

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – May 9, 2012

Selectmen Steven Osienski, Joseph Cuddemi and James Cleary were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

Balch Farm Road resident David Beck met with the Selectmen to follow-up his documented concern about activities occurring at an abutting property which seem to be in violation of the Town's Zoning Ordinance. The Selectmen assured Mr. Beck that they had initiated contact with the property owner and plan to meet with him to discuss the matter.

Bruce Nixon met with the Board by invitation to discuss the current status of the Building Review Committee and his interest in Chairing the Committee. It was agreed that the primary focus of the Building Committee should be identifying an election site followed by longer term goals which include providing more space for growing Town departments. Mr. Nixon agreed to accept the position of Building Committee Chair, a position formerly held by Philip Germain.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the May 2, 2012 Selectmen's Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the May 8, 2012 Payroll Register, the May 9, 2012 Accounts Payable Registers and Expenditures for the period January 1 through April 30, 2012.
- Signed a Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$475,000 with Peoples' United Bank at an interest rate of 1.98%.
- Confirmed that an employee is to be paid for five unused vacation days while taking a sixth unused day in the near future.
- Appointed James Cleary the Planning Board Ex-officio.
- Heard a report from Selectman Osienski that he had researched information received April 18<sup>th</sup> during the Trustees of Trust Funds investment presentation. Mr. Osienski stated his personal opinion that he disagrees with investing the Town's Capital Reserve Funds in bond funds due to the volatility of the market. The Trustees of Trust Funds plan to meet with the Library Trustees to discuss their current investment portfolio before any decisions are made.
- Selectmen Osienski and Cuddemi plan to attend a meeting with Moderator John Cronin and Superintendent of Schools Richard Bergeron May 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the prospect of closing Pierce Elementary School during future election days.
- May 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. is tentatively scheduled for an on-site meeting with NHDOT, Antrim and Bennington Officials to review planned bridge construction work on North Bennington Road/Depot Street.
- Voted to remove the tax-exempt status for property formerly known as St. Patrick's Church (M7/L30).
- Agreed to switch from LGC to SchoolCare as the provider for employee health insurance. During the 2012 budget process the Selectmen voted to switch from the Town's current plan with LGC to a plan that would save taxpayer dollars and share the cost burden with the employee. There is no cost savings for the Town when comparing the LGC and SchoolCare plans but there is a significant cost savings to the employee.
- Accepted the April 30<sup>th</sup> Equalized Valuations as provided by the Department of Revenue Administration.

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- Received a report from Deputy Emergency Management Director Kristie LaPlante that the Town does not have to wait for permits to be in place before the Town selects a contractor for the Bible Hill Road Culvert Replacement project. A Scope of the project will be sought from Quantum Construction to move the project forward.
- A Timber Tax Levy was signed by the Board as well as an Employee Time-Off Request form.

From 7:28 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to review additional information received relative to an abatement request. Present were Selectmen Osienski, Cuddemi and Cleary as well as Administrator French. The Selectmen voted to waive interest associated with unpaid taxes for the period 2009 through 2011 for M21/L10-1.

From 7:31 p.m. until 7:40 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to review requests from the owners of M21/L13-1. The owners will be invited in to discuss their Hardship Abatement Application.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Town Administrator