

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – November 19, 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.

Robert and Linda Wadleigh met with the Selectmen to discuss the 2014 disqualification of their Elderly Exemption. Criteria for granting Elderly Exemption for qualified taxpayers was established by March 2010 Town Meeting vote. The Selectmen explained that all existing Elderly Exemption recipients were mandated to re-qualify their eligibility as part of the 2014 town-wide revaluation of property. Unfortunately, the Wadleighs were among the handful of elderly property owners who have been disqualified. The Selectmen voted to endorse a Tax Deferral for Mr. and Mrs. Wadleigh, if they choose to apply.

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Board to discuss the following:

- The need to replace the propane heater at the Transfer Station. The Selectmen endorsed Rymes to undertake the replacement project since they were the lowest bid received.
- In response to a brief meeting with John Paradise and Sam Cohen, who were inquiring about improving the road surface conditions of South Bennington Road, Gary will follow-up with NHDOT to see where South Bennington Road maintenance fits their schedule since NHDOT is responsible for summer road maintenance.
- Motion made, seconded and voted to order a replacement Highway truck from Freightliner at a net trade-in cost of \$149,260 with funds coming from the existing Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund. The Town anticipates a January 2015 delivery.
- Agreed that the Road Agent should participate in a November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Selectmen and Kevin Gagne, FST, to review the proposed re-design of the Bible Hill Road intersection as it currently is engineered with an eye towards snow plowing and snow storage at the Town's vacant lot at the corner of Eaton Avenue.
- Reviewed the proposed three phase excavation map of the Tri-Town Excavation Pit which will be shared with Antrim and Frankestown Selectmen and discussed at an upcoming meeting.

At 7:00 p.m. the Selectmen opened a Public Hearing for the Cable Television Franchise proposed by Merrimack County Telephone Company (TDS). TDS Manager of State Government Affairs, Scott Brooks, provided information to the residents in attendance and also delivered pricing sheets for "Triple Play" as well as a map of their proposed coverage area. Motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the TDS Cable Television Franchise.

Code Enforcement Officer Dario Carrara, Fire Chief Michael Roina and Fire Inspector Thomas Humphrey from the NH Fire Marshal's Office met with the Selectmen to discuss M13/L14 Life Safety compliance issues. It was agreed that the Fire Marshal's Office will undertake a technical review which in turn will provide advice to the Fire Chief and Code Enforcement Officer. All parties agreed they are anxious to move this lingering construction project forward with the ultimate goal of re-opening the shuttered facility in a timely fashion.

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The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Based upon value, accepted the proposal from Amer Electric for maintenance and annual testing of the Town's fire and security systems. This provider change will enhance daytime availability when emergencies arise.
- Discussed with the Code Officer the need for M2/L3-10 to develop a Plan of Action which addresses an encroachment issue; the need for a Site Plan Review of M1/L2; and follow-up of a Temporary Permit for M1/L16.
- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's November 4, 2014 Minutes.
- Reviewed the Energy Committee's November 12<sup>th</sup> Minutes, Conval Selectmen's Advisory Committee's November 12<sup>th</sup> Minutes and the Police Chief Study Committee's October 20, 2014 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for November 12 and November 19, 2014 as well as Accounts Payable Registers for November 7 and November 12, 2014. Also reviewed were Expenditures for the period January through October.
- Voted to meet Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> with Kevin Gagne, FST, to discuss the TEP2's known impacts on private properties and how the proposed design of the Bible Hill Road intersection might be enhanced.
- Voted to change the December 3<sup>rd</sup> date for the internal Budget Review and Selectmen's meeting to December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectmen Osienski reported his anticipated absence.
- Reviewed October Police Statistics.
- Work schedule permitting, Selectman Osienski volunteered to attend the November 20<sup>th</sup> SAC meeting.
- The Selectmen reviewed and approved the Certificate of Final Completion for the Culvert Project; Certificate of Final Completion for the Antrim/Bennington Bridge Project; and three Property Tax Warrants.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator