

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – November 3, 2015

Selectmen James Cleary, Steven Osienski, and Jeff Rose were present, as well as Deputy Administrator Kristie LaPlante. Denise French and Monadnock Ledger-Transcript Report Nicholas Handy were also in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Town Clerk Debra Belcher met with the Board of Selectmen and two applicants for the Deputy Town Clerk position. From 7:03 p.m. to 7:27 p.m. the Board and Debra Belcher met in Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(b) with Debra Whitney to discuss her interest in the Deputy Town Clerk position. No decisions were made. From 7:30 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. the Board and Debra Belcher met in Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(a) with Karen Bartlett to discuss her interest in the Deputy Town Clerk position. No decisions were made.

Town Clerk Debra Belcher and the Board met in Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(b) from 7:53 p.m. to 8:05 p.m. to discuss the two applicants. No decisions were made pending feedback from NHMA Legal Counsel relative to staffing levels.

Correspondence from State Representative Jon Manley and Acre Street residents Donald and Estelle Cashion were reviewed. Representative Manley has been working with the Cashions to seek resolution to neighborhood concern about smoke emitted from an Outdoor Wood-Fired Hydronic Heater installed on an abutting property in 2007, prior to State regulations on the units. The Board will invite the owner of the Outdoor Wood-Fired Hydronic Heater, Representative Jon Manley, and the Cashions in to discuss options to resolve the issue.

James Cleary reported he met with Police Chief Bret Sullivan who shared the results of a recent Juvenile Detention audit. Due to the current configuration of the Police Station, the Bennington Police Department has received notice of deficiency as it relates to freedom/rights of the juvenile; the current configuration would place juveniles in the booking room which is against Juvenile Detention laws. As a result Bennington Police will have to transport juveniles to the Antrim Police Department for booking because their facility has the proper booking room for juveniles. The Board conceptually discussed investing funds into Town Hall from the Town Buildings Expendable Trust Fund to improve space issues within the Town Office and the Police Station. No decisions were made.

The Board reviewed and discussed the following:

- The 2015 Tax Rate was finalized at \$30.58. The Town had to use \$25,000 from fund balance to offset \$25,000 in overlay for abatements. Tax bills were mailed November 2nd and are due December 3rd.
- The Town has received feedback from NHMA Legal Counsel that the Town should not use public dollars for drug buys as part of a drug investigation by the Police Department. Instead the Police Department should make application to the Attorney General's Office under RSA 318-B:17-c for a grant.

Board of Selectmen – November 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes

- There appears to be sufficient funding within the balance of the 2015 Budget to make a down payment of \$6,000 to AccuFund to start the process to convert the Town's financial suite of software from BMSI to AccuFund. The remaining balance of \$17,741 would be included in the 2016 Budget.
- As owners of Map 07, Lot 81, the Town has received a Notice of Planning Board Public Hearing scheduled for November 9, 2015 concerning a Lot Line Adjustment for Map 7, Lots 18 and 19. The Board reviewed the plans submitted for the Lot Line Adjustment and noted that Lot 19 is not currently served by Town sewer. The Library Trustees (responsible for all Library matters) have been notified of the Hearing.
- The Board reviewed notice from the Town's Auditor, Vachon & Clukay regarding a Cease and Desist Order that has been issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) against Mackensen and Company, Inc. and Warren Mackensen on September 3, 2015. The Town's Trust Funds are invested through Mackensen and Company, Inc. The Board will await feedback from the Trustees of Trust Funds regarding their plan of action.
- The Board reviewed and approved minutes of the Board's October 27, 2015 Minutes, the Payroll Registers (2) for November 3, 2015, and the Accounts Payable Registers (2) for November 3, 2015.
- The Board signed two Property Tax Warrants, a Time-Off Request Form, and a Supplemental Intent to Cut for Map 18, Lot 02.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante, Deputy Administrator