

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – March 14, 2012

Selectmen Philip Germain, Steven Osienski and Joseph Cuddemi were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Peter Martel. The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m.

From 6:00 p.m. until 6:14 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi and Allan Wilson. The Selectmen voted not to reappoint Allan Wilson as Fire Chief.

The Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Michael Roina Fire Chief for one year. The Oath of Office was executed by the Board of Selectmen. Police Chief Steve Campbell volunteered to mentor Fire Chief Michael Roina in administrative matters for as long a period as needed.

The Selectmen, Administrator, Fire Chief Roina and Steve Campbell recessed the meeting at Town Hall and went to the Fire Station where they met with Firefighters/EMTs Michael Poitras, Michael Hoiris, David Foster, Joseph O'Brien, Chester Heinzman, Willow Tarr, Scott Plourde and Matthew Hall to announce the Board's appointment of Fire Chief Michael Roina for a one-year period. Also discussed was the temporary role of Steve Campbell who will mentor Chief Roina in administrative matters at the Chief's discretion. The Selectmen responded to the following inquiries:

- Why did the Selectmen pass over line-officers with the same experience and more time with the Department?
- What is the new direction?
- Why isn't the Chief elected by the firefighters?
- Why is the Chief's term only one year?
- What are the Selectmen's expectations?
- Why doesn't anyone ask the firefighters anything?
- How can the restrictions and requirements be the same for everyone when firefighter's scheduled differ?
- Will there be an advertisement soliciting new members?

From 6:20 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a) to discuss an employee's conceptual request for a temporary altered work schedule. Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi as well as Administrator French. The Selectmen tabled making a decision.

In other matters the Selectmen took action on the following:

- Reviewed the March 6, 2012 Fire Department Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the March 14, 2012 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers.
- Reviewed the March 13, 2012 election results and were gratified that all Warrant Articles requesting monetary appropriations were approved by the majority of the 341 voters (36% voter turnout).
- Heard the Administrator's report that she authorized LGC to enter into settlement negotiations regarding the September 2011 motor vehicle accident litigation.
- Approved payment of four unused vacation days for Steve Campbell.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French,
Town Administrator