

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – January 25, 2012

Selectmen Philip Germain, Steven Osienski and Joseph Cuddemi were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Peter Martel, Barry White and Monadnock Ledger-Transcript Reporter Ashley Saari. The meeting was called to order at 5:44 p.m.

Energy Committee members Peter Martel and David McKenzie presented a Power-Point presentation of Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Town Facilities. The preliminary assessment of the Town Hall, Fire Station, Library and VFW was prepared by the Peregrine Energy Group, Inc. of Boston, MA, funded by an ARRA Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant. The Selectmen and Energy Committee plan to jointly review the buildings in the Spring with an eye towards implementing some of the suggestions.

Joseph O'Brien met with the Selectmen to report that the new Town Hall security system is online; smoke detectors and pull stations remain to be finished as well as some motion detectors. He recommended that the Town post its affected properties warning of the video surveillance.

From 8:04 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi, Administrator French and Joseph O'Brien. No decisions were made.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's January 18, 2012 Minutes.
- Reviewed the Zoning Board of Adjustment's January 24, 2012 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the January 25, 2012 Accounts Payable Register and the January 24, 2012 Payroll Register.
- Requested a written report from Code Officer Peter Hopkins documenting the closure of the lengthy zoning case for M3/L14 on Mountain Road.
- Tabled consideration of a 2011 property tax abatement for the above-referenced property until the Code Officer's report for M3/L14 is in-hand.
- Heard a report that the Town's contingency fund, held by the Town of Antrim for Sewer Department activities, has a balance in excess of \$20,000. This, coupled with the existing Sewer Capital Reserve Fund balance of \$55,000, would provide Bennington's 25% match for dredging the sewer lagoons at the estimated cost of \$300,000.
- Received notice from the Deputy Administrator that the Town qualifies for a \$7,000 FEMA reimbursement of expenses incurred during the October snowstorm.
- After review of RSA 41:14-a "Acquisition or Sale of Land, Buildings, or Both" the Selectmen voted to include a 2012 Warrant Article seeking adoption of this statute.
- Heard a report that the 2011 Equalized Assessment Ratio is 110.5%; up from 107.6% the previous year. The Town's assessor reviewed the supporting documentation and reported the increase is typical for all communities in this economy.

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- Tabled approval of Quantum Construction Consultants’ Draft Engineering Study for the Antrim/Bennington Bridge until the Board’s February 1st meeting to allow time for review.
- Reviewed Chairman Germain’s draft of the Selectmen’s Message for inclusion in the 2011 Town Report.
- In response to receiving a citizen complaint about the hours the Town Hall gymnasium is used, the Administrator was asked to invite the Robotics Leader to the next Board meeting.
- With regard to FEMA’s obligation of funds for the Bible Hill Road Culvert Hazard Mitigation Grant Project:
 - Due to the January 12, 2012 notification date (after the January 11th Budget Hearing) the appropriation of the Town’s \$76,171 match cannot be included in the 2012 Town Meeting.
 - The Department of Revenue Administration representative, Jeane Samms, reported that the Town’s unreserved fund balance can be used if as a result of a Public Hearing the Selectmen take action to receive the Hazard Mitigation Grant.
 - The Selectmen tabled approval of Quantum Construction Consultants’ Proposal for Professional Engineering Services for the Bible Hill Road Culvert Grant until after the Public Hearing to discuss the Grant opportunity.
- Signed were:
 - Employee Time-off Request
 - 2012 Budget
 - 2012 Default Budget
 - 2012 Town Warrant

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator