

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 15, 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 6:07 p.m.

Town Clerk Debra Belcher and Assistant Town Clerk Karen Bartlett met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Deputy Town Clerk Linda Osienski has submitted her resignation, effective upon the successful hiring of a replacement employee. The Selectmen accepted Linda's resignation with regret.
- The Board denied the Town Clerk's request to appoint Assistant Town Clerk Karen Bartlett to the position of Deputy Town Clerk at this time. Instead, the Board voted to advertise for the Deputy Town Clerk position in the Keene Sentinel, the Town's website, on Craigslist, and the Library's Facebook page so they can appoint a Deputy from a pool of applicants. Applications and/or resumes will be sent to the Deputy Town Administrator.
- At the request of the Moderator, the Board will inquire of the Superintendent if the Town can utilize the Multi-Purpose Room at Pierce School for the Primary Election.
- The Town Clerk's office would like to become a "one check Town" where customers write one check to the Town of Bennington that includes the Town and State fees. Included in this service upgrade would be the ability for registration customers to pay by credit/debit card. The Selectmen support the convenience of becoming a "one check Town". The Town Clerk's office is waiting for a quote to implement this program.
- The Town Clerk reported they have outgrown their space within the Administrative Office and inquired of the Board the feasibility of getting their own office space. The Board agreed to look into office configuration options.

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

- The Fire Department has ordered a pallet of water for use at emergency scenes, trainings, meetings, etc. A portion of the pallet has been given to the Highway Department.
- Chief Roina received permission to use monies in the Fire Department Training line item to offset an over expenditure of the Medical Training line item; there are four employees who are interested in completing the Emergency Medical Responder course currently offered in Greenfield.

Budget Committee members Jon Charlonne, Rick Reed, Barry White, and Debra Whitney met with the Selectmen to discuss the 2016 budget:

- The group discussed the 2015 budget development process and expectations for the 2016 budget. The Budget Committee will review all budget submissions and meet with Department Heads before presenting the Committee's proposed budget to the Selectmen.
- Because the 2015 Budget included a lot of one-time, line-item specific appropriations, the group requested that Department Heads receive budget data that identifies these instances and note that the funding will not carry forward into 2016.
- Any increase in funding from 2015 to 2016 must be explained at the time the Department Head submits their budget, including identifying if the increase is due to a "want" or a "need".
- The Budget Committee will start reviewing budget submissions on Monday, October 12th.

Board of Selectmen – September 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Approved the Minutes of the Board's August 26, 2015 meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the September 2, September 8, and September 15 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Approved the execution of TEII – Contract Amendment #2.
- Were displeased to learn that the owner of Map 1, Lot 2 has again declined attending a meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss his non-permitted business. The Board directed the Deputy Administrator to send one more invitation to meet before the matter is referred to Town Council for enforcement.
- Were pleased to learn that the Town Office and Welfare Officer were able to negotiate a Welfare Lien Forbearance Agreement with the owner of Map 10, Lot 64.
- Heard a report that the gas pumps at Rymes have been discontinued. The Deputy Town Administrator was able to establish a Fleet Card account with WEX, Inc. that will enable Town vehicles/equipment to fuel up at local gas stations and receive the Federal and State fuel tax exemptions.
- Confirmed the appointment of Lionel Emunds as a Part-Time Police Officer effective September 11, 2015.
- Heard a report that damage from the August 25, 2015 rainstorm has still not been addressed on a portion of Bible Hill Road.
- Voted to sponsor the creation of a Before and After School program at Pierce School. This will enable The Grapevine to provide a program that will address a need amongst Bennington's families with no financial or insurance obligations from the Town.
- Received, with regret, the resignation of Health Officer Lise Lemieux. Deputy Health Officer Dario Carrara has agreed to serve as the Town's Health Officer. The Board is exploring options to fill the Deputy Health Officer position
- Signed a Notice of Intent to Cut for Map 1, Lot 2, a Yield Tax Levy and Certification for Map 2, Lot 8, a Revised Notice of Award for the TEP II project, and the Revised Summary Inventory of Valuation (MS-1).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante
Deputy Administrator