

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 26, 2015

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

State of New Hampshire Representative Jon Manley met with the Board to continue his open dialogue with local communities. The following was discussed:

- Representative Manley spoke with Chris Ialuna from NH Department of Motor Vehicles about the recently enacted State law that changes the inspection month for municipal vehicles from March to September effective in 2015. For many municipalities this appears as an unfunded mandate because communities are now required to inspect their vehicles a second time this year – a cost that communities did not budget for. Mr Ialuna urged the Selectmen to communicate with him directly if a second inspection poses a financial hardship.
- Representative Manley has spoken with NH Department of Transportation about painting the crosswalks on State roads before school starts. NH DOT reported they plan to pave Routes 31 and 47 this fall and will paint crosswalks after pavement is complete.
- Representative Manley has continued dialogue with Shelley Winters from the Bureau of Rail and Transit about the Bennington Railroad Trestle Bridge. The State's position (refusing to re-open the trestle to pedestrian traffic from April to November) is that the trestle is part of an active rail line, with freight rights on that portion of the railroad owned by Peter Leischman of the Milford-Bennington Railroad. DOT has completed an inspection of the trestle structure and has deemed it as a red-listed bridge.

Representative Manley also inquired of the Selectmen, on behalf of a resident in Town, the permit procedure for installation of a heating structure. The Selectmen, familiar with the structure in question, shared their knowledge with Representative Manley. The Town has worked with the property owner and NH Department of Environmental Services since the issue was first raised; DES determined there was no health hazard and that the structure was installed according to manufacture specifications at the time.

From 6:55 p.m. to 7:08 p.m. the Board met in Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(a) to discuss temporary staff restructuring in the Town Office due to an employee's leave of absence. The Board voted a \$1,000 stipend for Deputy Administrator Kristie LaPlante and a \$250 stipend for Office Assistant Lori Ricci for their increased duties and responsibilities.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed, with delight, correspondence from NH DOT that the State has approved the Bid submitted by NorthEast Earth Mechanics, Inc. in the amount of \$597,880 for the Transportation Enhancement Project. The Selectmen also signed the Notice of Intent to Award to be forwarded to NorthEast Earth Mechanics.
- Heard a report that the Town's share of dredging the septic lagoons is estimated to cost approximately \$15,000-\$20,000, funds the Town already has accumulated in the Contingency Reserve Fund with the Town of Antrim. The Board voted to pay the Town's share from the Town's Sewer Capital Reserve Fund rather than use the funds in the Contingency Reserve Fund.

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- Agreed, effective immediately, to change their meeting night to Tuesdays until the Town Office resumes normal staffing.
- Heard a report that the water line in the basement for the outside spigot ruptured at sometime in the early morning hours on August 22nd, causing water damage in the basement. Repairs have already been completed on minor electrical components. Phone lines were down for 48 hours but are now back.
- Heard a report that Moderator has appointed John Baybutt, John Charlonne, Rick Reed, Barry White, and Debra Whitney to the 2016 Budget Committee. The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee will meet September 15th in advance of the Budget Season.
- Tabled establishing a crosswalk at a local business until a suitable location is presented by the business owners.
- Received notice that Part-time Police Officer John Giffin has resigned from the Bennington Police Department.
- Were pleased to learn that there was no damage to Town roads and minimal damage to culverts/drainage as the result of the prior evening's heavy rains. A Bible Hill Road property owner is researching options to best mitigate a drainage problem originating from his property.
- Signed, with reluctance, a Welfare Lien for Map 10, Lot 64. The Board is hopeful the property owner will remedy their obligation before the Lien is recorded.
- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the August 12, 2015 meeting.
- Reviewed and approved August 19 and 26, 2015 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Signed an Intent to Cut (Map 5, Lot 1) and the 2015 Summary Inventory of Valuation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kristie LaPlante
Deputy Administrator