

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 29, 2014

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m.

Lawrence Davis met with the Selectmen and Road Agent to discuss his concern that a drain, at the South Bennington Road/Old Greenfield Road intersection, is in danger of collapse. The Road Agent was aware of the problem and reported the structure should be fixed within the next two weeks.

Road Agent Gary Russell discussed the following matters with the Selectmen:

- While researching 2015 costs for a replacement Highway Department truck, Gary found a 2015 fully-equipped truck which the Town might be able to purchase now with existing funds in the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund. Gary will check with the dealership to see if purchase of the extended warranty could be postponed until 2015. He will return to next week's Selectmen's meeting with a firm purchase price for consideration by the Board.
- The Selectmen authorized the barter of \$1,800 in crushed stone from the Town's gravel pit in exchange for the use of Kevin Sweeney's excavator during the Bible Hill Road culvert replacement project.
- Informed the Selectmen that the Town is short 1/3 the usual amount of prepared winter sand due to the quality of available pit material. The Administrator will check with Town Counsel to determine if the Town can acquire road maintenance material from a private property owner whose property is located in the Water Resource Protection Zone.
- Agreed that Sandy Eneguess will continue with this year's annual mowing at the former Tri-Town Landfill.
- Agreed that Pine View Excavation will continue with this year's winter snow removal.
- Acknowledged that the proposed excavation phases at the former Tri-Town Landfill still need to be marked ahead of a follow-up meeting with Antrim and Francestown Selectmen.

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

- Agreed to shift five weekly hours (work schedule permitting) from Mike's primary job as Highway Department Laborer to his weekly obligations as Fire Chief. The matter will be discussed with Road Agent Gary Russell at next week's Selectmen's meeting. This five hour transfer between Departments will save the Town approximately \$5,000 in overtime wages. More importantly, the reduction of overtime hours is important for the employee's well-being (Selectmen's opinion).
- Delivered to the Selectmen an estimated summary of time to accomplish his administrative tasks as Fire Chief.
- Agreed to reduce 2015 proposed administrative hours from fifteen to ten hours each week (circumstances permitting).
- The Chief volunteered to seek an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purchase of a replacement fire truck due to the truck's poor quality and costly maintenance.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – October 29, 2014

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's meeting Minutes for October 14, October 15 and October 21, 2014.
- Reviewed the October 7, 2014 Budget Committee Minutes as well as the October 22, 2014 Solid Waste Committee Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for October 21 and October 29, 2014 as well as Accounts Payable Registers for October 17, October 24 and October 29, 2014.
- Reviewed the proposed Tax Rate of \$29.73 and voted to use \$54,000 from Fund Balance as an offset which results in a 2014 Tax Rate of \$29.20. By using a portion of the available Fund Balance, the Net 2014 Appropriation is \$2,992,728 – compared to last year's Net 2013 Appropriation of \$2,994,492; a savings of \$1,764. This will facilitate clearer understanding of the 2014 revised assessments and related tax obligation. (A higher tax bill will be the direct result of an increased property assessment.)
- Received the proposed TDS Cable Television Franchise which will be the subject of an upcoming Public Hearing.
- Reviewed and approved a Yield Tax Levy for M20/L11-1, Landsite Corporation's CO #2 for Balancing Change Order and a Building Permit for M18/L2A.
- The Selectmen voted to meet Tuesday, November 4th in lieu of their Wednesday meeting night. From November to March 2015 when Daylight Savings time begins, the Selectmen will begin their meetings at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator