

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – June 25, 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.

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- The Town's pit does not have the required 250 yards of additive material to mix with the bank run gravel which is needed to pass inspection for the culvert replacement project. The cost to purchase the specific additive has been quoted as low as \$2,225, delivered. The Road Agent reported that his personal property which is adjacent to the project has an adequate supply of the needed material and has passed inspection. The Selectmen agreed to accept Gary's offer to supply the 250 yards of additive material in a \$0 barter exchange of the Town giving him 250 yards of gravel.
- Selectmen agreed to a \$0 barter exchange of the Town's 11' old plow plus three 6" under-drain-pipes for an 11' road plow that is a foot-and-a-half higher than the plow being bartered.
- Selectmen agreed to purchase a used digging bucket for the loader at a cost of \$1,500.

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

- The Selectmen accepted the revised Fire Department Payroll Policy as presented by the Chief.
- The attached Fire Department Pay Scale was accepted by the Selectmen, effective July 10, 2014 for a five month probationary period which will allow the Board to evaluate the additional costs associated with the new Pay Scale. The Selectmen did not support the concept of an additional \$.10 per hour increase for each year of service.
- It was agreed that the Chief needs to review the roster of active and inactive Fire Department employees to determine if adequate staffing exists before adding additional staff.
- The Selectmen tabled the concept of adding search dogs as an affiliation to the Bennington Fire Department.
- Under normal circumstances the Chief agreed to curtail administrative tasks to a maximum of five weekly hours.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's June 11, 2014 Minutes.
- Reviewed Minutes of the Planning Board's June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the ZBA's June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and the Energy Committee's June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for June 18 and June 25, 2014.
- Due to a state-wide shortage of lifeguards, and the fact that only one qualified applicant was available to staff Whittemore Lake Beach, the Selectmen voted not to provide lifeguard coverage this summer. The Board committed to ensuring a clean environment throughout the summer with weekly trash pickup and raking of the beach sand. Multiple warning signs of "No Lifeguard on Duty – Swim at Your Own Risk" will be prominently displayed at the Beach.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – June 25, 2014

- Voted to contract with Rymes for the purchase of oil and propane for the 2014/2015 heating season; propane is fixed at \$1.839 and oil is fixed at \$3.409 per gallon.
- The Administrator reported her conversation with Water Superintendent Jim Cruthers regarding arsenic inquiries. He reported that the depth of the water well and whether or not the well is artesian, gravel pack or dug, all greatly affect the level of arsenic in the associated water. Even though the Town of Antrim's well is situated in the same proximity as the Town of Bennington's well, the quality of water is vastly different - with Bennington's water being superior to Antrim's. The annual Consumer Confidence Report on the quality of Bennington's water does not mention arsenic since it is not detectable in the Town's water.
- Agreed to let an employee continue to roll-over three unused vacation hours from May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Discussed the continued need for Planning Board and ZBA volunteers.
- Discussed a taxpayers request to abate all of their real estate tax obligations due to declining health. The Selectmen will require further documentation before considering the request.
- Heard a report of the Planning Board's June 10th Notice of Decision for M7/L109A which enables JCL Septic to construct an office building and garage.
- Signed the \$4,398 Amended Construction Change Order No. 01 for the bridge project that is based on the as-built quantities of work completed and the revised work scope.
- Discussed the bridge rail on the Antrim side which has been installed per the construction plan but in reality is not commuter/vehicular friendly. The matter will be reviewed with NHDOT when the final bridge inspection is undertaken.
- Signed the Notice of Award to Landsite Corporation for the pending Bible Hill Road culvert replacement project.
- Agreed to invite the VFW volunteer sexton to meet with the Board.
- Signed three Notice of Intent to Cut applications for M15/L6, M17/L34B and M20/L11-1, as well as a Yield Tax Levy for M14/L1.
- 2013 Abatements for M7/L32 and M24/L15-1 were approved; 32 condominium Abatement applications for M13/L14 were denied. Also approved was a 2014 Abatement for M7/L48 due to its tax exempt status.
- Signed was the annual Unlicensed Dog Warrant as prepared by the Town Clerk, an amended Hawkers and Peddlers Ordinance as presented by the Police Chief, and a Building Permit for M17/L28.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator