

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 10, 2016

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Police Chief Bret Sullivan met with the Selectmen by invitation to discuss use of the cruiser by a full-time Officer who recently moved to Henniker. The Selectmen were pleased to hear that staff has arranged their schedules so that only two nights per week the cruiser will travel out-of-town at the end of the employee's shift when he is the on-call Officer during the overnight hours.

Road Agent Gary Russell was warmly welcomed back to work. He and the Selectmen discussed the following:

- Reconsideration of purchasing a used wood chipper. Options discussed were attaching a two-ton dump trailer onto the new pickup truck or simply renting a chipper which Gary reports would likely only be used one to two weeks annually.
- Processing of winter sand is delayed awaiting delivery of the Town truck that has been undergoing repairs since the April 4th incident where the truck slipped down a snow covered embankment. The latest promised return date is August 18th.
- With regard to the presumption that a large quantity of materials was removed from the Tri-Town excavation pit by the Frankestown Highway Department Gary will check reports of material crushed by a private contractor to obtain an estimate of material removed.
- From 2015 barter arrangements with the owner of M15/L6, the Highway Department owes 36 loads of crush. There are no other outstanding barter arrangements in place at this time.
- Gary will again meet with the owner of M17/L34 to discuss the owner's 2015 choice to relocate a Bible Hill Road driveway entrance after the FEMA grant project's engineering plans were completed but prior to the relocation of a drainage structure. The Selectmen look forward to a resolution in this matter.
- Gary committed to finalizing the property line buffer between Acre Street M7/L76 and M7/L77 before winter. Pending arrangements in place call for the erection of a fence which will replace the former trees planted by the Town as a buffer when utility work was undertaken many years ago. The Administrator suggested including the new owner of M7/L76 in the conversation with the owner of M7/L77.
- Agreed that the Highway Department will cut back on the quantity of firewood it usually processes to heat the garage since the alternate propane heating cost has dropped to \$1.499 per gallon.
- The Road Agent agreed to use a mobile mechanic when appropriate which will allow employees to focus their energies outside of the garage.
- Discussed planned road improvements:
 - Antrim Road will be sand sealed in September from the end of TEP2 to Route 202 at an estimated cost of \$25,000.
 - With the Selectmen's approval, the Road Agent identified anticipated unspent funds of \$22,600 to pay for paving North Bennington Road from the area of M22/L6 to the intersection of North Bennington Road and Gillis Hill.

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- Determined that a Transfer Station employee had successfully passed probation and obtained Certification, therefore, was entitled to a \$0.50 an hour wage adjustment.

Town Clerk Debra Belcher met with the Selectmen by invitation. The Board reported their decision not to employ three Clerks on the first and fourth Thursdays of each month.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's August 3, 2016 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the August 11 Payroll Register and the August 10, 2016 Accounts Payable Register.
- Heard a report that the LED street lights will be installed August 16th at each end of the raised sidewalk. This will conclude all outstanding TEP2 outstanding obligations.
- Were delighted to hear that the TEP2 construction contract came in \$64,000 under budget .
- Reviewed the initial cost of \$15,000 for painting the west and north sides of Town Hall and the planned \$13,700 cost to paint the east side. The Selectmen were satisfied that the cost for painting the third side is reasonable when factoring in the inclusion of costs to refurbish the metal roof over the ramp and painting the fire escape.
- Voted to release the entire Harris Construction Company's excavation escrow account being held by the Town.
- Two quotes were received for replacing the Fire Station roof: Josh Beckmann Construction LLC, \$16,440 and R. Storro Construction, \$15,855. The Selectmen noted that the Storro proposal included an additional layer of water proofing, slip sheet called Grace Tri Flex, over the entire roof and rakes. The Board unanimously voted to accept Storro Construction's quote. Selectman Rose spoke with Mr. Storro to confirm his that the intended replacement of 22 squares of shingles included the entire Fire Station roof; a Certificate of Insurance is required in advance of the project; the intended date of construction will be in October.
- For lack of time, tabled inspection of the Fire Station and VFW until a future meeting.
- The Selectmen voted to cancel their August 24 and September 7, 2016 meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator