

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – December 29, 2014

Steven Osienski, James Cleary and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French and Deputy Administrator Kristie LaPlante.

The following Committees/Department Heads met with the Selectmen to continue paring down the proposed 2015 Operating Budget: Road Agent Gary Russell; Police Chief Steve Campbell; Town Clerk Debra Belcher; Cemetery Trustees Karen Bartlett and Joshua Segal; Budget Committee members Debra Whitney, Rick Reed and John Baybutt (also Conservation Commission Chair); Library Director Leslie MacGregor; Library Trustees Jill Wilmoth and David McKenzie (also Planning Board Chair); and Transfer Station Manager Ben Billings. After thoughtful discussions and mostly voluntary reductions, the following changes were made to the draft Operating Budget:

• 4130-1-440	Copier Lease	(\$1,000)
• 4130-2-290	Mileage/Expenses	(\$1,000)
• 4140-1-140	Deputy Town Clerk Salary	(\$ 500)
• 4140-1-150	Assistant Town Clerk Salary	(\$ 500)
• 4140-1-220	Clerk/Deputy FICA & Medicare	(\$ 77)
• 4140-1-290	Mileage/Expenses	(\$ 500)
• 4153-1-320	Legal – General Support	(\$ 500)
• 4153-4-320	Legal – ZBA	(\$ 500)
• 4153-4-321	Legal – Planning Board	(\$ 500)
• 4220-1-390	Dispatch Services	(\$ 1,533)
• 4240-1-130	Building Inspector Salary	(\$ 700)
• 4240-1-670	Books & Education	(\$ 300)
• 4312-2-690	Equipment Rental	(\$ 1,500)
• 4312-5-691	Gravel Preparation	(\$ 2,000)
• 4321-1-121	Transfer Station Labor	(\$ 500)
• 4324-1-393	Hauling & Disposal	(\$ 3,000)
• 4324-1-430	Building Maintenance – rounding factor	\$ 1
• 4324-5-396	Tire Recycling Program	(\$ 825)
• 4324-5-440	Container Lease	(\$ 800)
• 4332-3-435	Water Samples	(\$ 200)
• 4335-1-690	Corrosion Control	(\$ 500)
• 4520-5-120	Lifeguard	(\$ 5,999)
• 4550-1-610	Book Collection – 2015 ONLY	(\$ <u>2,000</u>)
	Expenses Reduced	(\$24,933)

When compared to the \$1,663,018 Default Budget, the revised Operating Budget is still \$10,229 higher. Due to illness, the group was not able to engage the Fire Chief to discuss Fire Department wages and the possibility, if any, of a reduction in this \$35,195 line-item.

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The following Capital Reserve Funds were reduced as indicated herewith:

• 4915-1-972	Fire Truck	(\$20,000)
• 4915-1-976	Road Rehabilitation	(\$10,000)
• 4915-1-980	Highway Truck	(\$ 5,000)
• 4915-1-987	Sidewalk Contract	(\$ <u>5,000</u>)
	Reduction in Capital Reserve Funding	(\$40,000)

After the aforementioned deductions are made, the resulting Capital Reserve Funds requested will be less than each of the previous two years.

In other matters the Selectmen took action as indicated below:

- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for December 23 and December 29, 2014; Accounts Payable Registers for December 23, December 24 and December 29, 2014.
- Heard a report that Antrim/Bennington Bridge reimbursement of costs should be finalized by mid-February.
- Heard a report that Conservation Commission member Valerie Germain will be providing an After School Science Club for 3rd & 4th grade Pierce School students to learn more about the animals that live in the Bennington region. The Club is sponsored by the Bennington Conservation Commission and the Bennington Recreation Committee.
- Voted to move the annual Budget Hearing, usually held in the evening at the VFW, to Saturday January 17th at 9:00 a.m. at Pierce School in hopes of generating more voter turnout. The Deliberative Session of Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at Pierce School.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator