

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – March 13, 2013

Selectmen Steven Osienski, James Cleary and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Police Chief Steve Campbell met with the Selectmen to discuss the effect of voters failing to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund:

- The Expedition has 125,000 miles on its odometer
- He presented a list of vehicle deficiencies that total \$7,585
- Although \$2,500 has been appropriated for 2013 vehicle expenses, \$932 has already been spent (almost \$700 specific to the Expedition)
- Available funds in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund is \$25,890
- Since the Expedition has been used mostly as a back-up vehicle, the Crown Vic has accumulated 42,000 miles since November 2011
- Chief Campbell announced that an \$8,000 cruiser equipment package has been offered as a gift to the Town. By removing the intent to replace the camera and taking into account the gifted equipment it is conceivable that a replacement vehicle could be purchased for approximately \$26,000 – the amount of available funds in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund
- The Selectmen requested the Chief return to the next Selectmen's meeting with various quotes for consideration
- The Administrator will check with legal counsel to be sure the Selectmen are within their authority if they choose to move forward with replacing the cruiser with available funds

Building Committee and Energy Committee representative Peter Martel met with the Selectmen to discuss the role of each Committee and the Selectmen's vision to refurbish the VFW into a community building which would address, among other things, a permanent location for election activities. In response to the Building Committee's interest in restoring the former railroad station the Selectmen asked Mr. Martel, and he agreed, to provide a Plan of Action from both the Building Committee and Energy Committee.

Town Clerk Debra Belcher met with the Selectmen and inquired if it would be possible for the Town Clerk's Office to voluntarily fundraise \$2,000 to replace the dilapidated voting booths. The Administrator will check the legality of the action. The Town Clerk also discussed the previous night's ballot counting and inefficiencies observed.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's March 6, 2013 Minutes.
- Reviewed the February 20, 2013 Minutes from a joint Energy and Building Committee meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the March 7th Accounts Payable Register as well as the March 13, 2013 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers.

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- At Peter Martel's directive, the Selectmen tabled discussion of gymnasium storage until the Board's next meeting due to his lack of time.
- Discussed the Board's pending meeting with the Water Commissioners and their collective reasoning that the process of shutting off water for nonpayment of bills should be eliminated. The Administrator will seek counsel from LGC's legal staff as to the Selectmen's and Commissioners' authority since both entities, under the By-laws of the Bennington Water and Sewer Department, may propose rate adjustments and amendments to the regulations.
- Received the Administrator's report regarding the late delivery of the 2012 Town Reports. The overview documented the lateness to be a one-time occurrence.
- In response to an inquiry from Code Officer Dario Carrara, on behalf of the owner of M20/L2, the Selectmen determined the request to be a civil matter.
- The Selectmen request that Mr. Carrara review activities occurring at M16/L9 as they relate to recent land use decisions.
- Heard a report that the bridge construction contractor sought approval from NHDOT to use police officers for traffic control rather than flaggers; NHDOT will not pay the cost of police officers for the type/location of the project at hand.
- Reviewed the 2013 Election Results, Town Meeting Results and School District Meeting Results.
- The Board voted the following 2013 appointments:
 - Board of Selectmen Chair – James Cleary
 - Planning Board Ex-officio – Jeffrey Rose
 - Fire Chief – tabled until March 20th
 - Capital Reserve Funding Committee – one year each: Steven Osienski, James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose, Joseph MacGregor, Robyn Manley, with one vacant position remaining to be filled.
 - Conservation Commission – three year term tabled
 - Highway Safety Committee – Steve Campbell, James Cleary and Gary Russell.
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee – one year each: Steve Campbell, Kristie LaPlante, Joseph MacGregor, Richard Reed, Michael Roina and Gary Russell.
 - Newhall Park Board – with recommendations from Trustee Scott Liljeberg: Gretchen Hutton – three year term; Brian Whittemore – an Alternate for one year.
 - Solid Waste Committee – one year each: David Parker, Benjamin Billings and Gary Russell.
 - Zoning Board of Adjustment – two, three year terms tabled as well as an Alternate
 - Building Committee Ex-officio – James Cleary

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator