

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – November 16, 2016

Selectmen Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Selectman Cleary was absent with notice. The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

Energy Committee Members Peter Eppig, Molly Eppig, Peter Martel and David McKenzie were present and provided a power point presentation on *LED Streetlight Replacement*, which identified the following objectives:

- Save an estimated \$3,000 annually
- During Committee's survey it appears the Town is being billed for fixtures that are not lit as well as one missing fixture
- Reduce pollution
- Retain/Regain rural character of Town
- Guiding principles
- Criteria for streetlight retention or addition
- Overlay map of proposed lighting
- Street lighting concerns in the vicinity of the Historical Society. The Administrator will request verification of photometric requirements
- Committee's request for a \$5,000 appropriation in 2017 towards implementation of LED streetlight replacement

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's November 9, 2016 Minutes.
- Reviewed the June 23, 2016 Minutes of the Conval Selectmen's Advisory Committee.
- Reviewed and approved the November 17, 2016 Payroll Register as well as the November 15 and November 17, 2016 Accounts Payable Registers.
- Reviewed a third version Road Maintenance Plan as was presented by the Road Agent at the November 15<sup>th</sup> Budget Committee meeting.
- Voted a 2% wage increase for all employees.
- Accepted the Budget Committee's recommendation that the Selectmen appoint John Baybutt to the Capital Reserve Funding Committee.
- Reviewed the Deputy Administrator/Tax Collector's concerns about the impact of digital water meters being integrated without a defined plan of action which would include an additional billing cycle generated by different tax collection software. The matter will be discussed when the Selectmen, Water/Sewer Commissioners (as well as all Department Heads), and the Budget Committee meet in December as a group ahead of finalizing the 2017 Budget.
- Heard a report that the Cemetery Trustees plan to submit two separate Warrant Articles for voter consideration at the 2017 Town Meeting:
  - Funding to replace the deteriorated fence around Sunnyside Cemetery.
  - Establish an Expendable Cemetery Maintenance Trust Fund, which will include a vote to deposit the sale of earth money into the fund. Prior to the discontinuation of perpetual

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care, when a cemetery lot was sold the income was divided between “sale of Town property” (1/3 revenue) and “perpetual care” (2/3 revenue). The income derived from the sale of Town property was deposited into the Town’s general fund. The Selectmen voted that 100% of the sale of burial lots (Town property) go into the planned Expendable Cemetery Maintenance Trust Fund.

- Voted that the involuntarily merged lots that represent Tax Map 3, Lot 33 will be separated and both lots taxed separately as of April 1, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m. when the Selectmen joined the Capital Reserve Funding Committee.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French  
Administrator