

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – June 4, 2014

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Police Chief Steve Campbell met with the Board to discuss the ongoing status of the Police Department's outdated website. The Selectmen established July 1st as the goal for the updated website to be online.

Library Trustees Molly Eppig, Jill Wilmoth and David McKenzie met with the Selectmen to continue discussion of the following Library matters of mutual interest:

- The Trustees reported that statistics obtained from the State Library website relative to the number of patrons is skewed due to inconsistent procedures used by each community when counting patrons.
- The Trustees reported that they are no longer pursuing the addition of one hour to the part-time employee's weekly schedule. The Selectmen expressed their appreciation of this decision while noting the associated yearly savings of approximately \$3,500.
- The Trustees reported their decision to modify the Library "open hours" by reducing four hours each week to allow employees an opportunity to finish tasks in an uninterrupted environment. The change in schedule will take effect mid-September.
- In response to the Selectmen's inquiry, the Trustees reported that they had tried in the past to provide Saturday open hours but there wasn't enough patron interest to warrant the expense. They also reported that the 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. block of Sunday business was very popular with the patrons – sometimes surpassing Tuesday patronage.
- The Selectmen inquired if, upon the Library Director's eventual retirement, the successor to the position will be required to have a four-year college degree; RSA 202A:15 doesn't appear to speak to a mandated educational background.
- Upon recommendation of Library staff, the Trustees will not pursue employment of a janitorial contractor. This task will be performed during the employees' regular work schedule.
- All agreed that a plan to make the G.E.P. Dodge ADA compliant needs to be developed as soon as possible. The Trustees will provide estimates of cost to achieve compliance at the fall Capital Reserve Funding Committee meeting.

Road Agent Gary Russell and Landsite Corporation owner Scott Burnside met with the Board to continue discussion regarding the \$64,000 shortfall in available funds which was recognized subsequent to the bid opening for the Bible Hill Road culvert project:

- The Administrator reported that FEMA guidelines do permit the Town to negotiate the existing bid with Landsite Corporation.
- The Highway Department has limited their involvement with the project to the delivery of gravel/town materials and swale material.

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- Landsite Corporation agreed to a negotiated bid of \$179,090, for which the Board of Selectmen commended Scott Burnside for his willingness to work with the community to achieve compliance with the Hazard Mitigation Grant. This revision, coupled with the \$48,000 correction for errors/adjustments by Quantum Construction, provides adequate funding to carry out the project with an approximate \$5,000 reserve for unanticipated expenses.
- The Road Agent reported that his Department will suspend their four day weekly work schedule in favor of five days which will allow better coordination with the contractor for the duration of the culvert construction project.
- The Administrator will notify the Bureau of Trails that a portion of Bible Hill Road in the vicinity of their trail crossing will be impacted by construction, although the trail itself is excluded from direct impact.

By invitation, Char Thomas met with the Selectmen to discuss her level of interest in summer employment as the Whittemore Lake Beach Supervisor. She agreed to create a plan-of-action for discussion at the Board's June 11th meeting.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's May 30, 2014 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the June 4, 2014 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Selectman Cleary volunteered to speak with a resident who had expressed concerns about disposal of tires at the June 7th Free Recycle Day.
- Received a note of appreciation from the Congregational Church for snow removal and for allowing the Church (with permission from the vendor) to include their fuel usage in the Town's contract at a reduced price per gallon.
- Voted Peter Eppig a member of the Capital Reserve Funding Committee.
- Signed a yield tax warrant for M20/L7.
- Voted to meet every other week, unless needed, with June 25th being the first meeting skipped.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator

