

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 17, 2012

Selectmen James Cleary and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French; Selectman Steven Osienski was absent due to illness. Also attending the meeting was Monadnock Ledger-Transcript reporter Ashley Saari. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mountain Road residents Jane Handy and Ryan Kulbacki met with the Selectmen, as did Chief Campbell by invitation, to discuss the following:

- A neighboring property owner, Stephen Stockwell. entered upon Mrs. Handy's property to cut barbed wire that ran along an old fence behind her stone wall.
- Asked that the Town caution the offending property owner that when he plows the Town's road he isn't to continue the practice of plowing an excessive amount of snow onto his neighbors' property.
- The Selectmen agreed to remind Mr. Stockwell that any work he plans to undertake on Mountain Road first needs review and approval from the Board of Selectmen.
- Chief Campbell agreed to meet with Stephen Stockwell to discuss trespass concerns as well as the Selectmen's concerns stated above.

In other matters Police Chief Steve Campbell and the Selectmen discussed the following:

- VFW membership is wondering if the Town facility will be closed for the winter. The Selectmen tabled this decision until the full Board is in session.
- Selectman Cleary volunteered to fill Joseph Cuddemi's vacancy on the Highway Safety Committee.
- Unfinished obligations to finalize installation of the fire/security systems at Town Hall. The Selectmen agreed to separate the alarm installation from the carpentry items and will make arrangements to hire a Town employee for the door repairs and finish carpentry work. Installation items remaining include moving an outside camera and installation of a motion light sensor within the side entry Lobby.

From 6:44 p.m. until 6:55 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3III(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary and Rose, Administrator French and Police Chief C. Stephen Campbell. Selectmen Cleary and Rose voted to seal the Minutes of this Nonpublic Session.

Donald Trow and Holly Mecheski met with the Selectmen to discuss use of their family's property at 479 State Route 202 (M16,L9) where a portable hot dog stand has been used since 2009. Mrs. Mecheski provided copies of state issued Food Service Licenses for the periods September 21, 2009 to September 20, 2010 and September 21, 2010 to September 20, 2011. In question is whether or not a food take out business can continue at that location since the Town has never reviewed or approved the property's activities. Selectman Cleary stated that when he signed a Building Permit for a "roof over the stand" a couple of weeks ago he assumed the enterprise was a permitted use. The Trow family was given a Site Plan Review Application and referred to the Planning Board and also referred to the ZBA for a Variance since the property is located in the Rural/Agricultural District. The Selectmen suggested the possibility of a joint hearing of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

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From 7:35 p.m. until 8:02 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary and Rose, Administrator French and Dario Carrara. The group discussed the impending vacancy of the Building Inspector/Code Officer. No decision was made.

Fire Chief Michael Roina met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- An electrician has been located to fix the fire siren but a crane will need to be deployed to remove the machinery from the Town Hall cupola. Alternative notification systems were informally discussed. It was agreed that electrical service to the defunct siren would be discontinued immediately.
- Although a panic bar has been installed, the Town Hall gymnasium still remains cluttered and deemed unsafe by the Fire Chief. The Selectmen voted a seven day window of time for the cleanup to be done to the satisfaction of the Fire Chief. In the event the meeting hall is not reorganized in seven days the Board voted an additional seven days (14 total days) for the current occupant to remove all possessions or the Town will remove same from the building.

From 8:23 p.m. until 8:28 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary and Rose, Administrator French and Fire Chief Roina. Two background checks were reviewed prior to a vote to hire Matthew Blanchard and Bruce Hall as Fire Department employees.

In other matters the Selectmen acted on the following:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's October 3, 2012 Minutes.
- Reviewed the Cemetery Trustees' October 9, 2012 Minutes as well as the Planning Board's October 8, 2012 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for October 9 and October 16, 2012 as well as the October 10, 2012 Accounts Payable Register.
- Selectman Cleary volunteered to meet with a property owner to obtain information relative to the make, model and installation date of their outdoor wood boiler.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Building Inspector Peter Hopkins as of October 31, 2012; the Board was pleased to hear that Mr. Hopkins is willing to continue on as the Inspector or work with his replacement until his home is sold.
- Agreed that a Building Permit is required for the creation of a structure built from shipping containers and covered by a roof.
- In response to recommendations from the Energy Committee the Board received two proposals from Hixson's Heating Services, Inc:
  - Material and labor to add duct work to the first floor offices and restroom at the Town Hall and repairs to the basement furnaces' cold air return and plenums at a cost of \$3,800. The Selectmen asked that the duct work be separated from the basement furnaces repair which needs to be done now. Extension of the duct work will be discussed later with the Budget Committee.
  - Material and labor to install a direct air intake for the Fire Station boiler at a cost of \$385.97 which the Board accepted and will be done this fall.
- In response to a plea from Monadnock Family Services who are seeking additional funds of \$1,845 (\$1.25 for each town resident) to close a \$33,961 shortfall for services rendered to Bennington residents, the Selectmen voted a \$300 goodwill donation on top of the annual appropriation of \$1,891.

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- Reviewed the First Draft 2013 Budget which is \$3,732 higher than 2012, however, the proposed 2013 Budget does not include wages, benefits, capital reserve funding and warrant articles.
- Tabled review of wages and benefits until the full Board is present.
- Agreed to delay an October Forbearance Agreement payment due to the death of one of the property owners.
- Reviewed September and Third Quarter 2012 Police Statistics.
- Received a written report from Chief Campbell about the opportunities gained from his recent attendance at the annual Police Chiefs Conference in San Diego.
- Received NHDOT Final Plan Approval for the Antrim/Bennington Bridge. The Town is now authorized to proceed to advertising for bids; Quantum Construction Consultants plans to schedule the bid opening for a late November date.

From 9:55 p.m. until 10:02 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(d). Present were Selectmen Cleary and Rose as well as Administrator French. No decision was made.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator