

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 17, 2016

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Bethany Craig also attended the meeting which was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Bible Hill Road resident Aaron Regis met with the Selectmen and Road Agent to discuss ongoing concerns about failed drainage coming off from Old Stagecoach Road and onto his property. The Road Agent will replace the storm drain grates with cascade covers which should allow the water to drain under the raised cover into the drainage system.

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

- Two complaints received from Mountain Road residents about a neighbor who is disturbing the Class VI roadway and creating drainage and erosion problems. The Selectmen will send a certified Cease and Desist letter to the owner of M3/L14A which will also require his presence at a Board of Selectmen's meeting.
- An apparent communication misunderstanding with the owner of M17/L34 regarding the lasting impact to their property as a result of a drainage structure being moved to a different location during the 2015 Bible Hill Road FEMA roadway project. The Selectmen authorized purchase of a 20' culvert to be given to the property owner for their installation.
- The International dump struck should be delivered to the Town no later than August 19th with the understanding it will need to return to the Claremont facility for replacement of a cylinder as soon as the part arrives. Having the truck back in service will allow the Department to move forward with screening winter sand when the screener is available.
- The Department will create an Acre Street parking area at Town Hall this fall.
- Discussed a failed sewer pump situation that occurred the past weekend at 12 Hancock Road. The matter has been referred to the Water/Sewer Commissioners for determination of liability.
- The Selectmen agreed to develop a policy which could permit the issuance of a prepaid credit card to Department Heads.
- The Highway Department will be working on screening winter sand, sand seal Antrim Road, paving North Bennington Road and replacement of a buffer between two Acre Street properties in the area of the Town's utility easement.

Fire Chief Michael Roina met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- The attached Bennington Fire Department Attendance Policy was reviewed with the membership at their August 2, 2016 meeting; no comments or concerns were expressed at that time.
- The AFG grant application for a 12-lead defibrillator was denied.
- Informal results of the Chief's recent Life Safety Code review of the Town Hall, VFW and Library was discussed. The Selectmen were dismayed to hear that the Selectmen's meeting room can only accommodate occupancy by nine people while the conference room can safely accommodate seventeen people. The Chief recommended employees achieve Crowd Manager certification which could enable a larger occupancy. The Selectmen look forward to receiving the itemized list of concerns.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – August 17, 2016

From 7:03 p.m. until 7:22 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:311(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski, Administrator French and Welfare Director Debra Davidson. The group discussed a dire housing situation. The Selectmen applauded the Welfare Director for her extra efforts ahead of the Town actually receiving the Application for Aid. No decisions were made.

Town Clerk Debra Belcher met with the Selectmen to discuss the following election related concerns:

- A change to RSA 658:24 reduces eligibility of ballot counters that the Town is accustomed to using; i.e. Moderator, Town Clerk, Selectmen, Supervisor of the Checklist.
- The voting booths need replacing. The Town Clerk recommends purchasing increments of three units at a cost of \$450. She agreed to research options available since existing NH statutes require curtains and the new models Deb checked out do not have curtains.

Representative Jon Manley met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- His proposal that part-time solid waste workers under the supervision of a certified operator would not have to renew their license every year at an individual cost of \$50 each. The Department of Environmental Services did not agree to this provision, however, DES did re-establish training opportunities.
- His proposal that required background checks for employees of camps, lifeguards, etc. be undertaken every other year, rather than annually, was defeated.
- There is no known update of information regarding the Town's effort to have the trestle bridge open year round rather than just during the winter.
- Jon was not familiar with a change to the election law that reduces eligibility of ballot counters.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's August 10, 2016 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the August 18th Payroll Register and the August 17, 2016 Accounts Payable Register.
- Voted to pay Bethany Craig any unspent funds from the \$6,000 Whittemore Beach staff Warrant Article in appreciation of her oversight of the Beach and its Attendants.
- Received copy of Monadnock Paper Mills' Wetlands Permit Application for M9/L15.
- Approved an Abatement for M7/L116; denied an Abatement for M13/L3-A15.
- Approved Building Permits for M10/L38 and M23/L5.
- Approved an Intent to Excavate for M3/L1.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator