

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – June 3, 2015

Selectmen James Cleary and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

From 7:03 p.m. until 7:33 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary and Osienski, Administrator French and Timothy Aucella. The Selectmen tentatively approved a Forbearance Agreement which addresses the unpaid 2012 taxes; subject to a follow-up meeting with both property owners.

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

- As a result of the insurance company paying \$9,169 for the Fire Engine's pump repair, the Chief requested permission to spend the unused \$10,000 budgeted pump repair funds for proactive maintenance of existing apparatus. The Selectmen voted to keep the \$10,000 in reserve for the balance of the year to cover such expenses as fuel oil for all Town buildings; \$1,806/10% represents available fuel funds for the remaining seven months. The subject will be revisited later in the year.
- Due to the change to summer hours for the Highway Department (four 10-hour days), the Chief asked the Selectmen for more Fire Department administrative hours. Mike's typical sixteen administrative hours has now become ten weekly hours due to the Highway Departments restructured work days. The Selectmen denied the request, while at the same time acknowledging that calls for emergency services is exempt from the forty hour weekly limitation.
- Discussed the Chief's frustration with Fire Department payroll reporting requirements. It was agreed that a future joint meeting would include the Town's bookkeeper. Also discussed was not adhering to the payroll submission deadline that all employees are subject to.
- Cautioned the Chief that all legal documents should be reviewed by Town Counsel prior to his signing. The conversation was a result of his executing a Hold Harmless Agreement when the action was not recommended by the Town's insurance provider.
- Discussed the need for clarity when accepting payment on behalf of the Town.
- On a lighter note, the Chief reported extraction of "little (lego) people" from the map tubes in the Conference Room. During the course of his extrication techniques the zip-tie supports were removed. The lego owner and the child's mom were grateful.

Library Trustee Molly Flower Eppig requested an alcohol waiver for the June 6<sup>th</sup> Rhubarb Festival where rhubarb wine will be taste tested. The Selectmen approved the request.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the May 20, 2015 Selectmen Minutes. The Board reviewed Minutes from the May 13, 2015 Building & Energy Committee meeting.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for May 27 and June 3, 2015 as well as Accounts Payable Registers for May 28 and June 3, 2015. Also reviewed were expenditures for the period January through May. The Selectmen noted that only 10% of the heating oil/propane budgets are available for the remainder of the year.

Board of Selectmen Minutes Continued – June 3, 2015

- Were pleased to acknowledge that NHDOT is shimming the South Bennington Road.
- Tabled discussion of VFW renovation plans until such time as Peter Martel is available to meet with the Selectmen.
- Discussed Selectman Rose's concern that the loader was being utilized in the public's area while the Transfer Station was open for business.
- Heard a report that an employee was injured at the Transfer Station prior to the start of their shift.
- Received a collective letter and accompanying photos from four Onset Road families alerting the Selectmen to a damaged roadbed created by a tracked vehicle/excavator being driven down Onset Road from the Francestown portion of Onset Road. The matter will be referred to the Road Agent for review and recommendation.
- Were pleased to hear that a local 4-H group will be holding their meetings at the VFW.
- Reviewed, approved and signed the following documents:
  - Property Tax Warrant
  - Yield Tax Warrant – M16/L1
  - Yield Tax Warrant – M16/L3
  - FST Contract Amendment to Add Construction Phase Engineering
  - Intent to Cut – M9/L2
  - Intent to Cut – M16/L1
  - Intent to Cut – M16/L3
  - Building Permit – M17/L14
  - Building Permit – M19/L11
  - Building Permit – M20/L11-3

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator