

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – July 12, 2017

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

From 6:07 p.m. until 6:24 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session. Selectman Cleary made the motion to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a); Selectmen Mackesy seconded the motion; the Board unanimously voted to enter the Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session were Road Agent Gary Russell, Christopher Davies and Administrator Denise French. The group discussed Mr. Davies' interest in the temporary full-time Highway Department position of Heavy Equipment Operator. 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 6:24p.m.

From 6:24 p.m. until 6:34 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session. Selectman Cleary made the motion to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a); Selectmen Mackesy seconded the motion; the Board unanimously voted to enter the Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session were Road Agent Gary Russell and Administrator Denise French. The Selectmen unanimously voted to hire Chris Davies at a wage of \$18.00 an hour to fill the temporary full-time Highway Department position of Heavy Equipment Operator. 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 6:34p.m.

At 6:45 p.m. Chairman Cleary opened a Public Hearing to receive public input on legalizing, ratifying and confirming the actions taken at the March 16, 2017 Town election and meeting. The Public Hearing was duly advertised in the July 6th edition of the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript and posted at Bennington Town Hall and the GEP Dodge Library. Peter Martel was the only attendee; no comments were received from the public. Chairman Cleary made a motion, seconded by Selectmen Mackesy, that the Bennington Board of Selectmen legalize, ratify and confirm all March 16, 2017 actions, votes and proceedings of the Town of Bennington election and meeting that was scheduled to take place March 14, 2017 but was postponed due to weather. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen.

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

- The need for the Selectmen to confirm locations of LED upgrades, new additions of LED fixtures, as well as the discontinuance of old halide lights.
- For LED upgrades the Energy Committee proposes replacing various halide wattages with an across the board 40 watt LED fixture.
- The Selectmen and the Energy Committee agree that the Town should not attach ribbons to poles where street lights are proposed to be eliminated.
- Heard a report that the Police Chief feels that the criteria used by the Energy Committee to select lights for elimination makes sense.
- Heard a report that NHDOT is only concerned with interstate highways and state maintained roads; they did not present recommendations relative to the planned LED street lighting upgrade.

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- The Administrator was asked to seek legal counsel as to whether the \$5,000 appropriation towards upgrading street lighting would encompass the cost of removing discontinued metal halide light fixtures.
- In an effort to avoid citizen discord, the Selectmen voted to host a Public Informational Hearing at their July 26th meeting to receive input to ensure the community's interest is fairly represented. Enlarged maps of the Street Lighting Proposal will be on display at Town Hall, the Library, and the Transfer Station.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the July 6 and July 13, 2017 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers. Also reviewed were budgeted expenses through June 30, 2017.
- Asked the Road Agent to look at the backside of Town Hall with an eye towards pruning the overgrowth.
- Were pleased to hear that Thomas James has accepted the Attendant position at the Transfer Station.
- Agreed that two as-needed employees with DOT experience, who have both offered to use one week of vacation from their full-time employment to enable Bennington Highway Department to achieve summer goals, be compensated at their full-time hourly wage for the designated one week. This higher level of compensation is a one-time, one week approval in recognition of their increased responsibilities with the Highway Department and their loyalty to the community.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Barry White from the Budget Committee.
- Heard a report that, at a July 10, 2017 Public Hearing, the Planning Board approved an adjustment of the lot lines between Lots 1 and 2 on Tax Map 3, and between Lot 2 on Tax Map 3, and Lot 5 on Tax Map 6.
- Discussed non-permitted construction at M21/L6. The Administrator will communicate with representatives of the Curtis Family Campground and Code Officer Dario Carrara to rectify these violations.
- As recommended by the Town's assessor, the Selectmen voted a partial abatement of 2016 real estate taxes for M10/L39.
- Voted to continue using the Inventory of Taxable Property Form for 2018.
- Discussed a volunteer offer to assist the Town in the development of an Asset Management program. Conceptually the Selectmen support the offer; they are cautious about associated financial obligations.
- Agreed to a modified summer meeting schedule of July 26, August 9 and August 23, 2017.
- Signed two Petition and Pole Licenses for Eversource installations on North Bennington Road.
- As recommended by Forest Fire Warden Matthew Hall the Board recommended to the State the appointments of Zack Anderson, Dave Foster, Keith Nason and Jason Powers as Deputy Forest Fire Wardens.
- Signed an Intent to Cut for M23/L7 and a Building Permit for M7/L13.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator