for continued service to Bethel residents?

Article 8. Shall the Town Voters authorize the expenditure of \$3,000 for the non-for-profit operation of the Friends of the Historic Playhouse Theater in Randolph, Vermont?

Article 9. Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes in four (4) equal installments, with the due dates being August 15, 2024, November 15, 2024, February 17, 2025, and May 15, 2025, by delivery to the town office postmarked on or before that date?

Article 10. Shall the voters authorize the elimination of the office of Town Lister in accordance with 17 V.S.A. §2651c(b)(1) and replace it with a professionally qualified assessor who shall have the same powers, discharge of duties, proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the same liabilities as are prescribed for listers or the board of listers under the provisions of Title 32? (Per Statute, this vote must be taken by paper ballot.)

Article 11. To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before this meeting pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2660(d).

Dated at Bethel, Vermont, this ___ day of January, 2024.

By the Selectboard members of the Town of Bethel:

Christopher Jarvis

Lindley Brainard

D. Gene Kraus

David Eddy

Denise Guilmette

Therese Kirby

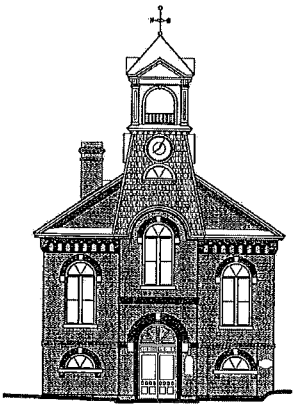
From: James Key <farmerjamesvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:30 PM
To: Therese Kirby; Owen Daniel-McCarter
Subject: Resignation

Good day, Therese,

I wish to turn in my resignation from my position on the EIC Council.

Thank You,

James



Town of Bethel, Vermont

Incorporated
1779

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER
134 South Main Street
Bethel, Vermont 05032
Phone: 802-234-9340
Fax: 802-234-6840
E-mail: betheltownmgr@comcast.net

REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF ATTORNEY FOR TAX SALE COLLECTION

(all fees reimbursed to Town of Bethel once sale is final)

In accordance with 32 VSA § 5258, the Town of Bethel hereby authorizes Therese Kirby, Town Manager, to contract with Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C., as the Town's attorney for tax sale collection for tax years 2015-2023.

Chris Jarvis, Chair

Date

District 4
Certcode 1404-0

**CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE
YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

Fill out form, make and file a copy with the Town Clerk, and submit the Mileage Certificate on or before February 20, 2024 to: Vermont Agency of Transportation, Division of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development, Mapping Section via email to: aot.mileagecertificates@vermont.gov or if necessary via mail to: VTrans PPAID - Mapping Section, 219 North Main Street, Barre VT 05641.

We, the members of the legislative body of **BETHEL** in **WINDSOR** County on an oath state that the mileage of highways, according to Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 19, Section 305, added 1985, is as follows:

PART I - CHANGES TOTALS - Please fill in and calculate totals.

Town Highways	Previous Mileage	Added Mileage	Subtracted Mileage	Total	Scenic Highways
Class 1	0.892				0.000
Class 2	11.940				0.000
Class 3	56.22		-0.10	56.12	0.000
State Highway	14.280				0.000
Total	83.332				0.000
* Class 1 Lane	0.000				
* Class 4	35.00		-0.48	34.52	0.000
* Legal Trail	0.00				

* Mileage for Class 1 Lane, Class 4, and Legal Trail classifications are NOT included in total.

PART II - INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES SHOWN ABOVE.

- NEW HIGHWAYS:** Please attach Selectmen's "Certificate of Completion and Opening".
- DISCONTINUED:** Please attach SIGNED copy of proceedings (minutes of meeting).
-0.48 mi CL4 TH-19 (Wright Rd) discontinued
-0.10 mi CL3 TH-19 (Wright Rd) partial discontinuance
- RECLASSIFIED/REMEASURED:** Please attach SIGNED copy of proceedings (minutes of meeting).
CL3 TH-19 (Wright Rd) realignment due to bridge construction 2015 - no mileage change
- SCENIC HIGHWAYS:** Please attach a copy of order designating/discontinuing Scenic Highways.

IF THERE ARE NO CHANGES IN MILEAGE: Place an X in the box and sign below.

PART III - SIGNATURES - PLEASE SIGN.

Signatures of Selectmen/ Aldermen/ Trustees: _____

Signature of T/C/V Clerk: _____ Date Filed: _____

Please sign ORIGINAL and return it for Transportation signature.

AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION APPROVAL: Signed copy will be returned to T/C/V Clerk.

APPROVED: _____
Representative, Agency of Transportation

DATE: _____

Town of Bethel
Selectboard Minutes
Monday, January 8, 2024
6:00 pm at Bethel Town Hall (318 Main Street) & via Zoom

Zoom Link Meeting ID: 842 3907 4686 Passcode: 785919 Phone # 1-646-558-8656

Present: Lindley Brainard, Dave Eddy, Denise Guilmette, Gene Kraus, Therese Kirby and Julie Kraus.

Visiting: Lisa Campbell, Cathy Day, Mary Floyd, Jordan Garrow, Ele Griffin, Julie Hinman, William Krane, Doug Marshall, JoAnn Marshall, Janice Punger, Adam Stearns, Paul Vallee, Josh Wardell

6:00 pm: Denise moved, Lindley seconded, to appoint Dave Eddy as Chair for this meeting. Dave called the meeting to order. Denise moved, Gene seconded, to approve the agenda as amended (added resigning of Mascoma not). So voted. Gene moved to authorize Chris Jarvis, to sign the Mascoma loan paperwork for 5% interest to use as a line of credit, if needed, to cover the July 2023 flood event damages. Lindley second, so voted.

6:03 pm: Lisa Campbell re: Bethel Library appropriation
See the Selectboard Packet for the request of the Bethel Public Library (BPL) Board dated December 8, 2023. Dave noted that a long-range plan is needed. Lisa explained that a Strategic Planning Committee is being formed and the first BPL Board meeting of the year will be January 26, 2024. Dave asked for a report with dates and figures, once the BPL Board completes the planning. Lisa stated all current numbers are available on file at the BPL. She also reported the BPL has received financial help in the form of grants and awards from a variety of groups (American Library Association, Lawson's Liquid, Cliff grant, Courier and others) for purchasing books, inter-library loan and others. Cliff grant brought money for books, Currier grant to help pay for inter-library loan. Lindley mentioned the Preservation Trust has just expanded their grant program for facilities and infrastructure. The BPL is asking to be included in the budget and not as an appropriation in the Town Budget next year.

Public Comment

Ele Griffin reviewed recent years history of the Bethel Recreation Committee (BRC) to gain frequent public input about services the public wants, planning and fund raising. She wants to be certain the public and the Selectboard are aware of the hard work the volunteer group and does not feel a town survey is necessary at this time. The Selectboard is moving forward with the survey and Ele will send Therese some questions the Rec. Committee would like to see added.

Gene reported on the status of the Inter-regional Energy Coordinator (IREC). Another town has dropped out leaving five towns still considering joining an IREC. Due to another town dropping out, Bethel's cost to participate in this pilot program is now up to \$22,797 or 22% of the cost. Denise and Dave do not want to put this item on the warning, but Lindley and Gene do. This item is tabled to the January 22nd meeting. Therese will prepare a warning with the item on and one with it off.

Deborah Dancause's request to be appointed to the Bethel Recreation Committee.
Denise moved, Lindley seconded, to approve the appointment of Deborah Dancause to the

Bethel Recreation Committee. So voted.

Ben Rogers & Charlotte Danforth request to put 226 Graham Street on water vacancy rate as water is shut off. Lindley moved, Gene seconded, to approve (acting as Water Commissioners) placing 226 Graham Street on a water vacancy rate. So voted. Once property is sold, the vacancy rate will revert to regular rate.

Discussion of proposed FY 24-25 Fiscal Year budget

Changes made - see SB Packet. Proposed budget means an increase of \$.03 on the tax rate over last year. The Selectboard agreed to present proposed budget to voters at the March 2024 Town Meeting.

2024 Town Meeting Warning

Under Article One, change Selectboard to read one 3-year term and Finalizing the Warning was tabled until the next Selectboard meeting, January 22.

Minutes and Communications:

1. Town Manager's Report
2. Selectboard Minutes from 12/18/2023. Lindley moved, Denise seconded to approve the minutes as edited. So voted.
3. Other Communications
4. Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board

8:07 pm: Lindley moved, Denise seconded, to adjourn the Selectboard meeting. So voted.

The next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Submitted by Julie Kraus

Town of Bethel Survey

This voluntary survey was put together by the Selectboard to gather input from Bethel residents. We hope you will take the time to complete and submit it.

1.) What would you like to see as the next recreation installation at the Bethel Recreation Area, now that the skate park is built?

- a) Tennis Court
- b) Pickleball Court
- c) Multi-sport court surface (basketball, tennis, pickleball, volleyball, badminton)
- d) Floodable rink for ice skating, hockey, basketball, etc.
- e) Other: _____

2.) Would you be willing to donate time with the Recreation Committee to see the next installation accomplished?

- a) Yes
- b) No

3.) What recreation activity have you recently participated in at the center?

- a) Pool
- b) Skatepark
- c) Trails
- d) Playground equipment
- e) Ice Rink

Please mail or drop off your survey to the Town Office at 134 South Main Street, Bethel, VT 05032, email it to betheltownoffice@comcast.net or go to www.townofbethelvt.com to complete online.

If you are interested in serving on the Recreation Committee, please send a letter of interest to betheltownoffice@comcast.net or attend a monthly Recreation Committee meeting. Information on those meetings is on our website.

Surveys must be submitted by April 15, 2024.

This is the
Survey ELe Griffin
agreed with.



State of Vermont
 Department of Taxes
 133 State Street
 Montpelier, VT 05633-1401

Phone: (802) 828-5860

Agency of Administration

FYI

January 5, 2024

00494

Town Clerk
 Town of Bethel
 PO Box 404
 Bethel, VT 05032

2023 Equalization Study Results

This letter serves as notification of the results of Property Valuation and Review (PVR)'s 2023 equalization study. Every year we are required to certify the equalized education property value (EPPV or EEGL) and coefficient of dispersion (COD) for each Vermont town (32 V.S.A § 5406). This letter also communicates the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for your town and explains how it will impact your homestead and nonhomestead education tax rates.

Education Grand List (from 411):	\$203,362,493
Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL):	\$254,946,693
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA):	79.77% or 0.7977
Coefficient of Dispersion (COD):	19.12%

For a copy of your town final computation sheet and final certified sales report, please view those in your VTPIE account. The **education grand list** listed here is what was reported by your town to the state on the 411 form with your town's cable (if applicable) and tax increment financing (TIF) amounts (if any) included. This number represents the town's total property value that is subject to the education property tax (from the most recent grand list available) and serves as the numerator in the computation of the CLA. Please note tax revenue from any TIF property value is subject to allocation (32 V.S.A. § 5404a).

The **equalized education grand list (EEGL)** represents PVR's statutorily-mandated estimate of total fair market value of the education grand list in your town and serves as the denominator in the computation of the CLA. To find out more about how the equalization study is conducted, how to read the certified sales report, and additional instructions on how to appeal your results, please see the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

The **common level of appraisal (CLA)** is determined by dividing the education grand list by the equalized education grand list (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A number over 100% indicates that property in your town is generally listed for more than its fair market value. A number less than 100% indicates that property is generally listed for less than its fair market value. A CLA below 85% or over 115% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A § 4041a). The homestead and nonhomestead tax rates in your town will be adjusted by your town's CLA (32 V.S.A § 5402).



The nonhomestead rate in your town will be the statewide nonhomestead rate divided by your CLA. The homestead rate will be the town homestead rate (which is determined by the per-pupil spending of any school district(s) to which your town belongs) divided by the CLA. A CLA greater than 100% will result in a downward adjustment of tax rates, and a CLA less than 100% will result in upward adjustment.

To get answers to many common questions about tax rates and how they are determined and to see how the current year property tax rates for your town were calculated, please see the Department's education tax resources at tax.vermont.gov/education-tax-rates

The **coefficient of dispersion (COD)** is a measure of how fairly distributed the property tax is within your town. It is calculated as the average of the (absolute) difference of each sales ratio (list price divided by sales price) in the study from the median ratio. That result is then divided by the median ratio to get the COD, which is expressed as a percent (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A high COD means that within your town many taxpayers are paying more than their fair share, and many are paying less than their fair share. A COD over 20% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A. § 4041a).

Appeals: A municipality may petition the director of Property Valuation and Review for a redetermination of its EEPV and/or COD (32 V.S.A § 5408). All petitions must be in writing and signed by the chair of the municipality's legislative body. Petitions should contain a plain statement of matters being appealed and a statement of the remedy being sought. **PVR must receive petitions by the close of business on the 35th day after the mailing of this letter.**

Additional instructions on appeals can be found in the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

If your town completed a reappraisal this year, your results are contingent on reappraisal acceptance (also known as the "three-prong test").

If you have any questions, please contact your **District Advisor**, or call 802-828-5860.

Sincerely,



Jill Remick, Director
Property Valuation and Review

cc: Chair, Board of Listers
Chair, School Board
Chair, Selectboard
Superintendent of Schools SU030

BETHEL RECREATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

- A. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm at the Town Office.
- B. In attendance were Lindsey Schell, Shane Kinsley, Deb Dancause, Ele Griffin, and by phone Caleb Harwood.
- C. Ice Rink: Lindsey did an amazing job organizing the putting together of the ice rink. Lindsey, Paul Bonyon, Lindsey's dad Jim, and Ele met Sunday, New Year's Eve at 7:30 a.m. to lay out the liner. Then the Fire Department came to fill the frame with water. The task was completed smoothly with no problems. Now the weather has to cooperate with cold weather so the water will freeze. Ele will get the key so the lights can be turned on. Lindsey and Ele will check daily to condition of the ice so the rink can be opened on the weekend.
- D. Recreation Budget: Ele had shared by e-mail the Draft Recreation Budget. Discussion included that there is a new item in the budget called Child Care Contribution Tax. Plus the committee discussed the fact that not only there is a Recreation Budget page in the Town Report, there is also a Recreation Fund page and a Recreation Facility Improvement Fund page and what those figures mean.
- E. Other Business: Lindsey is posting items and keeping the Recreation Facebook page up to date. Ele reported that she and Kyle fixed the orange fence around the skate park and posted a Bold sign telling people to stay off the park. Ele mentioned that she watched the ORCA videos of the December 11th and December 18th select board meetings. She reported that the Select Board has decided to do a survey concerning future projects at the center. The committee discussed possible questions we could suggest for the survey. Suggestions were: What recently have you used at the center? How satisfied with events at the center are you? Currently, the Bethel Recreation Center has a pool, a skate park, a pavilion, and a seasonal ice rink. What are the next three recreation installations you would like to see at the center. Please rank them in order that you would like to see built/installed (one being the soonest, three being the latest). Lindsey suggested an idea to take care of the graffiti on the skate park. How about having a Middle School Art Project with students painting something nice on the park. Shane will reach out to Michael Parker to inquire about what art materials are safe for the surface of the skate park. Lindsey will reach out to Mary Schell (the Community School Coordinator at WRVSU and Dayna Sabatino(the owner of Day Breaks Glass) to see if they are interested in participating in the possible skate park art project. . There has been no word about when there will be any VOREC branding workshops.

- F. Past Minutes: There were 2 corrections made on the December minutes. One being that Shane mentioned that there are not 8 weeks in July. After the corrections were made the minutes were approved.
- G. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 7th at 7pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully,
Ele Griffin