

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 13, 2015

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

Jeff Rose provided the Board with an update of the Solid Waste Committee's October 10th meeting. Transfer Station employee Wayne "Buzz" Frye has accepted alternative employment that will restrict his availability to Wednesdays and Sundays. The Committee reviewed the current disposal ticket costs and felt prices were reasonable. Citing chaotic traffic and costly disposal, the Solid Waste Committee has requested the Board of Selectmen to support temporarily discontinuing Free Recycling Day.

The Board reviewed the 1st Draft of the 2016 Budget. Deputy Administrator Kristie LaPlante informed the Board that she made two assumptions for the 2016 Budget to provide the Budget Committee a more realistic perspective of the bottom-line of the budget: wages were estimated at 2% and \$5,000 was added to the Highway Laborer line-item to reflect part-time assistance utilized in 2015. Both assumptions were clearly communicated to the Budget Committee as estimates and were not a reflection of any Board action. The Board observed that the Fire Department should adopt a policy in advance of State mandated physicals for firefighters attending training through NH Fire Standards & Training.

The Board reviewed and discussed the following:

- Opened the one Snow Removal Bid that was received (Pine View Excavation). The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to continue contracting with Pine View Excavation for snow removal in the downtown area.
- The Board asked for Town Office assistance in developing a Snow Removal Policy for the sidewalks.
- Denise French informed the Board that she will be returning to work part-time the week of October 26th with the goal of returning to full-time mid November.
- Imposed an October 16th deadline for receipt of applications for the Deputy Town Clerk position and asked that the Town Clerk meet with the Board on October 20th review applications received.
- Weighed the financial impact to the Town and the property owner and tabled, at this time, legal enforcement of an apparent zoning violation at Map 1, Lot 2.
- UNH Technology and Transfer Center has informed the Town that Road Agent Gary Russell has achieved Master Roads Scholar status and Laborer Michael Roina has achieved Roads Scholar One status. The Board is pleased with their dedication to continuing education.
- Approved Town of Antrim Invoice #426 in the amount of \$18,560 for Bennington's share of dredging the lagoons; payment to come from the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund. In 2016 the Board will pursue repurposing the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund either through re-titling the Fund or combining the remaining balance with another Fund.
- Agreed to advertise for the Transfer Station Supervisor/Attendant job.
- Reviewed and approved the July 11, 2015 Minutes of the Tri-Town Landfill and associated Board of Selectmen meeting. The Board reaffirmed their October 6, 2015 position not to proceed with

appraising gravel in the pit at this time; the Board feels such an appraisal is premature and may be more appropriate as Phase I comes to a close.

- Informally discussed the School Board's previous position to close select elementary schools and allow students to enroll in other elementary schools within the District. No decisions were made.
- Heard a report that the Boy Scouts recently completed 100 man hours of volunteer time to scrape and repaint the Fire Hydrants throughout Town.
- Heard a report that one of the leaf springs on the Fire Department Tanker was found to be cracking during the September inspection and the other spring is inverted. The Tanker is currently out of service until these springs are replaced.
- Noted the disrepair of the fence at Sunnyside Cemetery and instructed the Deputy Administrator to inquire of the Cemetery Trustees their plans to paint the fence before further damage is done.
- Reviewed the Cemetery Trustees' July 14, 2015 Minutes.
- Approved the Board of Selectmen's October 6, 2015 Minutes.
- Approved the October 13, 2015 Payroll Register and Accounts Payable Registers (2).

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante