

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – April 19, 2017

Selectmen James Cleary, Mark Mackesy and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Edward Pelletier. The meeting opened at 6:01 p.m.

Atheleah McCullough met with the Selectmen and Road Agent Gary Russell to discuss her continued drainage concerns that include puddles on her property, a rut in front of her driveway, rocks/sand on her grass, as well as damage to her lilacs from compacted snow being plowed against them. Selectman Cleary and Road Agent Russell will address Mrs. McCullough's concerns.

From 6:09 p.m. until 6:16 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to review a job application submitted by John Plourde. Present were Selectmen Cleary, Mackesy and Rose, Road Agent Russell and Administrator French. No decisions were made.

From 6:19 p.m. until 6:25 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(b). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Mackesy and Rose, Road Agent Russell, Administrator French and applicant John Plourde. The group interviewed Mr. Plourde and discussed his interest in filling the full-time vacant Highway Department position. No decisions were made.

From 6:26 p.m. until 6:36 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(b) to discuss information gleaned from their interview with John Plourde. Present were Selectmen Cleary, Mackesy and Rose, Road Agent Russell and Administrator French. The Selectmen unanimously voted to hire John Plourde to fill the vacant full-time Highway Department Laborer/Truck Driver position at an hourly wage of \$15.00.

Road Agent Gary Russell and the Board of Selectmen discussed the following:

- As a member of the Solid Waste Committee Gary informed the Selectmen that the Transfer Station Manager disagreed with the Committee's proposed change to the hours of operation. William O'Connor plans to submit a revised proposal. Since a definitive change to the Transfer Station hours was not put forth to the Board, the Selectmen tabled the matter.
- If/when a change is made to the Transfer Station hours of operation the Town is required to provide thirty day notice to the Department of Environmental Services.
- Possible medical absence for an employee.
- Weather permitting, the Highway Department will quickly restore the disturbed lawn at 15 Acre Street which is a result of a winter water main break.
- The need to be more proactive with employee and work place safety.
- The VFW and Town Officials are working together to determine the best placement and associated procedures for placement of the VFW's gifted granite bench at The Common.
- Weather permitting the Highway Department will be assisting Antrim Water Department to repair a water leak within the St. Patrick Cemetery.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – April 19, 2017

From 6:52 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to discuss a staffing issue. Present were Selectmen Cleary, Mackesy and Rose as well as Administrator French. No decisions were made.

Fire Chiefs David Foster and Matthew Hall met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Appointment of a Forest Fire Warden. Upon hearing Chief Foster's recommendation that Matt be the Warden, the Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Matthew Hall the Town's Forest Fire Warden.
- Conceptually discussed physicals for Fire Department personnel.
- Crotched Mountain Ski Area hydrant status.
- The State requirement for a Fire Inspector; further discussion with Code Enforcement Officer Dario Carrara should shed some light on this fulfillment.
- The Selectmen agreed that the Fire Department could replace a broken window at the Station with an informational sign board.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's April 12, 2017 Minutes. Reviewed the Solid Waste Committee's April 15, 2017 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for April 20, 2017. The Board also received an updated Budget expenditures report for the period January 1 through April 19, 2017.
- Voted to notify the Tax Collector that the Town shall receive a Tax Deed for the Veale Estate, Map 21/Lot 13-1 for nonpayment of taxes dating back to 2010.
- Heard a report that a new computer will be installed next week for the impending ability to receive debit/credit card payments. Employee training is tentatively scheduled for May 2nd.
- Were pleased to receive a courtesy notification from the Hardwick Trust which addresses a future sale of a building lot and reclamation of the former Harris gravel pits.
- Accepted the Library Trustees recommendation that David McKenzie be re-appointed a Library Trustee Alternate for one year.
- Voted to continue the Town's business relationship with Pleasant Pond Landscaping for the 2017 landscape season.
- Agreed to support a Forbearance Agreement for M24/L15-1; Selectmen signatures are forthcoming after the document is signed by the property owner.
- Chairman Cleary signed a representation letter to Vachon Clukay & Company which highlights components of the 2016 financial audit.
- The Selectmen signed a Gravel Tax Levy for M3/L1, as well as a Building Permit for M24/L12,13.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator