

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 22, 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 6:09 p.m.

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

- Snow removal will be put out to bid, with bids due back by 4:00 p.m. on October 13th. A qualifying prerequisite is that the contractor has a proper machine to remove snow from sidewalks.
- The ditching, drainage, and pugmill work on Pine Meadows is nearly complete. The Road Agent reports the Town was able to save approximately \$25,000 on the project compared to if they had the road paved. With the remaining pugmill the Road Agent plans to shim portions of Old Coach Road to improve roadway conditions for plowing.
- Conceptually discussed shimming North Bennington Road by the river if there are funds remaining in the Highways and Streets budget. No decisions were made.
- The Road Agent continues to work with the Transfer Station attendants to improve operations at the Transfer Station.
- Due to the drop in oil prices, the Town is now paying \$.10 per gallon for waste oil recycling instead of receiving revenues.
- Discussed the width of the Starrett Road right-of-way. The Board requested a Starrett Road resident be invited to their next meeting to discuss the affect snow plowing operations has on their property.

Larry Webber met with the Board to discuss his plans to purchase Map 12, Lot 01C-18. Mr. Webber explained that he is working with the Crotched Mountain Condo Association to negotiate a payoff of Condo Fees due on the property and would like the Town to consider waiving interest on property tax liens. After a lengthy discussion the Board voted not to waive interest. The Board does not want to set a precedent of waiving interest or providing assistance to property owners who are not experiencing a hardship.

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

- A work detail has been scheduled to overhaul the office space and repurpose donated office equipment. The Fire Department plans to provide locking file cabinets to Town Hall as soon as feasible.
- The Board agreed that the proceeds from the sale of unused office furniture can go towards the purchase of Fire Department dress uniforms as long as that expense is incurred in 2015.
- After attending the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant workshop the Chief has learned that replacing Engine 1 through the Grant program is not a project FEMA will sponsor due to the age of the apparatus. The group conceptually discussed replacement options. No decisions were made.
- The poly body on the Rescue is starting to crack in a different location than in 2013. The Chief is working with Valley Equipment and the manufacturer of the body to determine a remedy.
- Fire Prevention at the Elementary School has been scheduled for October 8th; the Department is planning a fundraiser spaghetti dinner for Friday, October 9th.

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The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Were disheartened with the continued lack of cooperation from the owner of Map 1, Lot 2 in discussing his non-permitted business. The Selectmen voted to refer the matter to Town Counsel.
- Approved the appointment of Debra Davidson to the position of Deputy Health Officer. The Selectmen signed Appointment Forms to recognize Dario Carrara as Health Officer and Davidson as Deputy Health Officer.
- Heard a report that the soccer field at Newhall Field has been improved.
- Heard a report that the Construction Contract for the Bennington Village TE Project Phase II was executed earlier in the week and copies were mailed back to NorthEast Earth Mechanics, Inc. and Fay, Spofford, and Thorndike. A preconstruction meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 1st at 2:00 p.m.
- Heard a report that the “Welcome to Town” sign at the Francestown town line will be taken down for repair; the sign at the Antrim town line will come down in early November and reinstalled in the spring to prevent continued damage from snow plows.
- Jeff Rose reported that the Library roof will be repaired tomorrow; Jeff will also be meeting with representatives from LCHIP at the VFW to review the Energy Committee’s grant application.
- Approved the closure of the Town Office from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on September 24th so staff can participate in a required Equalization webinar.
- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board’s September 15, 2015 meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the Payroll and Accounts Payable registers for September 22, 2015.
- Signed a Building Permit Application for Map 7, Lot 53 as well as the MS-1 Summary Inventory of Valuation form for the NH Department of Revenue.

The Board will next meet on Tuesday, October 6, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante