

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – February 21, 2017

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Selectman Steven Osienski submitted his February 13, 2017 resignation as Selectman with an effective date of February 21st. The Board accepted the resignation with regret, although they understand Steve's endless time constraints. The Board tabled seeking an alternate replacement to fill the vacancy until after the March 14th Town Meeting.

From 6:35 p.m. until 6:54 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to discuss the status of two employees. Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French. No decisions were made.

From 6:55 p.m. until 6:59 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French. The Board voted the Deputy Administrator a \$2,000 base wage merit increase.

Energy Committee member David McKenzie met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- The existing street lighting map was reviewed and the following tentative decisions agreed upon:
 - Assuming LED lighting is more efficient, eliminate approximately 28 existing fixtures
 - An estimated 18 fixtures will be upgraded to LED
 - Two proposed new fixtures at the intersection of Old Greenfield Road and South Bennington Road and at the Dodge Hill Road and Route 47 intersection
 - Both the Police Chief and Road Agent will be asked to review the proposed street light map with an eye towards their Department's responsibilities
 - Input from two Antrim Road businesses will be sought
- The following information will be sought from Eversource:
 - Does the Town have a contract, or is there a policy for municipal lights
 - Inventory of existing lights
 - How can the Town test (shutoff) existing lights to see what affect the elimination of lighting will have on the neighborhood
 - When a street light is taken out of service, is the old fixture removed
 - What is the cost to install a light on an existing pole
 - Does an independent vendor sell and install municipality purchased lights

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's January 25, 2017 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for February 2, February 9 and February 16, 2017.

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- Approved the draft Selectmen’s Message for inclusion in the 2016 Town Report.
- Voted not to include a Non-Binding Ambulance Ownership/Transport Referendum in the upcoming March 14th Town Meeting vote.
- From the Town Clerk:
 - Received a February 7, 2017 letter informing the Board that the 2016 write-in Water/Sewer Commissioner candidate was never sworn in and has not attended meetings this past year. Family members confirm the winning candidate will not be returning. This information now creates a third vacancy in the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioner. The information will be shared with the Water/Sewer Commissioners who will take the reins after March 14th Town Meeting. It will be their responsibility to appoint a third member to their Board until the March 2018 Town Meeting.
 - Received information that the maximum optional fee for transportation improvements charged by municipalities when collecting motor vehicle registration fees will increase to \$10 as of July 1, 2017. The Selectmen tabled their interest in the program until after Town Meeting vote. If both Warrant Articles addressing road maintenance do not pass then the Board might consider pursuing transportation improvement funds through the motor vehicle registration program.
 - Upon discussion of the Town Clerk’s concern that her labor now paid by hourly wage (rather than fixed salary) might exceed the budgeted line-item, the Selectmen confirmed that as an elected official it is her responsibility to not exceed the gross funds budgeted for the Town Clerk wage line-item.
- Agreed to accept the gift of a granite bench from VFW Post 8268 for placement near the civil war monument at the Common.
- Upon reviewing Home Business recommendations put forth by the Building Inspector the Board determined this to be a proposed change to the Zoning Ordinance; the document will be forwarded to the Planning Board.
- Determined that, although the 2016 Building Permit has been abandoned, the South Bennington Road mobile home (M1/L16) installed within the Town’s right-of-way must be removed.
- Reviewed and approved the following documents:
 - Veteran’s Tax Credit for M23/L27
 - Intent to Cut for M3, Lots 1, 2, 5
 - Building Permit for M7/L49

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator