

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – November 17, 2015

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeff Rose, and Steven Osienski were present, as well as Administrator Denise French, Deputy Administrator Kristie LaPlante, and Monadnock Ledger-Transcript Reporter Nicholas Handy. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Sergeant Jason LePine met with the Board to continue discussion of possibly replacing the Crown Vic cruiser now, rather than later. Sergeant LePine, working in conjunction with, and on behalf of Police Chief Bret Sullivan, has been researching vehicle availability within the Town's price point. The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to authorize Sergeant LePine to purchase a 2016 Ford SUV cruiser at a vehicle cost not to exceed \$27,000.

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

- The Board, Road Agent, Town Administrator, and Deputy Administrator met in nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3-II(b) from 6:41 p.m. to 7:03 p.m. to review four applications that have been received for the Transfer Station attendant position. No decisions were made. Interviews will be scheduled for December 1st.
- Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) has informed NH Transfer Station facilities that all shipments of scrap metals and white goods must have mercury components removed prior to shipment. Appliances of concern included chest freezers, washing machines, gas ranges, gas hot water heaters, and sump and bilge pumps. Many of these appliances contain mercury lamps, switches, and thermocouples. The Board of Selectmen authorized the Road Agent to set aside these appliances and contact an appliance repair company to train employees on safe removal of these components.
- The Board unanimously voted to enter into a three-year renewal contract with Monadnock Disposal Services for solid waste and recyclables removal. Monadnock Disposal Services has offered to the Town, free of charge, a container to be used for tire recycling.
- The Town's existing Snow Removal Ordinance appears sufficient. Because the Town's sidewalks are impacted by plowing efforts on State roads, the Road Agent was asked to work with the Town's snow removal contractor and exercise best judgment when sidewalks need to be cleared.
- There will be a meeting of the Tri-Town Landfill on Tuesday, December 1st.
- The supplemental, as-needed employee will remain on-staff until the Highway Department completes processing its winter sand stockpile.

The Board of Selectmen was shocked to learn that at the Conval School District's November 10th Budget and Property Committee meeting it was reported that "there is an initiative from the Town of Bennington to close BES and turn it over to them [the Town]". At their October 13, 2015 meeting, the Board of Selectmen discussed an inquiry from Bennington School Board Representative Linda Quintanilha about the Town approaching the School Board to close Pierce School. The Board of Selectmen stands by their position (communicated to Quintanilha at/about October 29th) that Bennington does not support the closing of Pierce School and will not undertake any initiative without a Public Hearing of Bennington residents. A letter will be sent to the School Board clarifying the incorrect

information that has been disseminated at the School Board level. A Bennington Selectman will also attend the Conval Strategic Plan Forum scheduled for December 8th at Great Brook School.

Tax Collector Kristie LaPlante reported that the Town's Assessor, Cross Country Appraisal Group, increased the value of two gravel pits in Town (Map 11, Lot 12 and Map 11, Lot 16) based on information obtained through the NH Mosaic Map Parcel. In 2013 Cross Country agreed to utilize GPS technology to update the status of the Town's gravel pits, which was not used in determining their recent value. The Board agreed to abate the increase in land value as a result of the incorrect assessment process. The Town will communicate their dissatisfaction with Cross Country. The erroneous information will be corrected for the April 1, 2016 tax year.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Met in Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(b) with Debra Whitney from 6:34 p.m. to 6:41 p.m. No decisions were made.
- Heard a report that Town Council supports the Town's actions in 2012/2013 to present in response to a complaint from Map 07, Lot 79 regarding a neighbor's outdoor wood boiler. No further action is recommended.
- Agreed to meet with VFW membership to discuss their concerns about the building's use and contents.
- Received a complaint of reported junk vehicles at a North Bennington Road residence. The Board will look into the number of unregistered vehicles before they address the property owner.
- Heard a report received from Eric Tenney, Antrim Water/Sewer that future mandates will require the removal of nitrates from wastewater. The Board will further research this mandate and explore renaming the current Sewer Capital Reserve Fund restricted to dredging of the Sewer Lagoons so those funds can be used to address the mandate.
- The Board received the 3rd Draft of the 2016 Budget as approved by the Budget Committee on November 16th. At this point the Budget is up \$62,547 over the 2015 Adjusted Budget, or 3.93%. The Board will review the document in advance of their December 1st meeting.
- The Board scheduled Tuesday, December 15th for the annual Committee/Department Head internal review of the 2016 Budget.
- Reviewed communications from the Planning Board to select Town Departments/Committees requesting their 5-10 year Capital Improvement needs.
- Tabled a decision on the 2015 Town Report cover.
- Were saddened to learn of the recent death of long-time Planning Board member Wayne Roy.
- Declined to change the Town's pay period from Sunday-Saturday to Saturday-Friday.
- Authorized the Fire Chief to have the pump on the Tanker tested.
- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's November 10, 2015 meeting.
- Reviewed the Budget Committee's November 16, 2015 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the November 17, 2015 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante, Deputy Administrator