

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – July 10, 2014

Selectmen James Cleary and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Jane Handy Dustin met with the Selectmen to deliver an application for Veteran's Tax Credit filed by her husband Larry. The Administrator reported the implications of the Irrevocable Trust for Jane's property, the Town's prior decision to revoke the Veteran's Tax Credit and confirmation from Town Counsel that property ownership of M3/L17 qualifies the application. The Selectmen voted the Veteran's Tax Credit effective as of April 1, 2014.

Quantum Construction Consultants' Senior Project Engineer James Bouchard met with the Selectmen and Scott Burnside, President of Landsite Corporation to execute the Bible Hill Road Replacement Culvert Contract. In addition to the signed Contract, the Selectmen also received the Payment Bond, Performance Bond, Certificate of Liability Insurance and two sets of construction plans. Landsite Corporation will begin the construction project Monday, July 14th.

In other matters the following was also discussed with Jim Bouchard:

- Selectman Rose's report that the guardrail on the Antrim side of the bridge juts out into traffic. Mr. Bouchard agreed to view the concern at the conclusion of this meeting.
- Cold River Bridges has signed the Amended Change Order No. 01 which will trigger final payment to the vendor and permit the Town to seek final reimbursement of costs from NHDOT.

Fire Chief Michael Roina met with the Selectmen to discuss his concerns associated with conflicting road names for the Town Beach. It was agreed that a sign would be ordered that states "Whittemore Lake" as well as "325 Greenfield Road" which is the address on file (rather than the posted "Whittemore Lake Road" sign) at the NH Bureau of Communications. The Town continues to work with NH Fish & Game to determine ownership and responsibilities for the shared road that serves a designated State boat launch and the Town's beach.

Robin Godbout and Town Clerk Debra Belcher met with the Selectmen to discuss Ms. Godbout's failure to register her two dogs with the Town and the associated requirement to pay \$50 in civil forfeiture fees to avoid a Court summons. Ms. Godbout reported that two years ago when she signed a lease with Mountainside Condominiums she was required to pay a significant registration fee for her dogs which led her to believe that her dogs were registered. The Town Clerk reported her Office mailed Dog Registration reminder letters in February (which Ms. Godbout reported not receiving) but did not have a phone number to call prior to the issuance of the Dog Warrant. The Selectmen voted to abate the \$50 civil forfeiture fees.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's July 10, 2014 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for July 2nd and July 10, 2014.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – July 10, 2014

- Heard a report that the Town’s insurance provider will not restrict installation of the floating raft at the unguarded Town Beach. It is their recommendation that the minimum depth of water be at least nine feet. Even though the raft is considered an attractive nuisance and does increase the liability to the Town, the Selectmen voted to install the raft since there is a large populace who miss this summer activity. The Fire Chief agreed to take responsibility for the raft installation as well as securing the rope line that separates the swimming area from the boat launch/fishing area.
- Heard a report that DRA Gravel Tax Appraiser Mary Pinkham-Langer visited a residence where a small scale non-permitted gravel excavation was occurring. (The property is located in the Town’s Water Resource Protection Zone where this activity is prohibited.) Through a series of communications it was determined that the M8/L1-C owner is reportedly removing earth material in advance of a planned construction project. A Building Permit Application was delivered to Town Hall; the contractor was allowed to continue trucking the material off-site.
- Heard a report that a part-time Police Officer sustained a Worker’s Compensation “injury” when they responded to Antrim for mutual aid police assistance and encountered a medical situation with a third party.
- Heard a report from Selectman/Building Committee member Jeff Rose about the importance of the Selectmen and Administrator attending a July 15th Building Committee meeting at the VFW at 6:00 p.m. where energy and architectural preservation information will be dispensed. Selectman Cleary bristled at the suggested concept of the VFW rehabilitation project morphing into a “high end show piece” for energy and preservation practices.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator