

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – January 14, 2015

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

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Board and discussed the following:

- Tri-Town Landfill:
  - ✓ An onsite meeting of the Tri-Town Road Agents is scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup>
  - ✓ Concern about the existing requirement that an Excavation Phase be closed out before another Phase is opened will be addressed on the 15<sup>th</sup>
  - ✓ A report of each Town's excavated material quantities should be available for the January 21<sup>st</sup> Tri-Town meeting with the Antrim, Bennington and Frankestown Selectmen
- February 1<sup>st</sup> transition from three full-time Highway Department employees down to two full-time employees and a 3-day per week laborer. The Town will advertise for an as-needed employee for special projects.
- Received permission to engage the Hillsborough County Correctional Workers at a cost of \$1,000 per week for eight workers per day per week; the Town is no longer responsible for serving lunch and refreshments.
- Whitemore Lake access road; Gary will follow-up the Town's concerns with Fish & Game (shared road ownership) and the Department of Environmental Services (concern about water quality if road plowed and surfaces treated) regarding the steep 23% road pitch.

James "J.T." Clough and Zander Fontaine met with the Selectmen to discuss their interest in teaching a free martial arts program at Town Hall. The Selectmen approved their use of the upstairs gym on Friday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Fire Chief Michael Roina met with the Board and discussed the following:

- NH Retirement will allow Mike's continuation of benefits if the Selectmen create and submit to them a blended job description versus two independent jobs that total forty hours which would disqualify his coverage. The Selectmen approved creating the blended job description.
- A joint meeting with the Road Agent and Highway Department laborer/Fire Chief will be held with the Board of Selectmen January 21<sup>st</sup> in an effort to streamline the transition of duties and responsibilities for the shared employee.
- The Selectmen authorized processing background checks for three potential Fire Department employees with the understanding that three inactive employees be removed from the Roster.
- Anticipated tear-down of the Engine's pump is temporarily postponed until the temperature warms up a bit.
- Selectmen informed the Chief of the following Fire Department line-item reductions in the 2015 Budget: \$500 from Forestry; \$1,500 from Service Contracts; and \$20,000 from Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund.

## Board of Selectmen Minutes – January 14, 2015

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's January 7, 2015 Minutes.
- Reviewed the Energy Committee's January 7, 2015 Minutes. The Selectmen unanimously agreed that the large windows, proposed in the Scully report to replace the original sliding doors, should be eliminated from the project.
- Reviewed and approved January 14, 2015 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Reviewed the final version of the 2015 Budget which includes twelve Capital Reserve funding requests and six financial Warrant Articles. Total expenditures, which will be presented at the January 17<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing, total \$1,786,976 – an increase of \$47,087/2.7% over 2014 approved appropriations.
- Regretfully accepted the resignation of Transfer Station Manager Ben Billings.
- Regretfully accepted the resignation of Building Committee volunteer Rhea Taylor.
- Approved the draft Police Chief employment ad which includes the Selectmen's stance that the position will be salary exempt.
- Unanimously voted to include a Warrant Article that requests changing the Treasurer's position from elected to appointed.
- Received information from the Contoocook Valley Transportation Company that 1865 miles were driven by their volunteers for Bennington residents to access essential healthcare, support services and basic needs.
- Selectman Osienski/Building Committee member reported that LCHIP grant funds are being sought for VFW building renovations. The Selectmen agreed that renovations cannot continue to wait another year; a plan must be put in place to move the project forward within the next few months.
- Chairman Cleary signed two Audit engagement letters.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator