

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – March 19, 2014

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 7:40 p.m. until 8:09 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. No decisions were made.

The Fire Chief discussed the following matters with the Selectmen:

- The need to invite the Code Officer and Fire Marshal representative to a joint meeting to discuss M13/L14.
- The need to invite Crotched Mountain Ski & Ride officials to a joint meeting prior to the end of the 2013/14 ski season to discuss the Planning Board's Notice of Decision, Life Safety concerns, ambulance call volume and available community services.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's February 26, 2014 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for March 5, 12 and 19, 2014.
- Reviewed March 11, 2014 voting results for the Town and School District.
- Reviewed communications to and from the Water Commissioners.
- Reviewed a March 5<sup>th</sup> communication from Joshi Hospitality Group, LLC. Manager Bhagirath Joshi continues to assert that the Town has erred in their 2011, 2012 and 2013 assessments and again requests correction of their perceived property assessment errors; he also states the property should be taxed as "unused under construction hotel" retroactively from 2002. Town Counsel has confirmed that the Town is/has been properly assessing the Highland Inn as 32 individual condominium units at a discounted value until each unit is fully refurbished and all conditions have been satisfied. 2013 assessments varied between \$21,100 and \$21,500.
- Received Melissa Clark's resignation as Treasurer as a result of the March 11<sup>th</sup> election.
- Joyce Miner was unanimously appointed Treasurer until the March 2015 Town Meeting.
- 2014 appointment of Town Officials:
  - Planning Board Ex-officio – Jeffrey Rose (one year)
  - Fire Chief – Michael Roina (one year)
  - Deputy Treasurer – tabled
  - Capital Reserve Funding Committee (one year)
    - James Cleary
    - Joseph MacGregor
    - David McKenzie
    - Steven Osienski
    - Jeffrey Rose
    - Tabled one position
  - Conservation Commission (three years)
    - Joseph MacGregor
    - Jon Manley

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- Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (one year)
  - C. Stephen Campbell
  - Kristie LaPlante
  - Joseph MacGregor
  - Richard Reed
  - Michael Roina
  - Gary Russell
- Highway Safety Committee (one year)
  - C. Stephen Campbell
  - Gary Russell
  - James Cleary
- Solid Waste Committee (one year)
  - Benjamin Billings
  - David Parker
  - Gary Russell
- Voted to enroll in the Emergency Notification System program which can be used for emergencies that affect a region of Town and also for Amber Alerts. Appointed Designated Authorized Officials were Police Chief/Emergency Management Director Steve Campbell and Deputy Emergency Management Director/Deputy Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante.
- Voted to request a hardship abatement on behalf of a Bennington resident for Antrim Ambulance Run Number 166584.
- Upon receiving information from the Treasurer and Administrative staff, the Board voted not to request a financial audit for January and February.
- Tabled discussion of use, sale and possession of permissible fireworks until the Fire Chief is present.
- Reviewed February Police Statistics.
- Declined issuance of an Elderly Exemption for prior years' eligibility (M24/L15-1) due to the property owner's failure to file the associated Application. Contrary to the property owner's belief, there is no property tax abatement based on age.
- Reviewed, approved and signed the following documents:
  - Timber Sale Agreement – M7/L37-1
  - Intent to Cut Wood – M7/L37-1
  - Report of Appropriations Actually Voted (2)
  - Gravel Tax Levy – M3/L1
  - Forbearance Agreement – M21/L13-1
  - Disabled Tax Deferral Application – M10/L61
  - 2014 Elderly Exemption – M24/L15-1
  - Veterans' Tax Credit – M22/L10-4

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator