

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – January 7, 2015

Selectmen James Cleary, Steven Osienski and Jeff Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French.

In an effort to retain 2015 funds for employee COLA adjustments, without causing the Operating Budget to exceed the Default Budget, the Selectmen were required to reduce the planned 2.75% wage increase to 2.25%. In order to achieve the amended funding for the reduced COLA the Selectmen voted the following additional reductions in the proposed Operating Budget:

• 4191-1-310	Planning Board Consultants	(\$ 200)
• 4191-3-120	ZBA Recording Secretary	(\$ 250)
• 4191-3-610	ZBA Training	(\$ 100)
• 4195-3-440	Cemetery Tree/Wall Maintenance	(\$ 300)
• 4199-1-812	IT Support	(\$ 500)
• 4210-1-350	Police Medical Services	(\$ 249)
• 4210-1-610	Police Equipment/Training Supplies	(\$ 500)
• 4220-3-695	Forestry	(\$ 500)
• 4220-5-700	Fire Dept. Service Contracts	(\$ 1,500)
• 4411-1-120	Health Officer Salary	(\$ <u>250</u>)
	Reductions to Retain Amended COLA	(\$ 4,349)

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's December 29, 2014 and January 5, 2015 Minutes. The Board reviewed the December 18, 2014 Conservation Commission Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the December 30, 2014 Accounts Payable Register as well as the January 7, 2015 Payroll Register.
- Heard a report that Mike Roina has agreed to reduce his employment with the Highway Department to twenty-four weekly hours in order to provide sixteen weekly hours of administrative, training, inspection, etc. time with the Fire Department. His decision was predicated on the Town's intent to continue providing him retirement benefits.
- Agreed to include the following financial Articles in the 2015 Warrant:

Contoocook Housing Trust	\$ 300
Contoocook Valley Transportation	\$ 500
Grapevine Family Center	\$ 5,000
American Red Cross	\$ 681
Court Appointed Special Advocates	\$ 500
Child Advocacy Center	\$ <u>500</u>
	\$ 7,481
- Agreed to grant permission to the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food Division of Plant Industry to control a small population of Japanese honeysuckle, at no financial cost to the Town, as stated in their January 5, 2015 request.

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- Reviewed Police Statistics for December, Fourth Quarter and 2014 Calendar year.
- Agreed to continue participation in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Project, hosted by the City of Keene, which provides twenty-four dates throughout the year for Bennington citizens to dispose of their hazardous waste at no out-of-pocket expense.
- In keeping with their commitment to the Police Chief Study Committee, the Board voted to advertise the upcoming Police Chief vacancy with the following plan in mind:
 - Salary-exempt position
 - Annual salary estimated at \$65,000
 - Advertise position only in NH through the Union Leader, NHMA and Police Academy
 - Residency within fifteen minute commute of Bennington
 - Application deadline will be February 9th
 - Interviews will be conducted by the three Selectmen and three members of the Police Study Committee. Recommendations will be sought from Police Study Committee Chair Philip Germain
- Determined January 21st as the follow-up date to reconvene the Tri-Town Landfill Committee to continue discussions on the shared excavation pit and materials removed to date.
- Met new Fire Department hire Jason Powers.
- Re-signed two Avitar Software Purchase Agreements, which were approved December 17, 2014: 1) Tax Collection \$6,320 and 2) Utility Billing \$3,200.
- Authorized the following Tax Abatements which were generated as a result of the 2014 Revaluation where the first issue tax bill amount exceeded the second/final issue tax bill: M1/L2; M1/L3; M1/L4; M6/L5; M6/L6; M8/L1; M12/L1C-18; M12/L2; M12/L7; M12/L15; M12/L21; M12/L22; M12/L23; M12/L24; M12/L25; M12/L36; M13/L14-B17; M13/L14-B18; M13/L14-B27; M13/L14-B28; and M17/L22-2.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator