

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – May 6, 2015

Selectmen James Cleary and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Deputy Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. Selectmen Steven Osienski joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also in attendance was Monadnock Ledger-Transcript Reporter David Blumenthal.

Road Agent Gary Russell and Fire Chief Michael Roina met with the Board to discuss their concerns about the Town of Bennington providing Fire and Emergency services to Deering residents on Codman Hill Road. In recent years the Town of Deering has issued a building permit for Codman Hill, which is located in Deering and accessed off of the Class VI portion of Switzer Road and relies on Bennington provide Fire and Emergency services. The Board of Selectmen continues to be opposed to the Town of Deering issuing building permits on a Class VI roadway. Chief Roina provided the Board of Selectmen with a copy of RSA 154:1-d and RSAs 154:24 through 154:30 which he believes frees the Town of Bennington from any liability for their responses to those Deering properties. The Board of Selectmen would like to schedule a meeting with the Deering Selectmen to discuss future development on Class VI roadways.

At 6:30 p.m. the Board opened up a Public Hearing in accordance with Section 201.6 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, enacted under Sec. 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 for submission of the Bennington Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2015. There were no attendees from the public. The Board voted to accept the 2015 Update and executed the Certificate of Adoption for submission to FEMA. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m. the Francestown Board of Selectmen joined the meeting to conceptually discuss the possibilities of sharing resources. In attendance were Selectmen Scott Carbee, Brad Howell, and Abigail Arnold, Town Administrator Michael Bramley, and Francestown residents Dennis Orsi, BJ Carbee, Polly Freese, Lisa Bourbeau, James Gann, Lisa Stewart, and John Thalhauser. Both Boards agreed that if there was no substantial cost benefit or increase in services provided to residents of both communities then the concept of sharing resources would be a mute issue – regardless of which Department was sharing resources. Selectwoman Arnold stated that initially exploring sharing police resources appeared to be a logical starting point for discussions.

After some discussion it was agreed that Francestown Selectmen should receive input from their residents at an already scheduled May 20th Public Forum regarding their Police Department. If Francestown residents are in favor of exploring shared resources then the two Towns should schedule a joint Public Hearing to receive expanded feedback.

Police Chief Bret Sullivan met with the Board to inquire about the Board's position on the administrative assistance position recommended in the Police Chief Review Committee's recommendation. Chief Sullivan would like to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant for up to 10 hours a week. The Board made no decisions and recommended that Chief Sullivan review his budget to see if there is room within his budget to allocate those costs.

From 8:12 p.m. until 8:24 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3III(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose, and Osienski, and Deputy Administration LaPlante. No decisions were made.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's April 29, 2015 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved three Payroll Registers and one Accounts Payable Register for May 6, 2015.
- Asked the Road Agent to repair the gate at the entrance to the Highway Department facility.
- Authorized the Road Agent to work with an Old Greenfield Road property owner and logger to remove four trees that have been damaged by plows.
- Authorized a waiver of the Town's Alcohol Policy to allow the Sportsmans Club to have alcohol on Town property at their May 16, 2015 Sportsmans Club dinner at the Fire Station.
- Heard a report that the Meet and Greet meeting with the Emergency Management Director has been rescheduled to June 2nd.
- Heard a complaint that Acre Street residents were given less than 24 hours notice that water would be shut off for a water repair that the Highway Department and Antrim Water Department knew about weeks ahead of time.
- Selectman Cleary volunteered to talk with the Town's snow removal contractor to discuss repairing a fence broken during the winter months.
- Signed a Service Connected Total and Permanent Disability Tax Credit for Map 7, Lot 22.
- Agreed to purchase bark mulch for the Town's volunteer gardener to spread amongst the flowerbeds in town.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kristie LaPlante
Deputy Administrator