

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 31, 2016

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

District 3 County Commissioner candidate Len Mannino introduced himself to the Board of Selectmen.

Budget Committee members John Baybutt, Jon Charlonne, Rick Reed, Barry White and Debra Whitney met with the Selectmen to discuss mutual expectations for the development of the 2017 Operating Budget. The consensus was to develop a flat Budget and the creation of Warrant Articles as the means to fund other costs, i.e. road maintenance.

From 6:25 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary and Osienski as well as Administrator French. The Selectmen were pleased to hear that a dire housing situation had been resolved. The Selectmen floated an idea relative to the creation of a shelter network which could assist folks with an immediate temporary housing need. Separately, the Selectmen asked that the Code Officer be invited to the Board's next meeting to discuss a verbal complaint received.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Appointed the following individuals to the newly created Roads Advisory Committee: Gary Russell, Jim Cleary, John Baybutt and Jon Charlonne.
- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's August 17, 2016 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for August 23 and 31 as well as the Accounts Payable Register for August 23, 2016.
- Agreed to invite Stephen Stockwell to the Board's September 14th meeting to discuss his actions which have compromised drainage on Mountain Road. Also to be invited to the meeting, in addition to the Road Agent, is Richard Edmunds, Sr. and Ryan Kulbacki who has each expressed concern for the Road's deteriorating condition.
- Heard a report that the Administrator has spoken with Moderator John Cronin, State Representative Jon Manley and Town Clerk Debra Belcher about last week's reported need to find additional ballot counters because a change to RSA 658:24 reduces eligibility of the Moderator, Town Clerk, Selectmen and Supervisors of the Checklist to count ballots. The Administrator reported asking the Clerk for clarification from the Secretary of State's Office on the matter; no response has been shared. Moderator Cronin and Representative Manley both report that there has been no new change to the existing law that affects ballot counters whose names are not on the ballot. It appears that HB 1220 removes the following text from RSA 658:24, [A person so disqualified shall not be considered to have vacated any office but rather only to be absent therefrom. A temporary replacement shall be appointed as provided in RSA 658:22.]

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- Were dismayed to receive an amended Fire Department Roof Replacement proposal from R. Storro Construction. The amended proposal changed the number of squares of shingles from 22 to 28 squares with an associated increase in cost of \$2,900. The Administrator will invite the alternate bidder to the September 14th Selectmen's meeting to discuss his qualifications.
- Selectman Cleary volunteered to find a vendor to rehabilitate the concrete ramp that serves as the main entrance into Town Hall.
- Heard a report that the gazebo and shed behind home plate at Newhall Field were recently re-shingled with paid and volunteer labor at an estimated cost of \$2,000-\$3,000. The Administrator reported the need to budget for a replacement roof on the biggest building at Newhall Field in 2017.
- Tentatively plan to inspect the Fire Station and the VFW at the next Selectmen's meeting on September 14th.
- Received notice from the Conservation Commission that the Natural Resource Inventory kickoff meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
- Agreed to endorse placement of geocaches on public property owned by the Town of Bennington.
- In response to a citizen's request for permission to park a mobile boutique camper in the VFW parking lot for a Lularoe party the Selectmen determined the following criteria: 1) in order to use the VFW parking lot for a temporary business transaction the VFW premises would have to be rented from the Town; and 2) a Hawkers and Peddlers License would need to be secured from the Police Department.
- Received information that two properties have established non-permitted apartments. These two Zoning Ordinance violations will be forwarded to the Code Officer for enforcement.
- Due to an administrative oversight, the Selectmen did not sign the Summary Inventory of Valuation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator