

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 12, 2015

Selectmen James Cleary, Steven Osienski, and Jeffrey Rose were present. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

- The Highway Department has built a new structure for the swings at Sawyer Park. Swings are ready to be installed.
- Although there is still room for improvement, operations at the Transfer Station are improving from where they were at one month ago.
- The Highway Department will begin work on Pine Meadows Circle next week.
- Roadside mowing is almost complete.
- Southwest Region Planning Commission has completed their culvert inspection/inventory.
- The Road Agent would like to add funds to the 2016 budget to purchase a box sweeper.
- From 6:20 to 6:26 p.m. the Board met with Road Agent Gary Russell in Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3c. No decisions were made.

Police Chief Bret Sullivan and Recreation Committee member Bethany Craig met with the Selectmen to discuss reported problems with smoking, drinking, and out of town residents at Whittemore Beach. There was consensus that weekends seem to be the biggest problem for the reported offenses. Chief Sullivan has his officers stop by the beach twice per shift. The group discussed options for remediating the problems, although no decisions were reached. Discussions will continue, including during the 2016 budget development process.

From 7:20 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. the Board met with Welfare Director Debra Davidson in Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3c to discuss a resident in need of housing assistance. No decisions were made.

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

- Firehouse Software – the Board and the Chief discussed the Chief's continued assertion that Dispatch does not get the times right in the software.
- The Chief reported he is making progress with administrative and personnel tasks.
- Continued discussions about ISO ratings and any potential savings or return on investment to taxpayers for the costs incurred to implement ISO recommendations.
- The Fire Chief has expended most of their budget to date; the Chief was asked to better manage his budget for the remainder of the year and prevent cost overruns.
- The Chief would like to write two grants for gear and for apparatus under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The Board offered the assistance of administrative staff to help the Chief accomplish this task.
- From 8:00 to 8:10 p.m. the Board met with the Fire Chief in Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3c to discuss a personnel matter. No decisions were made.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed correspondence from Bureau of Rail and Transit Administrator Shelley Winters and State Representative Jon Manley relative to the Bennington Railroad Trestle Bridge. The Town has requested the State to unlock the gates on the trestle to allow for pedestrian passage. The State's position is that the gates will remain locked during the spring, summer, and fall to prevent pedestrian passage, citing railing safety as their primary reason. The trestle gates are unlocked during the winter months to allow for snowmobile crossings.
- The Board declined to abate interest on unpaid taxes for Map 12, Lot 01C-18. A potential buyer had asked the Tax Collector to inquire if the Board would accept a principal only payment to satisfy the unpaid taxes. The Board felt this was a matter to be discussed between the buyer and seller during sale negotiations or to be discussed at the time of the closing.
- The Board voted to advertise the unused kids raft for sale.
- The Board heard a report that a trailer located on Map 1, Lot 16 will be removed as required by the Building Inspector. The Board of Selectmen imposed a November 1st deadline for the trailer to be removed.
- The Board will request the Road Agent to install additional brackets on the existing granite signage post in front of Town Hall with the goal of relocating the Fish and Game signage from the building.
- The Board requested the Town Administrator to send another certified letter to the owner of Map 1, Lot 2 with detailed fines for non-compliance.
- Reviewed and approved the Board's July 29, 2015 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved August 5 and 12, 2015 Payroll Registers, along with Accounts Payable Registers for August 6, 7, and 12, 2015.
- Signed Building Permits for Map 17, Lot 15 and Map 7, Lot 63.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kristie LaPlante (as dictated to me by Steven Osienski)
Deputy Administrator