

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – May 31, 2017

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

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's May 17, 2017 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for May 25 and June 1, 2017.
- With input from Supervisor Gary Russell, the Board unanimously voted that the Transfer Station's weekend operating hours will remain unchanged. At the recommendation of Manager William O'Connor, the Selectmen voted to add an hour to the Wednesday schedule; the Facility will now be open from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Employees will continue to work their twenty hours per week schedule.
- Heard a report that the cost from Eversource to temporarily darken 27 lights would be \$1,953.60; to turn the lights back on the Town would be charged the same cost. Should traffic control be required, there would be additional cost.
- The Administrator was authorized to engage a retired (resident) engineer in an attempt to gain further information relative to the Town's plan to upgrade its street lighting.
- Tabled discussion of the alleged Pierce Hill drainage problem at M7/L121 pending receipt of information.
- Heard a report that the Conval School Board is pondering not using the pre-election stated \$725,000 unreserved fund balance as revenue to reduce the District's 2017-2018 School Budget; rather to apply it to the cost of renovating the science labs at the High School so that they do not have to go to the voters for a Bond Issue. The renovation of the science labs was not included in the 2017-2018 School Budget and will likely be a major project in excess of a million dollars. Selectmen's Advisory Committee member John Jordan is requesting input from the NH Department of Revenue Administration as well as Hancock's Town Counsel.
- Concurred with the Department of Revenue's recommendation that the Town hold a Public Hearing to ratify the 2017 Town Meeting action which was postponed from its statutory date of March 14 to March 16, 2017 because of a significant state-wide snow storm.
- Selectman Mackesy volunteered to present the Edward French Memorial Scholarship to two deserving Bennington seniors at the upcoming June 14 Conval Awards Ceremony.
- Tabled development of a summer meeting schedule.
- Signed a Forbearance Agreement for M24/L15-1; and Intent to Cut for M23/L1-10; and Yield Tax Levy for M3/L1, 1, and 5; and the First issue 2017 Property Tax Levy.

From 6:25 p.m. until 6:44 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session. Selectman Cleary made a motion at 6:25 p.m. to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:31(c); Selectmen Rose, Cleary and Mackesy each voted to enter into the Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session was Administrator Denise French. The Selectmen discussed staffing issues at the Highway Department and the Transfer Station. The Board voted to seek progressive advice from its employment attorney. Selectman Cleary made a motion to reconvene the public session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. Selectmen Rose, Cleary and Mackesy voted to reconvene the public meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Denise French
Administrator