

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – January 3, 2012

Selectmen Philip Germain, Steven Osienski and Joseph Cuddemi were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Monadnock Ledger-Transcript reporter Ashley Saari. The meeting was called to order at 5:41 P.M.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the January 3, 2012 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers.
- Received with regret Amy Wing's resignation from the Fire Department.
- Heard a report that, for Budget purposes, the Administrator increased the Treasurer's salary from \$750 to \$2,000.
- Expressed frustration that the Purchase and Sale Agreement with St. Patrick Church Officials remains unresolved.
- Received the Moderator's reminder of January 10<sup>th</sup> election eve duties.

From 6:49 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi as well as Administrator French. The Selectmen voted an absolute deadline of January 4, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. for the former owners of M9/L12 to execute the Tax Payment Agreement and to pay the negotiated settlement of \$28,975.58.

The following Department/Committee representatives met with the Selectmen to collectively discuss 2012 funding ahead of the January 11<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing: Road Agent Gary Russell, Fire Department Chiefs Allan Wilson, Chester Heinzman and Joseph O'Brien, Water/Sewer Commissioners Glenn Wilson, John Spanos and Salvatore Landi, Capital Reserve Funding Joseph MacGregor and Harvey Goodwin (also Budget Committee member), Budget Committee Debra Whitney and Rick Reed, ZBA and Energy Committee Peter Martel, Police Chief Steve Campbell, Town Clerk Debra Belcher and Library Officials Leslie MacGregor, Lisa Shingler and Laurie MacKeigan. Other than routine queries the following notable information was brought forward:

- Sewer Capital Reserve Fund – the Commissioners discussed the likely-hood of Antrim dredging their sewer lagoons within two years at an estimated cost to Bennington of \$125,000. A 2012 appropriation of \$25,000 will be included in the Town Warrant.
- Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund – through the ongoing engineering study it is now known that the Antrim/Bennington bridge will need complete replacement rather than the planned rehabilitation. A 2012 appropriation of \$55,000 for the unmet grant match will be included in the Town Warrant.
- Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund – NHDOT has informed the Town that if appropriate funds are not in place as a result of 2012 Town Meeting the State will de-obligate the funds for the second phase of the TE project. A 2012 appropriation of \$54,000 for the unmet grant match will be included in the Town Warrant.
- Mower Capital Reserve Fund – The requested 2012 appropriation was changed from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

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- The group expressed frustration with the Town's inability to gather in a public meeting format to discuss the pros and cons of each funding request and what drives Town Officials to request funding for specific projects along with the ramifications of funds not being timely appropriated. At the suggestion of Joseph MacGregor, the Selectmen unanimously voted to include a Warrant Article seeking abolishment of SB2 and a return to the traditional style of Town Meeting where voters convene for discussion and vote on the Town's Warrant rather than the Town's Warrant being voted on by ballot.
- Chairman Germain reported that the proposed Operating Budget is 1.5% higher than the draft Default Budget.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Town Administrator