

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 9, 2013

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

- Warranty responsibility for repairing the Rescue vehicle's stress cracks between the body and cab is still being evaluated.
- State Officials are working with the Chief and Rymes Heating Oils, Inc. management to achieve compliance for the propane recycling/salvage operations.
- Fire Prevention Open House and Spaghetti Dinner October 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds recognized will be earmarked towards the eventual purchase of a thermal-imaging camera.
- Proposed AFLAC accident insurance for all Call Firefighters; the Selectmen nixed the idea since the added annual cost for this one Department would be approximately \$4,400. Chief Roina was asked to provide wage data from area Fire Departments for consideration of the 2014 Fire Department wage line-item. Fire Department personnel currently are paid \$8.42 an hour.

From 7:40 p.m. until 7:44 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski, Administrator French and Fire Chief Roina. No decisions were made.

From 7:45 p.m. until 7:50 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French to discuss the Welfare Director's position. The Selectmen voted an immediate wage increase to \$23 an hour.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's September 25, 2013 Minutes. Also reviewed were the September 12<sup>th</sup> Building Committee Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers as well as Expenditures for the first three-quarters of 2013.
- In response to a noted conflict between the Farm Animal Ordinance and the Zoning Ordinance, Ex-officio Jeff Rose will bring the matter before the Planning Board for consideration of an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance relative to the keeping of poultry and livestock in Zoning Districts other than Rural/Agricultural.
- Tabled opening of Town Hall paint bids.
- Reviewed Police Statistics for September and the Third Quarter 2013.
- In response to a request for a poll from the Selectmen's Advisory Committee, the Selectmen indicated their choice that the anticipated LGC insurance refund due to the Conval School District be divided equally over a three-year tax period to avoid the tax rate being drastically impacted.

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- Received Quantum Construction Consultants' alert that the Antrim/Bennington Bridge estimated construction contract price of \$859,241.50 could be exceeded in the amount of \$22,205.10. This would represent a Bennington increase of \$2,220.51. The additional costs were incurred primarily with the construction of the abutments and the concrete deck.
- On behalf of the Selectmen, Chairman Cleary executed an Agreement for Consultant Services between the Town of Bennington and Fay, Spofford & Thorndike (FST) for TE Phase II Project Engineering Services in the amount of \$79,968.27.
- Agreed to the following schedule of meeting dates with FST:
  - October 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at the VFW to go over the project and plan the local concerns meeting
  - November 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Pierce Elementary School – First Public Meeting to discuss local concerns
  - December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Pierce Elementary School – Second/Final Public Meeting
- Declined approval of an unpaid Employee Time-off Request since the time off is relative to the annual Fire Prevention educational program. The employee will receive their regular hourly rate of pay for the day.
- Signed a Highway Safety Project Application as submitted by Police Chief Campbell.
- Reviewed and approved a Building Permit for M23/L1-4.
- Designated the entire October 30<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting for annual Employee Performance Reviews.
- Instructed the Administrator to follow-up on the Selectmen's request for a revised 2013 assessment value of M9/L21.
- Met briefly with Peter Martel who committed to final clean-up of supplies and equipment from the Town Hall gym and surrounding areas no later than the evening of October 13<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator