

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 3, 2016

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also present were Nick Handy, reporter for the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript and Bethany Craig. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for July 21 and 28 as well as August 4, 2016.
- Reviewed and approved Accounts Payable Registers for July 14, 21 and 27 as well as August 4, 2016.
- Agreed that the Board will appoint a Roads Advisory Board as had been recommended during the 2016 budget preparation process. Selectman Cleary volunteered to invite interested candidates to a future Board meeting; he also volunteered to sit on the Roads Advisory Board.
- Heard a report from Selectman Cleary that he is waiting for a requested quote to rent a tracked lift to remove dead tree/s from the upper slope of Sunnyside Cemetery; the Cemetery Trustees are being guided by Jim's logging knowledge.
- Agreed to inspect the Fire Station and VFW buildings at the Board's August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Accepted a proposal from Norman Mercier to wash, scrape, prime and paint the three Town clock faces, which are housed in the Congregational Church steeple, at a cost of \$1,350.
- Accepted a supplemental proposal from Norman Mercier to wash, prepare, spot prime and paint the left side on the Town Hall exterior, including the fire escape, at a cost of \$13,050. The Board also voted to accept Mercier's \$650 proposal to prep, prime and paint the metal roof on the overhang (above the ramp) since the finish is rusting.
- Reviewed and approved a 2016-2017 Heating Season Contract with Rymes which includes 5400 gallons of oil at \$1.899 and 1800 gallons of propane at \$1.499.
- Heard a report that the financial software conversion is 90% complete and is on track cost-wise due to the Deputy Administrator's willingness to partner with Blum Shapiro and take on much of the creation and data entry of the behind the scenes work.
- Two Impending Tax Deeds were discussed. The Selectmen plan to meet with family members of the deceased owners before making any decision; the Board tabled action on the second Impending Tax Deed until more information is available.
- In her position as Recreation Chair the Selectmen and Bethany discussed 2016 beach operations; loose dogs seem to head the short list of complaints. The Selectmen and Administrator warmly thanked Bethany for taking on the Whittemore Beach Manager position and hiring Beach Attendants as authorized by Town Meeting.
- Discussed the prolonged period of time where Bennington water customers were faced with discolored water while maintenance was undertaken at the Town's well and the unexpected need to replace the well pump. During an extended period of time Bennington customers were receiving Antrim water which has a high level of iron and manganese. Although the water was not aesthetically pleasing Superintendent Jim Cruthers reported there were no health concerns and no EPA guidelines that regulate iron and manganese; there was no bacteria in the water.

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- Selectman Rose reported his observation that Francestown's Pleasant Pond Road was recently rebuilt with what appeared to be an excessive amount of gravel. A Francestown resident notified Bennington Town Officials of the situation. It is very likely that the gravel was purchased from a vendor and was not removed from the Tri-Town Excavation Pit. Gravel Removal Reports will be reviewed with Road Agent Gary Russell and with the Tri-Town Landfill (Antrim, Bennington, Francestown) Committee when they convene in September.
- Reviewed the Planning Board's July 27, 2016 Notice of Decision. The Board approved the transfer of an existing Excavation Permit for Map 3, Lot 1 from the Harris Construction Company to D. H. Hardwick and Sons, Inc. The approval is pending the posting of a reclamation bond in the amount of \$21,250. The Selectmen acknowledged the need to refund the Harris family the full value of their escrow account, held by the Town of Bennington, as soon as the Hardwick bond is received.
- Agreed to convene the Budget Committee to discuss mutual expectations that will be communicated to all Department Heads/Committees when requesting their draft of the 2017 Budget.
- Voted to approve a Veteran's Tax Credit for M7/L121 effective April 1, 2016.
- Reviewed and approved a Building Permit for M3/L29 and a Sign Permit for M7/L102.
- Voted to resume the Board's designated Wednesday meeting day.

From 7:04 p.m. until 7:43 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to discuss operations and support. Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French. The Selectmen voted to discontinue staffing three employees in the Town Clerk's office on the first and last Thursday of each month. The matter will be discussed with the Town Clerk. The Selectmen will meet with the Police Chief to discuss use of the cruiser by on-shift personnel who are on-call. Lastly, the Selectmen were pleased to hear that Road Agent Gary Russell is expected to return August 8<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French  
Administrator