

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – April 29, 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. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Tax Collector Kristie LaPlante met with the Selectmen to discuss add-on options available through the new tax software system:

- The Selectmen endorsed expansion of services to include online payments; for credit card payments a 2.95% convenience fee will be assessed to the customer. For ACH payments a \$0.95 fee is charged.
- The Selectmen tabled a decision about the ability to add a \$250 software enhancement which would allow the town to upload tax bills to the Town's tax kiosk available through the Town's site as well as the ability to provide paperless invoices.

From 6:21 p.m. until 6:27 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski, Administrator French and Deputy Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The group discussed an FMLA case; the Selectmen voted that a Fitness for Duty examination would be in required prior to the employee's return to work.

The Selectmen signed their appointment of Jason Lepine as a full-time Police Officer and administered the Oath of Office to Officer Lepine. Jason's son Justin pinned the badge onto his dad's uniform.

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

- The Engine is out of service for what appears to be a pump overhaul and not an equipment failure.
- Three bids for replacement of the Fire Station roof were presented. Upon their review it appeared that there could be a few discrepancies between the bids. The Selectmen and Chief developed a Spec Sheet which will be distributed to the three contractors and other potential vendors.
- A proposed Boy Scout project of painting the fire hydrants will be referred to the Water Commissioners.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's April 21, 2015 Minutes.
- Reviewed a courtesy copy of the Building Committee's April 21, 2015 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the April 29, 2015 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Heard a report that the Town Building Expendable Trust Fund had a balance of \$65,243.28 at March 31, 2015.
- Voted to transfer the Building Permit Application for M5/L1 to the Planning Board since the proposed addition to a cabin located on a Class VI Road requires Planning Board review and comment as provided by RSA 674:41, I,(c).

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- Heard a report that the Town should meet with Deering Officials to discuss the existing arrangement where Bennington Fire/Rescue is the primary responding agency to calls on Codman Hill Road in Deering. Of concern is the Class VI road conditions that must be encountered by Bennington vehicles and equipment. It was agreed that the Selectmen, Fire Chief and Road Agent will view Switzer Road and intersecting Codman Hill Road in an attempt to identify travel concerns prior to the round-table review at the Board's May 6th meeting.
- Heard a report that the Bureau of Rail & Transit will be meeting with the Department of Resources and Economic Development to discuss the entirety of the State-owned railroad line. The Selectmen continue to disagree with the State's decision to gate the Railroad Trestle Bridge throughout the year excepting winter months when the gates are opened by the State for snowmobile use.
- As an abutter to M11/L12, received notice of a May 11, 2015 Earth Excavation Public Hearing.
- Heard that the "Meet and Greet" meeting with the Emergency Management Director was rescheduled to Thursday, May 7th at 6:00 p.m. Selectman Osienski reported his absence due to a prior commitment.
- Motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to secure a \$390,000 TAN from People's United Bank at an interest rate of 1.7%. Chairman Cleary signed the Town's acceptance of the Terms and Conditions. The Board signed associated documents which included the Tax Anticipation Note.
- Heard that NHDOT will likely issue their Notice to Proceed with Advertising the TEP2 project in mid-May. Construction should be underway after the July 4th holiday.
- Confirmed June 6th as the Free Disposal Day (excluding the free disposal of electronics and demolition material) at the Transfer Station. Also scheduled for June 6th will be the Library's annual Rhubarb Festival fundraiser as well as a town-wide Yard Sale sponsored by the Recreation Committee.
- Heard a report that citizens have contacted Town Hall about the perceived increase in disruptive noise emitting from a privately owned shooting range on Route 31. Jim Cleary advised that the range's use is exclusive to residents and the Sportsmen Club. The group itself has concerns and is in the process of developing guidelines that will better control onsite activities.
- Heard that the Town has received a request that it adopt a UTV (Utility Terrain Vehicle) Ordinance which would permit UTV passage on Town roads posted 40 mph or less. The Selectmen requested State background information that details existing criteria, interactions with the identified supporting communities, Chief Sullivan, and the Town Clerk.
- In keeping with the Selectmen's "award" of trash removal to the winner of the most unusual item found during the Earth Day Community Clean-up, Selectman Cleary will contact Mark Mackesy to arrange a date for the Board to remove his household trash and recyclables.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator