

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 14, 2016

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting were Bethany Craig and Monadnock Ledger-Transcript Reporter Nick Handy. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

- The need to remove a sidewalk hump and bring the sidewalk down to street grade in the area of M10/L13. The project is scheduled to be completed this fall.
- North Bennington Road paving is scheduled for the second week in October.
- 1.3 miles of roadway, which includes Antrim Road, Paradise Drive and the upper portion of Dodge Hill Road will be sealed shortly.
- Processing of winter sand for the current year has been completed; further processing of earth materials continues.
- Rental of an excavator for one month at a cost of \$4,400. In addition to excavating minerals, the machine will be used for Gillis Hill and Switzer Road culvert projects.
- Improvement of an Acre Street utility boundary has been rescheduled to spring.
- Discussed proposed changes in Transfer Station operating hours as was presented to the Selectmen by Transfer Station Manager Bill O'Connor. The Selectmen intend to gather more information and possibly consider evening hours in the spring when daylight is longer.

Stephen Stockwell met with the Selectmen by invitation to discuss the negative impact his drainage project has on the Class VI portion of Mountain Road. Also attending this portion of the meeting was Road Agent Gary Russell and abutter Richard Edmunds, Sr. The following Mountain Road concerns were discussed:

- Frustration by Town Officials for having to issue another Cease & Desist Order, as was necessary in 2004, for disturbance of drainage which impacts the Town's right-of-way and neighboring properties.
- Mr. Edmunds reported that the first time Mr. Stockwell took out a stonewall/boundary he had to (with the Town's approval) personally invest \$10,000 into the Class VI portion of Mountain Road to enable him to safely access his property.
- Mr. Stockwell reported he is working on his driveway and planned to use crush stone as a water filter. He also believes that the stonewall he removed was his real estate. Town Officials informed Mr. Stockwell, again, that the stonewall is a Town boundary.
- Selectman Osienski reminded Mr. Stockwell that he cannot harm those around him in his endeavor to fix his problem.
- Road Agent Russell stated that in other instances where property owners inadvertently created drainage problems they all took personal responsibility and fixed the problem; the Highway Department was not involved in these situations which all had favorable results.
- Mr. Russell stated that Mr. Stockwell needed to fix the area where the stonewall had been removed.
- The Selectmen ordered Stephen Stockwell to work under the direction of Road Agent Gary Russell to install an earthen berm which will allow water to leach through. The imposed deadline for Mr. Stockwell to complete the task is December 1, 2016.

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Josh Beckmann met with the Selectmen by invitation to discuss his proposal to replace the shingled roof at the Fire Station. It was mutually agreed that his original quote be increased by \$400 to cover the entire roof with ice shield. Motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the \$16,840 proposal received from Josh Beckmann Construction, LLC. Work is projected to begin within the coming month. This Board action effectively voids the \$15,855 contract from Ryan Storro Construction which was approved at the Selectmen's August 10th meeting. An amendment of \$2,900 was received from Storro Construction at the Board of Selectmen's meeting of August 31, 2016.

Recreation Chair Bethany Craig met with the Selectmen to discuss the Town's 175th birthday in 2017. There was unanimous approval from the Selectmen to accept Bethany's offer to coordinate a town-wide celebration.

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

- For the past month the Chief reported 42 man-hours were put forth by Bennington Fire & Rescue for special events; typically providing medical coverage.
- The Selectmen asked the Chief to provide a proposed hourly rate for private events and non-profit events with the intent of not burdening Bennington taxpayers with associated costs for providing these services.
- The Chief inquired about establishing a revolving fund where payments received for special events would be deposited and expenses paid from. It is his belief that over time excess funds will be recognized and can be used for payment of services for Town sponsored events.
- The Selectmen asked for clarification on establishment of a revolving fund; the Chief states it is a Selectmen's function – the Administrator reports her belief that Town Meeting action is required.

From 8:03 p.m. until 8:28 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:311(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski, Administrator French and Fire Chief Roina. No decisions were made.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's August 31, 2016 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for September 8 and September 15, 2016.
- Reviewed and approved Accounts Payable Registers for September 7, 8 and September 15, 2016.
- Signed a (replacement) Intent to Excavate for M3/L1.
- Signed a Sample Materials Certification associated with TEP2.
- Signed Land Use Change Tax Warrants for M19; Lots 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5 and 2-6 relative to the sale of real estate on Inverness Way.
- Signed the Summary Inventory of Valuation.
- Signed a Building Permit for M10/L24.
- Voted not to meet September 21, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator