

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – December 13, 2016

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Bethany Craig. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Onset Road residents Joe and Ricki Gentile along with their daughter met with the Selectmen and Road Agent to request Town assistance to grade and pave a 60'-80' stretch of Class VI roadway to enhance the only access way to their home. They reported that UPS and AAA will not respond to their home because of safety concerns. Road Agent Gary Russell supports the *property owners* undertaking improvements to the divots and drainage. Since the Selectmen are not legally able to upgrade a Class VI roadway, the Selectmen agreed to contact Town Counsel to determine if an emergency lane could be established or perhaps offer an alternate solution to the family's access concerns.

The Selectmen spoke with a nonresident property owner via conference call. Christopher Moore discussed his ongoing concerns related to various construction projects being done without Permits at Mountainside Condominiums. He reported his appreciation with the Code Enforcement Officer, the Fire Chief and the Administrator who have all tried to assist him. The Selectmen are concerned that if the rumored information is true, what checks and balance might be in place that the Town should undertake to be sure that the work done is consistent with meeting life safety codes. The matter will be further explored.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's December 6, 2016 Minutes. They also reviewed the Conservation Commission's November 17, 2016 Minutes as well as the Energy Committee's December 7, 2016 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the December 8th Payroll Register and the December 2, 2016 Accounts Payable Register.
- The Road Agent agreed that during the slow season, the former shared employee could return to work one day a week for the Fire Department.
- Agreed that it would be appropriate for the Fire Chief to make his public presentation of information, at the First Deliberative Session, with regard to the conceptual idea of the Bennington Fire Department eventually becoming an ambulance transport agency.
- Discussed the minimum 5000 gallon water use estimate that the Water Commissioners are contemplating billing customers who recently had installed a digital water meter which can only be read by a digital reader that cost \$12,000. Since funding for the digital meter reader has been denied due to the high cost for the benefit of six customers, the Selectmen wonder how the minimal estimate was established and whether alternate criteria should be used.
- Received information that, although the Fire Department was awarded mobile radios through an Interoperability Radio Grant in 2004, the radios were not acquired until 2007 or 2008 at the request of the Fire Department. The Department asked that they be put on the bottom of the installation list for mobile radios because the Town was in year two of a five year radio lease. In

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2006 the NH Interoperability Project informed the Fire Chief that Bennington Fire would be allocated 23 portable radios through the Grant. At this point the Town was in year 4 of their 5 year lease. The Budget Committee Chair is interested in the longevity of these radios since they are in a light duty category; information will be sought from the Fire Chief.

- Agreed that the Town Clerk's impending ability to accept credit card payments should be expanded to all Departments that generate invoices. The Administrator will meet with the Town Clerk to jointly develop a plan of action that will benefit all customers.
- Heard a report of a Highway Department employee's work related injury.
- At the recommendation of the Conservation Commission, the Selectmen appointed Tom James a member of that Committee.
- Reviewed and approved the 2016 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate which captures all real estate transactions for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.
- Signed a \$500 Tax Warrant that had been overlooked.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator