

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – June 28, 2017

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Mark Mackesy were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Tax Collector Kristie LaPlante met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- Due to an assessing issue, a revised Tax Warrant was signed.
- A Forbearance Agreement for M2/L3-C was signed.

From 6:06 p.m. until 6:11 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session. Selectman Cleary made the motion to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c); Selectmen Rose seconded the motion; the Board unanimously voted to enter the Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session were Tax Collector Kristie LaPlante and Administrator Denise French. Discussed was an impending Tax Deed for M24/L9. The Selectmen unanimously voted a Forbearance Agreement to avoid issuance of a Tax Deed; the Selectmen unanimously voted to assess 12% interest on the 2014 Tax Lien to shorten up the length of time required to pay the Forbearance Agreement. Selectman Cleary made a motion to adjourn the Nonpublic Session; Selectmen Mackesy seconded the motion; the Board unanimously voted to reconvene the public session at 6:11 p.m.

By invitation, Fire Chiefs David Foster and Matthew Hall met with the Board to discuss progressive operations within the Fire Department. The following matters of common interest were discussed:

- Issuance of Burn Permits; applicants are being encouraged to use the Online Burn Permitting System on the NH Division of Forests and Lands website. A link from the Town's website will be added.
- Prior to providing standby EMS coverage for any private event, it is understood that a rate will need to be established; taxpayers will not be responsible for providing private standby coverage.
- The importance of providing timely response to Congregational Church officials as they diligently work towards compliance with life safety code requirements.

Energy Committee members Peter Martel, David McKenzie, Michael Munhall, Molly Eppig and Peter Eppig met with the Selectmen to continue discussion on planned street light conversion to LED fixtures:

- The common goal of the Committee and the Selectmen is to reduce energy needs as well as the carbon footprint of the Town.
- The Department of Safety has no criteria for residential street lighting.
- Originally the Energy Committee recommended removing 28 street lights, upgrading 18 halide fixtures to LED, and adding two LED fixtures at new locations.
- After review and discussion of the original numbered street lighting map there was consensus to add back seven street lights that were slated for removal.
- Peter Martel offered to revise the lighting map which will be reviewed with the Energy Committee at their July 5th meeting.
- The Administrator was authorized to sign a nonbinding 2017 Lighting Incentive which will provide the Town a \$100 incentive per LED fixture – up to a maximum \$4,800 incentive offer.
- It is anticipated that the Selectmen will sign their approval at the Board's July 12th meeting.

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The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen’s June 7 and June 14, 2017 Minutes.
- Reviewed the Conval Selectmen Advisory Committee’s May 25, 2017 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the June 9, 2017 Accounts Payable Register as well as Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for June 15, June 22 and June 29, 2017.
- Discussed the need to maintain crosswalk striping in conjunction with NHDOT obligations.
- Rescheduled the Public Hearing to ratify the 2017 Town Meeting to Wednesday, July 12th.
- Heard a report that there are no special exceptions within the Transfer Station Ordinance that affect disposal by Town businesses. The Administrator was asked to research the Crotched Mountain Site Plan Review file to determine if solid waste/recycling disposal was addressed.
- Tabled addressing Household Hazardous Waste disposal until the 2018 budget process.
- Heard a report that the Administrator and Police Chief thought it prudent to offer July 3rd part-time police coverage at a 1.5 hourly wage; the Selectmen agreed.
- Were pleased to hear that the Conval School Board is no longer considering trying to use the \$725,000 surplus included in the revenue for the 2017-18 budget to help pay the cost of the CVHS lab renovations.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Transfer Station Manager William O’Connor.
- Unanimously voted to promote Matthew Blanchard to the position of Transfer Station Manager based upon his previous experience at a nearby recycling center and his certification as a NH Solid Waste Operator.
- Agreed with the Administrator’s decision to sign an L-CHIP application for Frankestown Land Trust who will be purchasing a 112 acre parcel on Class VI Mountain Road in Bennington.
- Voted the following Certificate of Authorizing Resolution:
 - RESOLVED: That the Town of Bennington shall participate as Member of the Health Trust pooled risk management program for the provision of group medical and/or other benefit plans in accordance with the “Application and Membership Agreement” and NH RSA 5-B.

 - RESOLVED: That Selectmen Chair James Cleary is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to Health Trust, on behalf of the Town of Bennington, the “Application and Membership Agreement” in substantially the form presented to this meeting.
- Agreed, in keeping with the Town's policy of allowing a seasonal beach attendant to bring their children to work with them, that it would be appropriate for a prospective employee with one child to bring a non-resident family member with her since the child is/has been in her care annually throughout the summer season.
- Accepted the Conservation Commission’s offer to improve aesthetics at the triangular piece of land at the Route 202/Hancock Road intersection.
- The Board is pleased to announce the following Scholarship/Award Recipients:
 - French Scholarship – Zachary Beymer
 - French Scholarship – Tiffany Cote
 - GBS – Luca Kekuewa-Colon, Top Bennington 8th Grade Grad
 - Edes Trust Fund Award – Keegan Harris
 - Edes Trust Fund Award – Michelle Jarest
 - Edes Trust Fund Award – Emma-Rose Mellon
 - Edes Trust Fund Award – Jared Lewis

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- Reviewed/Approved/Signed the following documents:
 - Rymes Contracts for the purchase of oil at \$1.809 and propane at \$1.539
 - Unlicensed Dog Warrant
 - Yield Tax Levy – M14/L1
 - Building Permit – M10/L32
 - Building Permit – Condo conversion – Units 5A and 5B
 - Building Permit – M12/L32
 - Building Permit – M17/L19
 - Notice of Intent to Cut – M11/L3
 - Letters of appreciation to the Conservation Commission and Jim and Bethany Craig

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise French
Administrator