

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – December 4, 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 6:01 p.m. until 6:08 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski. No decisions were made.

Conservation Commission representative Joe MacGregor discussed with the Board the need to establish funding for eventual acquisition of real estate when opportunity presents itself. Currently, outside of the Operating Budget, the only Conservation Commission funding is derived from 50% of a land use change tax. This sporadic influx of money is minimal and doesn't occur on a consistent time schedule. The Conservation Commission would like to receive revenues from timber tax and excavation tax. Unlike the land use change tax, State laws do not provide these opportunities for funding the Conservation Commission account. The Selectmen will discuss with the Budget Committee a plan to add a 2014 new line-item for future real estate acquisition with a proposed \$2,000 appropriation. The Administrator will seek clarification on transferring unspent annual appropriations to the Conservation Commission fund.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Selectmen Rose and Osienski reviewed and approved the Selectmen's November 20th Minutes.
- The Board reviewed Trustee of the Trust Funds' November 20th Minutes as well as Budget Committee Minutes for November 6 and 20th as well as December 2, 2013.
- Reviewed and approved the November 25, 2013 Payroll Register as well as the December 3, 2013 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Heard a report that Pine View Excavation & Land Clearing will retain their 2012-2013 prices for the 2013-2014 Snow Removal Contract.
- Confirmed appointment of Selectmen Osienski and Rose to the Building Committee.
- In response to a M13/L14 abutter complaint, determined that repairs to a retaining wall were occurring on private property for which the Town has no jurisdiction.
- Agreed to provide sidewalk snow removal at the Congregational Church at the Town's convenience. This action mirrors a decision made a few years ago with regard to the Historical Society.
- Received the Planning Board's December 3rd Notice of Decision to approve the application of Francetown Sand and Gravel for a short-term renewal of an existing Excavation Permit.
- Confirmed the Selectmen's prior decision that the Conservation Commission be the Board's representation for the upcoming Greenfield town-line perambulation.
- Reviewed November Police Statistics.
- Scheduled December 18th as the date to hold a Public Hearing to Accept Unanticipated Revenues.
- On behalf of the Board, Selectman Osienski signed the Bridge Certificate of Substantial Completion.
- Agreed to an alcohol waiver for the Fire Department's Christmas Party.
- Signed Building Permits for M10/L42A and M7/L111.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to 2014 funding of the Capital Reserve Funds.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator