

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – January 27, 2016

Selectmen Steven Osienski and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

From 6:07 p.m. until 6:25 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Osienski and Rose as well as Administrator Denise French. A personnel matter was discussed; no decisions were made.

From 6:30 p.m. until 6:50 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Osienski and Rose, Administrator Denise French, Tax Collector Kristie LaPlante, and Joyce, David and Kenneth Desaulniers. A tax matter was discussed; no decisions were made due to Selectman Cleary's absence.

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

- Plans for this year's paving/sealing -
 - From the TEP2 job line on Antrim Road to the bottom of the hill; pave two coats; estimated 520 feet
 - Sand seal from the end of paving to Route 202; estimated 2550 feet
 - Sand seal Paradise Drive after patching; estimated 2330 feet
 - Sand seal Dodge Hill Road from the four-way intersection at Old Stagecoach Road to Warren's turn around
 - Above plan equals 2280 feet, or the equivalent of 1.35 miles sealing roads
 - If funds remain, hot top shim North Bennington Road, just before Durgin Road to the Gillis Hill Road intersection
- Discussed the perceived need to seek grant funds for stabilizing the river's bank along the North Bennington Road, towards Deering. The eroding river bank is causing the road to narrow.
- Discussed the perceived need to seek grant funds for engineering the erosion at the base of Whittemore Lake Road near the water.
- Discussed the concept of hiring a mobile mechanic for maintenance of Highway vehicles and equipment which should free-up personnel to devote more time to outside projects.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's January 11 and January 21, 2016 Minutes as well as reviewed the January 13, 2016 Budget Hearing Minutes. The Board tabled review of the January 13, 2016 Minutes until Selectman Cleary is present.
- Reviewed and approved January 12, 19 and 26, 2016 Payroll Registers as well as January 12, 20 and 27, 2016 Accounts Payable Registers.
- Heard a report that the Department of Revenue Administration disallowed the proposed Warrant Article 5 which would have discontinued the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund and transferred those funds into the Water Capital Reserve Fund.

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- Agreed to refer a potential slope liability concern near the School Street bridge to the Road Agent for review and probable referral to NHDOT. The questionable slope abuts a DOT state highway whose responsibility carries over to the abutting sidewalk where the slope intersects with the Contoocook River.
- Received information from the Conval Budget Hearing that the Town of Bennington's tax rate will increase \$0.65 if the School Budget passes; the tax rate increase if both the School Budget and the Teachers' Contract pass is projected to be \$0.75 per thousand dollars of assessed value.
- Reviewed the Planning Board's Notice of Decision whereby they approved the Excavation Renewal Permit for M11/L16.
- Agreed to seek voter input via a Nonbinding Referendum regarding the VFW building which is owned by the Town.
- Instructed the Administrator to notify the Water/Sewer Commissioners that labor charges associated with the management of the Water/Sewer Departments do not qualify as hourly labor and are compensated annually through a stipend. The exception to not allowing hourly payment for wages would be an emergency situation which would exceed the typical Commissioner responsibilities.
- Tabled the Auditor's questionnaire regarding internal control risk assessment until the entire Board is present.
- Signed a Building Permit for M13/L4-A3.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator

