

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – December 19, 2012

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

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

- Review of options put forth by Michie Corporation for enhanced construction of the precast culvert for the Bible Hill Road project.
- Encumbrance of 2012 budgeted funds. The Selectmen voted to encumber \$19,000 from the paving line-item (4312-1-391). With regard to the current proposed 2013 Budget the Selectmen voted to decrease the paving line-item (4312-1-391) from \$40,000 to \$21,000 and increase the drainage supplies line-item (4312-3-610) from \$3,000 to \$22,000 thereby providing additional funding towards the precast culvert.
- Five bids were received for operation of the Transfer Station. The Solid Waste Committee is reviewing the details of each bid. The Selectmen voted to accept the Solid Waste Committee's recommendation and designated Gary Russell as the authorized agent to sign the contract with the successful bidder.
- Informally discussed possible mechanical issues with the Highway Department's pickup truck. Dependent upon the findings the Town could consider selling the vehicle and purchasing a newer/used pickup truck.

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

- Issuing \$200 stipend checks to each of the two Captains and a \$150 stipend for the Lieutenant who have stepped up and assisted the Chief during the Fire Department's leadership transition. The Selectmen agreed with the Chief's proposal and authorized payment from remaining funds in the unspent Fire Chiefs Salaries line-item. Similar 2013 stipends will be discussed at a later date.

From 7:20 p.m. until 7:40 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Osienski, Cleary and Rose as well as Administrator French. The Selectmen completed their review of proposed 2013 wages and made no changes to their planned 0-3% proposal.

Peter Martel met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- A 2013 Warrant Article seeking voter permission to change the Zoning Board of Adjustment membership from an appointed position to an elected position. The Selectmen unanimously support inclusion of this Article in the 2013 Town Warrant.
- Peter's suggestion that the Town consider altering its Town Meeting schedule to a more convenient time of the year when voter participation could be broader.
- Verbal decision reached by the Zoning Board of Adjustment at their December 17th Public Hearing relative to property at M16/L9. Prior to the discussion Selectman/Zoning Board of Adjustment Official Steve Osienski recused himself and left the meeting.

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In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's December 12, 2012 Minutes.
- Reviewed the Planning Board's December 6, 2012 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the December 19, 2012 Payroll Registers and Accounts Payable Register.
- Heard a verbal report that the Library Trustees have made a policy decision that forty hours will be considered full-time employment for Library personnel. This decision replaces the previous thirty-two hour criteria for full-time employment.
- Received an advisory from New England Forestry Consultants, Inc. regarding the Greenfield/Bennington Town Line and land of Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc. with regard to Map 1, Lot 12.
- Authorized an abatement of \$223,200 in assessed value with associated tax abatements totaling \$5,558 to reflect duplicate utility tax billings for M1/L17, M7/L87 and M10/L8.
- Heard a report that the annual appropriation for Antrim Ambulance service is likely to increase in 2013.
- Voted to rename Onset Road Extension as Mount Crotched Drive in accordance with recommendations from E-911 and difficulties experienced by the residents receiving home deliveries.
- Voted two additional 2012 encumbrances: \$52,354 from the Bridge Replacement appropriation and \$54,000 from the Sidewalk Grant appropriation. Both encumbrances reflect ongoing grant - funded construction programs.
- Heard a report that the Contoocook Regional School Board will be putting forth a proposed amendment to the Articles of Agreement which, if voters approve, would allow future School Boards to consider closing a school if the building is deemed to be inadequate or the school is operating substantially below capacity.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator