

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the February 20, 2013 Meeting

Selectmen Steven Osienski, James Cleary and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Peter Martel. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Road Agent Gary Russell and Fire Chief Michael Roina met with the Selectmen to discuss operating procedures when the Highway Department employee/Fire Chief is called upon to serve in both capacities at the same time. It was agreed that during a significant storm event the Fire Chief would arrange to staff the Station with a few employees; likewise the Road Agent will arrange for a backup employee in the event the Fire Chief is called away from his road maintenance duties.

In other matters the Road Agent discussed the following:

- A private plow operator has been keeping Whittemore Lake Road open. It was agreed that signage would be posted by the Town stating that the road is not town maintained.
- In response to a request for assistance from a stranded motorist on the Class VI portion of Onset Road the Selectmen confirmed the Town's position that statutorily it cannot maintain Class VI roads.
- The Bureau of Trails has granted the Town temporary permission during the bridge replacement project that allows police, rescue and ambulance vehicles to use the trestle to access North Bennington during a high water event. The Town is responsible for adding bridge plates and a gate at each end of the trestle.

Fire Chief Michael Roina and the Selectmen discussed the following:

- The need to post the Gillis Hill cistern as being property owned by the Town and not for public use.
- Heard the Chief's report that the cistern has a leak which causes the Fire Department to fill it every other week. The tank will be evaluated during warmer weather.
- Repairs to the Rescue vehicle's roll-up door will cost approximately \$500.
- Briefly discussed the Selectmen's intent to explore opportunities for saving tax dollars through communications with area fire and police departments.

Library Trustees Victoria Burnham, Laurie MacKeigan, Molly Eppig, David McKenzie and Librarian Leslie MacGregor met with the Selectmen and Trustees of Trust Funds Valerie Germain, Rich Page and David Parker to discuss the need for a special audit of library trust funds. This action was perpetrated by decisions made by former Trustees of the Trust Funds who co-mingled library trust funds many years ago. The Selectmen voted to pay the associated \$945 invoice from the Contingency line-item.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's February 13, 2013 Minutes.
- Reviewed Minutes of the Energy Committee's February 13, 2013 meeting as well as Minutes of the Regional Selectmen's February 12, 2013 meeting as prepared by the Greenfield Administrator.

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- Discussed a plan of action to enhance the Town's website.
- Agreed to a 2012 Town Report cover that highlights various departments who serve and protect their town/country.
- Agreed to support NHDOT's implementation of the National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training program designed for police, fire, emergency medical services and highway employees.
- Heard a report from Selectman Cleary that a group of volunteers assisted the VFW membership with cleaning and organizing contents of the VFW building.
- Agreed to the VFW's request to install a spot light on the American flag so long as its beam does not intrude on neighboring property or roadway traffic.
- Accepted and signed the 2012 Financial Report (MS-5).
- Accepted and signed a Tax Deferral Application for M21/L13-1.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator