

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – April 27, 2016

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

Water/Sewer Commissioners Glenn Wilson and David Desaulniers and Antrim Deputy Water/Sewer Superintendent Matthew Miller were present by invitation to discuss the following:

- The Selectmen felt blindsided when they received an invoice for the purchase of 25 radio frequency water replacement meters at a cost of \$5,300; the Commissioners intend to pay for the purchase from their operating budget. The Commissioners have not planned for the required 2017 purchase of a handheld device to read the meters and associated software at an approximate cost of \$12,000. The Selectmen encouraged the Commissioners to encumber any possible unspent funds to be used as an offset to next year's \$12,000 purchase.
- Discussed the Selectmen's January 27, 2016 directive to the Commissioners that labor charges associated with the management of the Water/Sewer Departments do not qualify as hourly labor and are compensated through a stipend. The exception to not allowing hourly payment for wages would be an emergency situation which would exceed the typical Commissioner responsibilities.
- Deputy Superintendent Miller reported that the Antrim Water/Sewer Commissioners are paid a \$900 annual stipend for their financial management of the Water/Sewer Departments. The Antrim Commissioners never work in the field or involve themselves in operations which are done under the licenses of Superintendent James Cruthers and Deputy Superintendent Miller.
- The Selectmen clearly stated to the Commissioners that they cannot involve themselves in the physical operation of the Water and/or Sewer Departments. Commissioner Wilson was advised to refer any personal inquiries or request for service to the Antrim Water/Sewer Department.
- Deputy Superintendent Miller reiterated multiple times that either he or Superintendent Cruthers is always available 24/7 for any water/sewer situation that could arise. If Antrim personnel cannot address an issue in a timely manner then they will notify Commissioner Wilson and seek his assistance at that time.
- Discussed Commissioner Wilson's invoice for the period February 15 through March 25, 2016. Of particular concern was knowledge that Wilson's business provided repairs to 184 State Route 202 prior to his Commissioner's submission of an invoice to the Town for restoring water to the same location; at the two hour minimum call-out.
- Discussed the Selectmen's decision, and NHDOT permission received, to have the Antrim Water/Sewer Department replace three curb stops and relocate approximately six additional curb stops within the TEP2 area on Frankestown Road. The Project's contractor agreed to this change as an effort to save approximately \$30,000 in construction costs.
- Heard a report that the transformer at the Well House burnt out; the replacement cost of the approximately fifty year old damaged equipment is unknown at the moment.
- The Commissioners were made aware of the Selectmen's intent to relocate the utilities at the VFW; work that will not impact the existing water/sewer connections.

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Fire Chief Michael Roina met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- As required by State regulations, delivered three Forest Fire Bills for the Stoddard brush fires which total approximately \$1,600. The Selectmen and Treasurer will sign the three invoices before submission to the State of NH.
- Conceptually discussed the Town of Bennington willingly abating any unpaid FEMA/State costs which would absolve the Town of Stoddard from being responsible for payment. No decision was made.
- Selectmen voted to pay the firefighters at their Town rate of pay rather than the State Forest Fire wages.
- Mutually agreed to discontinue the Department's plan for a controlled burn on Town property between the Catholic and Evergreen Cemeteries on Old Stagecoach Road.
- Heard a report that there is Attendance Policy push back from the membership. The Selectmen voted to table implementing the Policy until the Chief has developed an amended policy that takes into consideration concerns of the Department members.
- Heard the Chief's report that he is working with Crotched Mountain Ski officials relative to Life Safety Code concerns for the former "ATC" building; the Selectmen recommended that the Chief also move forward on the needed installation of a hydrant for those times when the pond is excessively drawn down.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's April 20, 2016 Minutes. Also reviewed was the Planning Board's April 11, 2016 Minutes.
- Reviewed the Cemetery Trustees' April 12, 2016 Minutes. The Board is concerned about the implication that the TEP2 excavation has negatively impacted the Sunnyside Cemetery. The Trustees will be invited to a future Selectmen's meeting to discuss the matter.
- Continued discussion relative to the \$8,750 towing invoice from Kent's Towing for retrieving the Highway Department's truck that slid off the roadway during the April 4th snow event. Based upon Selectman Rose's information gleaned from multiple sources, the Selectmen agreed to offer a \$3,000 settlement with the Tow company. Rose will speak with NHPLT insurance representative Susan Sprague about her proposing the Town's offer.
- The Selectmen will begin their Town Buildings Inspection Tour at the Highway Garage/Transfer Station on May 4th at 5:30 p.m. The Joint Loss Management Committee will be requested to undertake their own safety inspections of the Town Buildings' work environment.
- Tabled discussion of Whittemore Beach staffing until the Board's May 4th meeting.
- As requested by Mrs. Tazelaar the Board confirmed the need for a setback variance for an addition the Tazelaars' plan to build onto an existing building which falls within the required setback area.
- In response to unauthorized patrons using the Transfer Station the Selectmen voted to reinstitute Town of Bennington automobile stickers. The generic language on the Town permit sticker will also be used for residency identification at Whittemore Lake.
- Selectman Rose volunteered to speak with a residential patron of the Transfer Station about the Town's stance of not accepting out-of-town demolition material.

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- Received notice from the Greenfield Selectmen’s Office relative to one of their property owners applying for a Building Permit on Class VI Muzzey Road which intersects at the Greenfield/ Bennington town-line with Dodge Road. The Selectmen deferred making any decision under RSA 674:53, Section II until the Bennington Planning Board reviews and considers the Building Permit proposal under RSA 674:41. The Planning Board’s next meeting is May 9, 2016; Greenfield Town Officials will be so notified. Should Bennington Town Officials agree to the Class VI Building Permit in Greenfield then the Town of Bennington will protect itself with an Agreement and Release of liability for providing access to the Greenfield property.
- The following documents were reviewed, approved and signed by the Selectmen:
 - ✓ Veteran’s Tax Credit for M10/L66
 - ✓ Intent to Cut for M23/L9
 - ✓ Intent to Cut for M24/L25
 - ✓ Excavation Tax Warrant for M3/L1
 - ✓ Abatement of \$.06 Excavation Tax for M3/L1
 - ✓ Gravel Tax Warrant for M11/L12
 - ✓ TEP2 Change Order #1 in the amount of \$5,414
 - ✓ \$500,000 TAN documents at an interest rate of 2.10%
 - ✓ Building Permit for M7/L71

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator