

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 17, 2014

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Administrator Kristie LaPlante met with the Selectmen and provided the following information relative to the Bible Hill Road culvert project:

- Three Change Orders need to be requested.
- Early indications are that the project cost will be close to the Grant award.

From 6:38 p.m. until 7:02 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91:3II(e). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski, Administrator French and Brian Fogg (via conference call). The Selectmen and representative of George E. Sansoucy, PE, LLC discussed 2012 and 2013 assessment negotiations for the four Monadnock Paper Mills' Hydro Plants – M1/L17, M7/L87, M9/L21 and M10/L8. Motion was made, seconded and reluctantly voted to issue the following abatements:

- Reduce 2012 assessment to \$2,800,000 via an abatement of \$700,000 in assessed value, and apply the associated tax abatement of \$17,430 as a credit against the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2014 tax bill. The original assessment was \$3,500,000. No interest to be refunded.
- Reduce 2013 assessment to \$2,900,000 via an abatement of \$922,000 in assessed value, and apply the associated tax abatement of \$23,419 as a credit against the 1st half of 2015 tax bill. The original assessment was \$3,822,000. No interest to be refunded.

The following volunteer residents met with the Selectmen and the Police Chief to discuss the organization of the Police Study Committee: Deb Ash, Mike Beausoleil, Jane Butler, Phil Germain, Kristie LaPlante, Nancy O'Brien (withdrew), Mike Roina, Deb Whitney, and Anmarie Wilson. Absent with advance notice were Larry Dustin, Keith Nason and Rick Reed. The Committee established September 29<sup>th</sup> as their next meeting. Earlier in the evening the Selectmen appointed Kristie LaPlante as the Board's representative.

From 7:56 p.m. until 8:05 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski and Administrator French. The Administrator delivered a written Formal Complaint received from an employee who is aggrieved by actions of another employee. The Selectmen determined that, according to the Personnel Policy and the Fire Department SOG's, they had no position in the Formal Complaint and instructed the Administrator to return the document to the author.

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

- The Administrator reminded the Chief that the Town is still waiting for the Fire Department Association's January 10th pledge of \$1,500 towards the purchase of the thermal image camera.
- The Fire Department has incurred unexpected truck expenses.
- A \$10,000 allotment will be included in the 2015 Fire Department Budget for pump overhaul.

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- He has yet to obtain quotes for combining two bathrooms into one which would enable the installation of a shower. Dependent upon the cost will be which year the minor construction project is undertaken.
- The current work schedule of five weekly hours for administrative tasks is not enough. Chief Roina requested Selectmen support of fifteen weekly hours. It was agreed that Chief Roina will provide a draft revision of the Fire Chief Job Description as well as an administrative plan that addresses required tasks and associated time obligations.

From 8:42 p.m. until 8:51 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski, Administrator French and Fire Chief Michael Roina. No decisions were made.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's September 17, 2014 Minutes.
- Reviewed August 13, 2014 Minutes of the Conval District Study Committee.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for September 10 and September 17, 2014.
- In response to the Selectmen's inquiry of the Water Commissioners as to if it would be equitable for Town buildings to be metered and billed for water usage, the following message was received. "After looking into the possible cost to install meters at all locations (including cemeteries), the Commissioners voted to leave in place the exemption of town buildings and properties until such time that the state requires a more accurate report of water usage."
- Reviewed a proposed regional 2015 Warrant Article (sponsored by the Town of Webster) that asks the Governor and State Legislators to reform State funding for education. The Selectmen voted not to adopt the Warrant Article.
- Voted to request the Southwest Region Planning Commission to undertake a Culvert Inventory (at no cost) as outlined in the Commission's August 2014 newsletter.
- Selectman Osienski volunteered to attend the September 25<sup>th</sup> SAC meeting.
- Reviewed, with appreciation, three Thank You cards received by the Police Department for their interactions with the public.
- Approved an employee's time-off request.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator