

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 24, 2012

Selectmen Steven Osienski, James Cleary and Jeff Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Town Officials paused to participate in a retirement ceremony for part-time Police Officer David Chenard who has been a loyal employee since 2001.

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

- A minor electrical fire occurred October 18th at Town Hall which seems to have originated from an old dimmer switch associated with the stage lighting. The gymnasium is currently without power since its lights were on the same circuit as the dimmer switch.
- During restoration of the gym lighting additional outlets will be installed.
- Since the stage curtains are not fire proofed they need to be removed as soon as possible.
- Operation of the gymnasium exit door needs to be improved.
- Mr. Martel has met his obligations with regard to resolving life safety concerns in the area of the gymnasium.

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- He identified an opportunity for the Town to purchase a 1982 John Deere loader for \$15,000. Since the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund only has a \$2,900 balance the Selectmen authorized the Road Agent to see if the owner would accept a monthly rental fee, which would be applied to the purchase price, until funding can be determined at the 2013 Town Meeting.
- Gary is to take the lead on finding an electrician to upgrade the bridge lights and provide estimates for repair and upgrade of the Town Hall electrical system.
- The Solid Waste Committee is working on obtaining proposals for hauling and disposal operations; the current five-year contract expires December 31, 2012.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Selectmen Cleary and Rose reviewed and approved the October 17, 2012 Selectmen's Minutes.
- Reviewed the October 10, 2012 Energy Committee Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the October 23, 2012 Payroll Register as well as Accounts Payable Registers for October 18 and 24, 2012.
- The Board agreed to extend the length of time for cleanup of the gymnasium until electricity has been restored.
- Agreed to keep the VFW building open at least through November while the Town explores its options.
- Heard a report that, although the Energy Committee suggested adding duct work to heat the administrative office space from the existing first floor furnace, it wasn't necessarily a recommendation. The Selectmen had received an estimate for the suggested work and planned to present it to the 2013 Budget Committee.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – October 24, 2012

- Agreed that the Department of Environmental Services should be invited to meet with the Health Officer and Selectmen to discuss a reported offending outdoor wood boiler.
- Tabled review of wages and benefits until the Board's next meeting on November 2, 2012.
- Canceled a planned October 29th Selectmen's meeting; employee reviews were rescheduled to November 6, 2012 beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- Scheduled a November 14th meeting of the Capital Reserve Funding Committee.
- Denied inclusion of an article in the upcoming Fall Newsletter that promotes a local business.
- Discussed frustration with regard to an Agreement that was executed between the Town and the owner of M9/L21 at the time of the 2009 Revaluation.
- Agreed to invite the Water/Sewer Commissioners in to discuss their collection procedure for delinquent utility accounts.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator