

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – March 25, 2015

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Monadnock Ledger-Transcript reporter David Blumenthal.

Police Chief Steve Campbell met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Delivered eleven resumes to the Selectmen from applicants interested in filling the impending full-time Officer vacancy.
- Reviewed two Training Reports which validates progress in the upcoming transition of Police Chief duties.
- Dependability of the Crown Vic cruiser which is tentatively scheduled for replacement in 2015. Steve reported the vehicle recently passed inspection, has approximately 90000 miles on the odometer, the dash lights work intermittently, the rear brakes will need replacing soon and the engine seems to perform adequately. All parties agree the sedan will likely be replaced with a SUV due to vehicle reconfigurations which are not compatible with required police equipment. No decision has been made relative to whether or not the Crown Vic will be traded this year.
- Frankestown's Selectmen intention to appoint Steve as a part-time police officer upon completion of a background check. Chief Campbell assured the Selectmen that Bennington Police Department is his priority focus, in addition to assisting Frankestown during their time of need while they endeavor to fill their Police Chief vacancy.
- Submitted a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Towns of Bennington and Frankestown that speaks to police assistance. The Selectmen tabled approval until Town Counsel has had an opportunity to review the document.

Keith Nason met with the Selectmen by invitation to explore any interest he might have in assuming the position of Emergency Management Director. Keith enthusiastically agreed to the appointment and the associated Oath of Office was administered.

Library Trustee Alternate David McKenzie met with the Selectmen to discuss needed Library roof repairs which were recently revealed by a slate contractor who was working on a roof replacement estimate. Selectman Rose volunteered to look at the damaged vent pipe and flashing around the chimney to determine the extent of needed repairs.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the March 25, 2015 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Appointed James Cleary the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.
- Appointed Jeffrey Rose the Planning Board Ex-Officio.
- Voted to recommend to the Southwest Region Planning Commission that Kristie LaPlante take part in a Local Public Agency (LPA) stakeholder group which will work with NHDOT to discuss issues and challenges that NH cities and towns face when seeking reimbursement Grants.

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- Heard a report that NHDOT Bridge Design has nominated the South Bennington Road bridge over Russell Brook to be included in the Regional Transportation Committee Ten Year Plan. The Selectmen agreed with their recommendation to rehabilitate or reconstruct the bridge so long as the State pays all associated costs since the NHDOT is responsible for summer road maintenance.
- Discussed the Moderator's concern that continued delay of rehabilitation of the VFW will interfere with the Town's commitment to the Conval School Board that Bennington elections will be relocated from Pierce School prior to the next Presidential Election which is scheduled for 2016.
- Heard a report that the Town hosted a March 24th DRA assessing class at the VFW which was attended by 29 participants from communities as far north as the lakes region and west to the Vermont border.
- Discussed the importance of securing a Mutual Aid Agreement for emergency services with the Town of Deering. The Selectmen are concerned that Bennington is tasked with initial response to Codman Hill Road, a Class VI road, which serves an established Deering neighborhood.
- In conjunction with Earth Day Cleanup and the planned award of prizes for debris retrieved from roadsides, the Selectmen agreed to present themselves as a "trash removal" prize.
- Agreed to link the Monadnock Roller Derby to the Town of Bennington's website.
- Signed a Supplemental Tax Warrant as well as Yield Tax Warrants for M7/L35; M21/L13-A; and combined M21/L13-2 and 13-3.
- Selectmen Cleary reported his April 1st absence from Selectmen's meeting

From 7:52 p.m. until 8:08 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French. The Board discussed a document prepared by an employee and voted to have Town Counsel review it before executing the municipal agreement with another agency.

From 8:10 p.m. until 8:17 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French. The Board glanced at the twelve resumes received relative to the impending full-time Officer vacancy. They voted to meet next week with Officer Sullivan to review the applications.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator