

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – December 10, 2014

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

Henry Underwood, Planning Technician with Southwest Region Planning Commission, met with the Selectmen to discuss the Commission's free Culvert Assessment Project. The Scope of Work includes assessing all town-owned and maintained drainage crossings, as well as the creation of a database and summary report of assessments including maps and photographs. The Selectmen agreed that the Town should participate in the Culvert Assessment Project, which is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2015.

Library Officials, David McKenzie (also Capital Reserve Funding Committee); Leslie MacGregor, Jill Wilmoth, Victoria Burnham and Molly Eppig; as well as Capital Reserve Funding Committee member Peter Eppig met with the Selectmen and volunteer estimator/presenter Philip Germain to discuss a proposed 935 square foot addition to the G.E.P. Dodge Library. The ground level addition to the Library would provide much needed handicap access and accessibility, as well as a bathroom. Using the existing 1997 architectural plans as a beginning point, a rough construction estimate of \$528,000 was put forth which includes a \$50,000 contingency fund but does not include revised architectural drawings. While all those in attendance unanimously agree that the Library must be brought up to ADA standards, there was debate as to whether an addition to the existing building was in the Town's best interest when factoring in the existing small footprint and limited parking. There was also consensus that the Town Building Committee should review all existing buildings to determine if the Town's needs are being adequately met or what associated costs would be involved to make the facility whole. Discussion included purchasing vacant building/s in the village area with an eye towards their demolition and future construction of a library with possible expansion of other Town services on the same parcel of land. Phil offered to provide an estimate of cost for the construction of a replacement library structure. No decisions were made. The Library Trustees will discuss the options at their January 6, 2015 meeting.

Fire Chief Michael Roina and Fire Inspector Thomas Humphrey from the NH Fire Marshal's Office met with the Selectmen to discuss results gleaned from the State's technical review of M13/L14, Highland Inn, and applicable Life Safety Codes. The Fire Marshal's Office has determined that a change of use has occurred and since there are no applicable Codes for condominiums the applicable Life Safety Codes are found under the category of Apartments. Inspector Humphrey strongly recommended that the owner be required to deliver a set of building plans to support his intentions. The Town can, as most municipalities do, submit the construction plans to an agent for Third Party Review.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Chief Roina reported that, due to time constraints, the deadline for applying for a Fire Truck Grant has passed.
- Heard a report that the fire alarm system at Town Hall tested appropriately, the alarm system at the Fire Station needs a "dialer" replacement and the alarm system at the water pump house needs replacement of a faulty motion detector. The replacement parts have been ordered.

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- Tabled approval of their December 2nd Minutes until Selectman Cleary is present.
- Reviewed and approved the December 10th Payroll Register and the December 2 and December 10, 2014 Accounts Payable Registers.
- Tabled development of a plan-of-action for acquiring and selling M21/I13-1 via the Tax Deed process until the full Board is present.
- Tabled further review of the Draft Budget until the full Board is present.
- Asked that the Cemetery Trustees be invited to meet with the Selectmen to discuss a return to using the Hillsborough Country Correctional Workers for spring and fall clean-up. From past experience, one week of their services provided enough labor to clean both cemeteries and roadside litter. At the present, spring and fall cemetery clean-up costs \$3,300 compared to \$2,000 for expanded services from Hillsborough County that would include roadside cleanup.
- Tabled a request from the Night Riders Snowmobile Club until the full Board is present.
- Upon receipt of evidence, voted to abate a \$33.00 inventory penalty assessment for M23/L28.
- Tabled establishing 2015 meeting dates for the Budget Hearing and SB2 session until the full Board is present.
- The Board recommended to the Director of Forest and Lands that he reappoint Michael Roina as Forest Fire Warden and reappoint Matthew Hall, Kristie LaPlante, Joseph O'Brien, and Scott Plourde as Deputy Wardens.
- Signed a Building Permit for M7/L93.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise French
Administrator