

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 25, 2013

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

From 6:51 p.m. until 7:26 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:311(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski, Administrator French and Police Chief Steve Campbell. The Selectmen authorized the Chief to make a conditional employment offer to a particular individual who is a full-time certified Police Officer within the Monadnock area.

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

- Proceeds from the October Spaghetti Dinner/Open House will be earmarked for the eventual purchase of a thermal-imaging camera.
- Rehabilitation of the Fire Department trailer is underway to provide mounting of the cascade bottles and the hazmat equipment.
- The Board signed a Forestry Bill for the reimbursement of labor and equipment related to a recent lightning strike off Route 31.
- Alteration of an upstairs Fire Department bathroom for the installation of a shower will be done in-house to save on associated costs.
- Floor treatment options for the bays.
- Stability of the Fire Station roof; the Chief will access the attic area for more information.
- Fire Chiefs will conduct Performance Reviews for Fire Department employees.
- Conceptual use of town-owned acreage between the two Old Stagecoach Road cemeteries for forestry training. Chief Roina was referred to the Conservation Commission.
- Conceptual creation of a new Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund for the installation of dry hydrants and/or water supply ponds which would enhance the insurance ratings for property owners.
- Warranty work has been completed on the Rescue vehicle but stress cracks between the body and cab still remain. Chief Roina was instructed to have these cracks repaired now before the problem intensifies.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's September 11, 2013 Minutes. Also reviewed were the Planning Board's September 9th Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the September 18 and 25, 2013 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Heard a report that Conval Superintendent Brendan Minnihan has approved the Town's use of Pierce School for 2014 election activities; students will not be dismissed early.
- The Town of Bennington will be included in the remaining Summer/Fall 2013 Keene Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule. The reported omission from the Schedule was relative to a missing Commitment Letter between Bennington and Keene.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – September 25, 2013

- Received with regret the report of Army Staff Sgt. Liam Nevins' recent death in Afghanistan. Liam was a former student of Pierce Elementary and Great Brook Schools when the family resided in Town from 1985-1994.
- Instructed the Administrator to speak with Town Counsel about the presence of conflicting Town Ordinances relative to the housing of poultry and livestock.
- Agreed to support a Forbearance Agreement for M13/L13-2 and 13-3 based upon the owner's proposed plan of action for payment.
- Agreed to designate one evening to Employee Performance Reviews for five key Town Officials.
- Voted not to change employee benefits in the upcoming year; Department/Committee Heads will be asked to vigilantly create their 2014 proposed Budget with a 0% increase.
- Established Trick or Treat hours to be 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on October 31st.
- Received a \$10,796.28 FEMA payment for 2012 Snow Storm "Nemo". A Public Hearing will be scheduled to receive public input prior to accepting the funds.
- Nominated (and signed the associated Form) Jon Manley for reappointment to the Local River Management Advisory Committee.
- Reviewed and approved eighteen Building Permits for Joshi Hospitality Group, LLC at M13/L14 as well as a Building Permit for M7/L1.
- Voted to immediately move forward with an assessment review of M9/L21 since the owner filed a 2012 Abatement Appeal with the Board of Tax & Land Appeals.
- Voted to meet with the Antrim Selectmen to explore their interest in combining Police forces.
- Voted to cancel the Board's October 2nd meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator