

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – April 30, 2014

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

- ISO rating. Difficult to project what/if property insurance rates would change much from the creation of new water sources since the Fire Department is a part-time agency with limited resources. The Selectmen indicated their support for the installation of dry hydrants in an effort to improve firefighter safety.
- Thermal Imaging Camera has been delivered at a cost of \$11,000; payment will be comprised of \$9,000 Town Meeting appropriation, \$1,500 donations raised by the Fire Department Association and \$500 from the Fire Department's operating budget.
- As requested by the Board, the Chief provided the following information for out-of-pocket expenses incurred on a monthly basis: \$70 two cell phones – one personal use (Department Heads receive \$15 monthly stipend), the second phone is housed within the Rescue Vehicle and is exclusive to Fire Department use; \$25 for "hot spot" access which is directly associated with the portable Fire Department laptop computer which travels with the Chief to all calls for service. The Selectmen approved a monthly reimbursement to Michael Roina in the amount of \$40 which represents the Department Head cell phone stipend and the \$25 cost for the "hot spot". The Chief will research acquisition of a trac phone at the Town's expense rather than paying \$420 a year for the Rescue Vehicle's present cellular communication device.
- Chief Roina agreed to gather call volume information for the Selectmen to consider prior to the planned purchase of a new water tank/pump for the Brush Truck.
- Wages:
 - ✓ Heard a report from the Administrator that the Chiefs (annual) \$3,000 Stipend cannot continue since the Chiefs are hourly employees of the Town.
 - ✓ With support from the Selectmen, the Chief will propose an incremental hourly wage scale that reflects additional responsibilities of the employees.
 - ✓ Non-paid situations will be indentified, i.e. elective training.
 - ✓ Consideration of imposing a weekly allotment of work hours for administrative tasks based on routine business – exclusive of time sensitive obligations and emergency situations that require immediate administrative oversight.

From 6:38 p.m. until 6:45 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. Chief Roina will follow-up with the Rescue Captain to be sure an administrative matter has been adequately addressed with an employee.

From 6:51 p.m. until 7:42 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski and Michael Roina. No decisions were made.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's April 23, 2014 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the April 30, 2014 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Heard a report that the Bible Hill Road culvert project will be advertised for bid May 4th with the bid opening scheduled for May 27th. The Town plans to start construction at the beginning of July after the nearby Antrim/Bennington bridge contract expires on June 30th.
- Received the Planning Board's Notice of Decision that subdivision of M15/L6 has been approved subject to conditions.
- Sawyer Park:
 - ✓ Accepted Scott Liljeberg's offer to assist volunteers in the construction of a wooden swing set
 - ✓ Repair of the teeter-totter is underway by the Highway Department
 - ✓ The Highway Department will be tasked with painting the benches and picnic tables
 - ✓ The Highway Department will be tasked with removal of parking barriers that are in disrepair
 - ✓ Selectman Cleary volunteered to undertake repair of the backstop fence post
- Tabled making a decision regarding confusion of a vacation allotment until the Board meets with the affected employee.
- Heard a report that three abutting properties with frontage on both Route 31 and Route 47 are scheduled for an absolute auction on May 18th at the Concord Courtyard Marriott.
- Received notice of a May 12th Excavation Hearing for Mason & Bertha Harris, M3/L1.
- Received a report that the Building Committee and Energy Committee will be meeting soon to review reports associated with rehabilitating the VFW building from the architect and energy consultant.
- Reviewed and approved Yield Tax Levies for M5/L2 and M6/L6 as well as M11/L16.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator