

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 21, 2013

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

- Authorized the private use of the “Rockwell” lot for temporary parking during a celebration event.
- Heard a report that a pug mill mixing error by Allstate Paving resulted in the Highway Department receiving extra cold patch at no additional cost.
- Paving of Pierce Hill Road from the Verney Farm down to Route 202 will be underway shortly.
- Sullivan Brothers Paving will be striping roadway lines in the downtown area.
- In keeping with the Department of Environmental Services’ recommendation, the Highway will be working with the Water Department to improve the Town’s right-of-way access to the water tank.
- The Cat backhoe will be undergoing warranty repairs related to the loader arms.
- Authority was granted to purchase four tires for the John Deere loader at an approximate installation cost of \$3,300.
- Conceptual conversation about the need for replacement of the International dump body at an estimated cost of \$28,000. No decision was made.
- Asked that the Administrator provide a copy of an Agreement executed when the Town, with approval from an abutter, planted trees in the vicinity of a utility line. The abutter is now interested in removing the trees and replacing the barrier with a fence.
- Asked that the Administrator provide the Oil Grant deadline to determine if time remains to carry out the unfinished acquisition of materials.

From 6:35 p.m. until 6:58 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski, Administrator French and Welfare Director Debra Davidson. No decisions were made.

North Bennington residents Susan and Michael Smith and Rachel and Dennis Pouliot met with the Selectmen to discuss obtrusive late night/early morning fireworks that frequently occur during weekends from Spring into Fall. Also attending this portion of the meeting was Police Chief Steve Campbell who volunteered to speak with the offending property owners’ point of contact. Chief Campbell also reminded the residents to call Police Dispatch when neighboring activities are offensive. The Selectmen thanked the residents for bringing the matter to their attention and encouraged them to keep the Board informed.

From 7:43 p.m. until 7:58 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski, Administrator French and Fire Chief Michael Roina. The Selectmen authorized the hiring of Donald Warner and Robert Boisvert who will both meet with the Selectmen at their August 28th meeting.

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In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's July 24, 2013 Minutes.
- Reviewed June 20 and July 18, 2013 Conservation Commission Minutes, August 10, 2013 Water/Sewer Commissioners Minutes and August 20, 2013 Building Committee Minutes.
- Regrettably received the resignation of Bruce Nixon from the Building Committee.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for July 31, August 7, August 14 and August 21, 2013 as well as Accounts Payable Registers for August 7 and August 20, 2013.
- Heard a report that Harold Steward has executed a Settlement Agreement and Release of All Claims related to a September 19, 2011 motor vehicle accident he was involved in when his vehicle and a Town vehicle collided. The Release will be kept on file in the Town Clerk's Office.
- Heard a report from Police Chief Steve Campbell that a part-time officer plans to take a personal leave of absence until January due to social security taxation.
- In response to an inquiry, heard a report from Fire Chief Michael Roina that he strategically makes decisions prior to Fire Department vehicles being taken out of Town for non-emergency functions, i.e. parades, etc. His decisions are highly influenced by firefighter participation in the specific out-of-town event balanced with the need for emergency response and proximity of associated personnel.
- The Selectmen agreed to include a 2014 Warrant Article seeking voter approval to purchase firefighter dress uniforms.
- Confirmed that the appointment of Anthony Parisi as a ZBA Alternate is for a three-year term.
- Heard a report that due to State budget cuts and existing policy that the State checks the lakes every twenty years for plants and weeds, the last inspection of Whittemore Lake was in 1992. Selectmen Cleary and Osienski reported that based upon their personal observations gleaned from fishing and kayaking neither individual has observed anything detrimental to the health of this body of water.
- Received a Notice from the Frankestown Zoning Board of Adjustment of their August 8, 2013 finding that the variance application of SNH Development, Inc. has regional impact. The next Hearing on the Frankestown matter will be September 12, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
- Reviewed July Police Statistics.
- Discussed a complaint of over-charging a resident for water usage based on an inflated estimate compared to what the actual usage has been determined by the recent installation of a water meter. The Administrator was asked to follow-up with the Tax Collector to be sure a credit will be applied to the individual's account as stated to the owner by the Water Commissioners.
- Voted to cancel the Board's September 4, 2013 meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the following documents:
 - Tax Map Data Release Authorization
 - Abatement – M21/L13-1
 - Yield Tax Levy – M7/L49
 - RAN Request for Advancement – Selectman Cleary only
 - Building Permits: M6/L7A, M9/L21, M17/L17, M19/L21 (2) and M22/L10-4

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator