

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELELCTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – January 2, 2013

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:

- Upon their review of five proposals for Municipal Solid Waste Services, the Solid Waste Committee voted to accept the bid from Monadnock Disposal Services from Jaffrey, NH. The Town should recognize annual savings of \$5,000 to \$10,000.

From 6:37 p.m. until 6:50 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Osienski, Cleary and Rose, Administrator French and Road Agent Russell. The group discussed snow removal operations, scheduling and overtime obligations for all Highway Department personnel.

Police Chief Steve Campbell met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Accepted the Chief's recommendation to hire Antrim Officer Ryan Storro as a part-time Bennington Police Officer subject to a favorable background check.
- Amended the Town's Alcohol Ordinance to reflect the Town is now the recipient of alcohol fines if the offender chooses to avoid a Court appearance.
- Accepted the Chief's recommendation and applied for two Safety Grants: 1) DWI and 2) Speed.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's December 19, 2012 Minutes. Reviewed the Planning Board's December 10, 2012 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the December 26, 2012 and January 2, 2013 Payroll Registers, the December 31, 2012 Accounts Payable Register as well as the 2012 Expenditures through December 31, 2012.
- Heard a report that the Budget Hearing date was changed to Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. In view of the date change the Board voted not to meet next Wednesday but to meet before the Budget Hearing instead.
- Unanimously agreed to continue paying annual dues to the NH Municipal Association which provides open-ended legal counsel and training opportunities.
- Reviewed 2012 Police Statistics for December, Fourth Quarter and Calendar Year.
- Received NHDOT Approval of Award Bid thereby giving the Town approval to award the contract to Cold River Bridges, LLC of Walpole, NH. The contract execution documents will occur during the week of January 14 to the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Signed the \$817.13 repayment agreement that was approved by the Board and Welfare Director on December 12, 2012 relative to ownership of M21/L13-1.
- Signed a Building Permit for M12/L34.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – January 2, 2013

The balance of the meeting was spent with Department Heads/Committees in a Pre-Budget format prior the Selectmen’s January 10<sup>th</sup> presentation of the 2013 Budget to the public. Present were Budget Committee members John Baybutt (also Conservation Commission), Melissa Clark, Harvey Goodwin (also Capital Reserve Funding Committee), Rick Reed and Debra Whitney, Road Agent Gary Russell, Fire Chief Michael Roina, Library Officials Molly Eppg, Laurie MacKeigan, David McKenzie, Victoria Burnham and Leslie MacGregor, Water/Sewer Commissioner John Spanos, Capital Reserve Funding Committee Joseph MacGregor (also Conservation Commission), Town Clerk Debra Belcher, Police Chief Steve Campbell (also Emergency Management Director), Zoning Board Peter Martel and Trustee of the Trust Funds Valerie Germain. The following changes were made to the draft budget:

- Added \$459 to Police Dispatch (01-4210-1-391) to reflect the true cost for 2013
- Reduced \$5,000 from SWD Hauling & Disposal (01-4324-1-393) to reflect new contracted price
- Added \$5,000 to WTR line Repair/Maintenance (01-4332-3-430) to provide funding for proactive maintenance, i.e. repair of leaking valves, etc.
- The Town Clerk recommended a \$3,000 warrant article for the replacement of two aged computers; so agreed.
- The Fire Chief recommended a \$5,000 warrant article to establish a Fire Department Protective Gear Capital Reserve Fund; so agreed.
- The following annual funding requests will be included in the 2013 Town Warrant:
  - Contoocook Housing Trust \$ 300
  - Contoocook Valley Transportation \$ 500
  - Grapevine Family Center \$5,000
  - American Red Cross \$ 500
  - Court Appointed Special Advocates \$ 500

Library Trustee Chair Victoria Burnham noted the likely-hood that Library hours will increase by five hours each week with the addition of opening Tuesday morning. She also stated that the Librarian’s job is now classified at forty hours weekly; previously the Trustees classified Library personnel at full time if they worked 32 hours.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator