

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – May 8, 2013

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

As Administrators of the Antrim/Bennington bridge replacement project, the Board of Selectmen confirmed their intent to borrow \$800,000 for a Revenue Anticipation Note. This Line of Credit is at an interest rate of 2.04% and matures December 31, 2014. Treasurer Melissa Clark met with the Board and together they executed the financial documents received from Town Counsel Barton Mayer and Beth Bartlett, Vice President and Manager of the Government Banking division of People's United Bank. Separately, the Treasurer and Board of Selectmen executed a \$570,000 Tax Anticipation Note with People's United Bank. This Line of Credit is at an interest rate of 1.85% and matures December 31, 2013.

Heather Vanderpool and the Selectmen discussed the following Whittemore Lake notables:

- Heather developed and delivered drafts of Beach Policies and Procedures, Emergency Action Plan, Minor Incident Log, Lifeguard Expectations and Swim Lessons criteria.
- The Selectmen agreed to staff Whittemore Lake Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from June 17th to Labor Day; circumstances permitting. Costs for six swim lessons are as follows: Resident student \$20 per child plus \$10 for each additional sibling; Nonresident student (space permitting) \$35 per child plus \$15 for each additional sibling.
- Selectmen Cleary and Rose voted to hire and appoint Heather Vanderpool as Beach Manager and Water Safety Instructor at a seasonal stipend of \$1,500 (based on 80 hours). Should the commitment exceed 80 hours the Board agreed to revisit the hours worked to consider possible additional compensation.
- The Administrator reported that NH Fish and Game will not be providing two portable toilets at Whittemore Lake for the fishermen/bathers. Since this information was not received in advance, the money for portable toilet rental has not been budgeted. The Selectmen voted to rent just one toilet at an estimated cost of \$98 per month.

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

- From 8:00 p.m. until 8:10 p.m. the Selectmen, Administrator and Fire Chief met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a) to discuss an applicant interested in returning to the fire service. No decisions were made; the Chief will conduct a background check and interview of the applicant as is standard procedure.
- Recently met with Greenfield Fire Chief Loren White and Frankestown Fire Chief Larry Kullgren to discuss the logistics if the three Fire Departments combined forces and regionalized their services.
- A controlled burn of vacant property is scheduled for May 19th.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's April 24, 2013 Minutes.
- Reviewed Minutes of the Building Committee's April 23 and 30, 2013 meetings, the Planning Board's April 22, 2013 meeting and the Zoning Board of Adjustment's April 22, 2013 meeting.

- Reviewed and approved the May 1 and 8, 2013 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.

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- Heard a report, through Appraiser George Sansoucy, that the Frankestown Selectmen have an interest in assessing Crotched Mountain Ski and Ride Area which is jointly situated in the Towns of Bennington and Frankestown. The Administrator has requested a Bennington proposal from Sansoucy that would include 2014 assessing of Monadnock Paper Mills, Public Service of NH, TDS Telecom, Comcast, as well as an estimate of Bennington's portion of Crotched Mountain Ski Area. The Administrator will also be seeking proposals for the mandated 2014 town-wide revaluation of real estate.
- Heard a report that the Bible Hill Road culvert replacement project will not occur this fall but rather late spring/early summer next year.
- Heard a report that John Redman has filed a federal lawsuit against Bennington Police Officers Campbell and Giffin as a result of citing the Petitioner for driving without a license. Redman has also initiated a federal lawsuit against Antrim Police Officers. Both Towns are being represented by LGC.
- Request for Qualifications for the design and construction oversight of Phase II of the Transportation Enhancement Program will be advertised May 12th with a submission deadline of May 29, 2013.
- Agreed that the dead tree at Monument Square near the fire hydrant should be removed and grassy area restored.
- Agreed to have the Code Officer follow-up on the requirement that a temporary structure be removed at M2/L3-10.
- Heard Selectman Osienski's report of his recent attendance at a Conval Selectmen Advisory Committee meeting. Notables mentioned were the \$33,000 increase in Superintendent salary and the School Board's desire that the Conval Selectmen form a study committee to determine which schools should be closed. The School Board's rationale for this request is that the Selectmen can gain their community's voter support where the School Board was unsuccessful in their school closure attempts earlier this year.
- Reviewed April Police Statistics.
- Read an email from Building Committee member Peter Martel in which he includes images of a refurbished VFW building as well as stating his suspicion that asbestos and lead paint issues will need to be addressed. Mr. Martel has agreed to pursue testing and subsequent estimates for any associated work and disposal.
- Agreed to cancel the Board's May 15th meeting.

From 8:31 p.m. until 8:44 p.m. the Selectmen and Administrator met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:311(d) to discuss an offer made for the purchase of M7/L40 where the Town holds multiple priority liens. The Selectmen unanimously voted to accept net cash proceeds, after payment of expenses for the sale of real estate and administrative costs, in an amount greater than \$32,773.94. This proposed settlement addresses unpaid taxes from 1997 through the first issue tax bill of 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator

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