

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – April 16, 2014

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

The Selectmen met with Ted Veale, Jr. to discuss an impending Intent to Cut and associated plan of action to pay tax lien arrearages with the proceeds. The Board granted a deadline of October 1st to receive full payment of 2010 and 2011 tax liens. During the interim period Mr. Veale agreed to pay \$200 per month towards payment of the overdue tax liens.

From 6:25 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski, Administrator French and Police Chief Steve Campbell. The Selectmen authorized the Chief to pursue employment of a full-time Officer to fill the vacant part-time Officer position.

Elaine Flanagan met with the Selectmen to report her displeasure of being over assessed/over taxed prior to 2007 due to an error in stated acreage for M10/L52. Ms. Flanagan also complained that a lien has been recorded by the Town for prior assistance rendered to her. The Selectmen provided copy of RSA 76:16 which states that any person aggrieved by the assessment of a tax may, by March 1, following the date of notice of tax under RSA 76:1-a, and not afterwards, apply in writing to the Selectmen for an abatement of tax. Also provided was a copy of RSA 165:28 which states that the amount of money spent by a town to support an assisted person shall be made a lien on any real estate owned by the assisted person. Ms. Flanagan demanded that the Selectmen remove the lien in lieu of compensation for her overpayment of real estate taxes prior to 2007. The Board made no decision but agreed to research the value of the lien.

The Board took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's April 9, 2014 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the April 16, 2014 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Agreed to expand the Background Check Policy to include certain volunteers (interacting with children) and future employees to include fingerprints which will open the information door beyond the State of New Hampshire.
- Voted to seek the least expensive cost alternative for lighting the planned raised sidewalk near the Historical Society building as part of the TEP2 construction project.
- Heard a report that the pump on the Brush Truck needs replacement. The Fire Chief has identified two potential sources from which the Town could borrow the equipment until funding might become available at the 2015 Town Meeting.
- Agreed that an article will be included in the Spring Newsletter for the solicitation of members for a planned Police Chief Study Committee. The task at hand will be to determine what the community's vision is for future police staffing.

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- Heard a report that officials from the Department of Revenue Administration and Cross Country Appraisal will meet with Administrative staff members Monday, April 21st at 9:30 a.m. This meeting is a mandate relative to the town-wide Revaluation process. The Selectmen plan to attend if their personal schedules permit.

The remainder of the meeting was spent in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). No decisions were made.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator