

Town of Bethel
Selectboard Agenda
Monday, December 19, 2022
6:30 pm @ Bethel Town Hall & via Zoom

[Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 850 2744 0285 Passcode: 736289 Dial: 1-646-558-8656

6:30 pm: Call meeting to order and approve agenda.

7 pm: Recreation Committee re: Phase II of skatepark

Public Comment

FY 2023-2024 Budget Discussion
Discussion only

Draft Town Meeting Warning
Discussion only

Minutes and Communications:

1. Town Manager's Report
2. Selectboard Minutes from 12/12/2022
3. Other Communications -
4. Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board:

TAX RATES FOR 2023/2024

This includes the Library's \$27,500

	Amount	2022/2023	Difference between last year and proposed
<u>Taxes to be raised for:</u>			
General Fund	\$2,371,690.00	1.0624	3.45%
Local Agreement	\$8,046.07	0.0040	0.00%
State Homestead tax rate			
Total Homestead tax rate	1.1030	1.0664	3.43%

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<u>Taxes to be raised for:</u>			
General Fund	\$2,371,690.00	1.0624	3.45%
Local Agreement	\$8,046.07	0.0040	0.00%
State Non-Residential tax rate			
Total Non-Residential tax rate	1.1030	1.0664	3.43%

23/24 Municipal Grand List	\$	2,158,095.00
23/24 Homestead Grand List	\$	-
23/24 Non-Residential Grand List	\$	-

2022 CLA
2022 COD
Municipal Tax Rate \$ 1.1030

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 7, 2023, at 10:00 am to transact the following business from the floor:

1. To elect a Town Moderator for the term of one year.
2. To elect a Town Clerk for the term of one year.
3. To elect a Town Treasurer for the term of one year.
4. To elect by ballot, a Selectboard Member for a term of three years to succeed Paul Vallee, whose term expires.
5. To elect by ballot, a Selectboard Member for a term of two years to succeed Chris Jarvis, whose term expires.
6. To elect by ballot, a Lister to serve the one-year balance of a three-year term, to succeed Pamela Brown, whose term expires.
7. To elect by ballot, a Lister for a term of three years to succeed Judi Brigham, whose term expires.
8. To elect a Trustee of Public Funds under section 24 V.S.A. for a term of three years to succeed Sandy Farrell, whose term expires in 2023.
9. To elect a Trustee of Public Funds under section 24 V.S.A. to serve the one-year balance of a three-year term, to succeed Paul Vallee, whose term expires in 2024.
10. Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$x,xxx,xxx of which \$x,xxx,xxx shall be raised by taxes and \$xxx,xxx non-tax revenues?
11. Shall the voters appropriate up to the sum of \$27,500 to the Bethel Library, for continued service to Bethel residents?
12. Shall the voters appropriate up to the sum of \$xxx,xxx to the Recreation Facility Improvement capital fund, to complete phase 2 of the skatepark?
13. Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$xx,xxx to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691? (See the Town Report for a detailed description of each agency.)
14. Shall the voters appropriate up to the sum of \$153,048 to the White River Valley Ambulance, Inc., for continued service to Bethel residents?
15. Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes in four (4) equal installments, with the due dates being August 15, 2023, November 15, 2023, February 15, 2024, and May 15, 2024, by delivery to the town office postmarked on or before that date?

16. Shall the Town of Bethel elect its town officers by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(b)?

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

Discussion of items to be voted on by Australian ballot.

The following articles will be voted by Australian ballot:

Article 1. Shall the Town of Bethel authorize cannabis retailers in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863?

Polls open Tuesday, March 7, 2023 from 8 am to 7pm at the White River Unified Middle School, Bethel Campus.

Dated at Bethel, Vermont, this 23rd day of January, 2023.

By the Selectboard members of the Town of Bethel:

Christopher Jarvis

Lindley Brainard

D. Gene Kraus

David Eddy

Paul Vallée

Town of Bethel
Selectboard Agenda
Monday, December 12, 2022
6:30 pm @ Bethel Town Hall & via Zoom

[Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 873 7185 5325 Passcode: 123197 Dial: 1-646-558-8656

Present: Lindley Brainard, Dave Eddy, Chris Jarvis, Gene Kraus, Paul Vallee, Therese Kirby, Julie Kraus

Visitors: Eric Benson, Rita Champion, Owen Daniel-McCarter, Leonard Meeks, Kyle & Zoë Cartwright, Cass Bath & Justin Merrill.

6:35 pm: Meeting called to order by Chris Jarvis. Dave Eddy moved, Lindley Brainard seconded to approve the agenda as written.

Public Comment: Paul Vallee notified the Selectboard that he will not be seeking another term (his third) on the Selectboard. His term expires in 2023. He urged anyone interested in running, to start attending Selectboard meetings, so they are aware of the topics the Selectboard is currently dealing with.

FY 2023-2024 Budget Discussion: Therese will update White River Valley Ambulance appropriation and will review insurance numbers, as she has the most recent update from VLCT PACIF. Chris would like to see an additional \$45,000 appropriation to Capital Roads, to cover grant matches.

Chris updated the Board on his and Therese's meeting with Ryan Palmer, the Sheriff elect for Windsor County. For full-time coverage Ryan wanted Bethel to contribute \$125,000 a year. For two days a week, he wants us to contribute \$75,000 a year. Some community members have indicated the need for faster response time and a community presence. The options available to Bethel are to stay with the status quo, knowing we are not currently receiving the 20 hours per week of coverage we budget for, sign on with the Windsor County Sheriff, or hire a full time officer ourselves. Discussion regarding the fact that there are new sheriffs in Orange and Windsor Counties, and they do not take over until February 2023. It is hard to know what changes they will be able to make for at least a year. Chris proposed Bethel increases the hourly rate to \$28 per hour for the constables, then he and Therese meet with our current constables, see what hours they will commit to providing us. If they cannot commit, then we should look for replacements. Therese will update the budget to reflect those numbers and the Board will look at it again on 12/19.

The Recreation Committee has an appointment at 7pm with the Selectboard at their 12/19 meeting. The Committee is expected to have a proposal regarding Phase II of the skatepark then.

DuBois & King will come to the Selectboard in February to review the Better Connections plan (possible parking on one side, where to locate cross walks, handicap parking and accessibility, etc.).

Draft of the Town Meeting Warning was reviewed. This year we will be meeting in person at the Bethel school, on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. As is Bethel's normal routine, we will be voting all items from the floor. This warning, besides officers and budgets, will include a floor vote on whether or not to start in 2024, electing Town Officials via Australian ballot. It will also include a vote on whether or not Bethel residents will approve cannabis retailers in Town. That vote must be Australian ballot, so people will be able to vote, before, during or after Town Meeting. Polls will be open 8am to 7 pm. There will look again at the wording of items six and nine, and present another draft of the Warning at the next meeting.

Minutes and Communications:

1. Town Manager's Report - see the packet
2. Selectboard Minutes from 11/28/2022 – Motion to approve Paul, second Lindley, so voted.
3. Other Communications: see packet
4. Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board: none

Next meeting Monday, December 19, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

8:25 pm motion to adjourn made by Paul, seconded by Chris. So voted.

Submitted by
Julie Kraus

BETHEL RECREATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

- A. The meeting was called to order at the Town Office at 7:14 pm.
- B. In attendance were Lindsey Schell, Shane Kinsley, Melissa and Caleb Harwood, and Ele Griffin.
- C. Ice Skating Rink: The committee is concerned about what kind of winter is ahead. Vershire and South Royalton have set up the frames of their rinks. We have a new liner. However, the warm weather is not helping. The committee tabled scheduling putting the rink up. We will leave it to our January meeting for a decision.
- D. Town Report: Our article for the Town Report is due. Lindsey and Ele have written about some of the 2022 events. The committee is waiting on Melissa, Caleb, and Kyle's input. Dietre had an accident before Thanksgiving. Melissa will edit and put our article together.
- E. Skate Board Park: The committee discussed out meeting with the Select Board on November 28th. We discussed the fact that Therese is going to have Dig Safe come and put flags up where the electric line was put in through the center to the water tank. Shane showed the committee the design approved by the DRB in Dec. 2018. The committee asked questions and discussed why the town would put an electric line where we got approval and a permit from DRB to put the skate board park. Therese will also give us an update about our total funds. The committee also discussed how we can change the size of phase 2 to fit the area and have the necessary funds. Ele will ask if we need an updated permit from DRB. With this information the committee feels that the select board will be able to approve our request for \$30,000 for site work.
- F. Other Business: None at this time.
- G. Past Minutes: The November minutes were approved with corrections from Dietre and Lindsey.
- H. Our next meeting will be at the Town Office on Wednesday, January 11th at 7pm. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully,
Ele Griffin

Bethel Energy Committee – Meeting Agenda

Date: Friday, December 9, 2022

Time: 4pm-7pm

Location: Bethel Town Hall, 318 North Main St., Bethel, VT

Appointed members: Nicole Cyr, Christopher Scheffler, Scott Putney, Vincent Bergamo

December Open House

Attendees: Nicole C., Vincent B., (no quorum), Gene K., Gary D., and community

Review questions in open discussion with community:

#1 – What Brought You Here?

Bethel Bucks, Hot Cocoa, B4A and Historical Society volunteers

#2 – Review available information and resources on EVs, Weatherization, Solar Power, Heat Pumps, local/state policy

The BEC discussed community questions and comments on the topics of:

Solar power, heat pumps, weatherization, EVs, electric grid infrastructure, Bethel Energy Committee tasks and goals, climate change

#3 – Review BEC membership info & annual goals, Discuss and provide input on 2023 goals

Suggestions for 2023:

(# of votes) TOPIC

(5) Create and distribute outreach

(3) Collaborate with WRV towns for a Regional Energy Coordinator

(3) Energy audit & solar on community facilities

Host the Bethel Energy Show

Volunteer as team lead for WindowDressers in Randolph

Volunteer with COVER to weatherize neighbor's homes – get funding (Diane Rheinhardt)

3 streetlights out in Bethel (Dave Eddy)

Streetlight inventory, replacing 20-30 older bulbs to LED

Invite “Bright at Night” to Bethel Forward Festival 2023 (Upper Valley Medical Reserve Corps, Kerri Ross)

Collaborate with WRVMS Community 2 School program. Stipends, activities for early release days? Bus Route stops @ WRVMS. Sharing info about the Transit app?

(WRVMS, Mary Schell)

#4 – Which guest speakers/topics should we host in 2023?

Suggestions for 2023:

(# of votes) TOPIC

(5) Solar power (what and where to buy, tax credits)

(5) Climate Change/VT Climate Action Plan

(4) Bicycles and E-Bikes (Oonee bike shelter) (connect bike trail to Woodstock)

potential speakers: (Bright at Night, Llalla from Bethel)

(3) Heat Pumps

(3) Walking

(3) Municipal Energy Consumption

(2) Weatherization

(2) Electric Vehicles

Electric Lawn Tools

WindowDressers

Automobile Maintenance

Bus Routes and Schedules

Biofuels

E-list sign-up: 8 new email addresses

Total attendance: estimate 30-50 local residents (0-80 y/o)

7:15pm Adjourn