

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 18, 2017

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Mark Mackesy were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Building Inspector Dario Carrara met with the Selectmen and delivered six new Building Permits for new home construction on Inverness Way. Dario and the Selectmen agreed that fees associated with Building Permits should be reviewed and compared with other municipalities.

Water/Sewer Commissioners David Beck and Rick Reed met with the Selectmen to discuss the following matters of mutual interest:

- Responsibility and authority of the Water/Sewer Commission.
- Monthly joint meetings with Antrim Water/Sewer Commissioners where a cooperative partnership is being forged. Commissioners from both communities are developing an awareness of opportunities that can be shared which should produce cost savings for all.
- Commissioners are looking into obtaining credit for digital meters, fittings, etc. since approximately 25 digital meters were purchased. The cost of acquiring the digital reader and obtaining software is prohibitive. Conceptually it would be beneficial for Antrim and Bennington to use the same meters and share the associated costs.
- The Granite State Rural Water Association can assist with review and recommendation for adequate consumer rates.
- Steps being taken to obtain a DES Drinking Water Grant to establish an Asset Management Program.
- Development of GIS Data Base for water and sewer systems with possible expansion.
- Conceptually discussed spending down the \$38,000 sewer contingency fund balance held by Antrim Water & Sewer Department. The Administrator will inquire of Matt Miller, Water/Sewer Superintendent what the sewer contingency fund can be used for; is it reserved for the sewer plant and related equipment; what is the definition of equipment; or is it reserved for all things related to unanticipated sewer expenses. Upon receipt of this information a decision will be made as to what action, if any, the Town might undertake to access excess funds for payment of routine expenses.
- Discussed the November 1st Capital Reserve Funding Committee meeting where Department Heads/Committees meet with the Committee to identify 2018 capital funds needed for projects and appropriations are determined. The Commissioners are aware that exercise valves and replacement manhole covers are needed.

Rick Reed, Chairman of the Budget Committee met with the Selectmen and discussed the following 2018 observations:

- 2018 preliminary budget is approved at an increase of \$17,455; the Budget will be reviewed again and adjusted as needed in December.
- The Budget Committee is pleased that the Road Advisory Committee will be working with the Road Agent to map out a road maintenance plan.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – October 18, 2017

- Agreed that the Selectmen should meet with the Fire Chief to discuss forestry expenses; the Cemetery Trustees to discuss stone/tree/maintenance planned expenses; Recreation Committee to discuss funding for beach attendants; and the Town Clerk to discuss attendance at the annual North Conway three day conference.
- Healthcare premiums and an employee COLA were discussed; no decisions were made.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's October 11, 2017 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the October 19, 2017 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Heard a report from Selectman Rose that clean up of the reclaimed area at the Antrim Road/Bible Hill/Eaton Avenue intersection will be completed by the Highway Department in a few days.
- Received confirmation from the NHDOT that they and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' Bureau of Trails will meet in the coming weeks to discuss the Town's petition to open the railroad trestle bridge throughout the year.
- Selectman Rose reported on his meeting with Monadnock Paper Mills' officials and the Road Agent to tour the roadways on Route 202, 31, 47 and Antrim Road where existing signage fails to notify tractor trailer truck drivers of the 13'2" railroad trestle bridge. As a part of the review the group referenced a hand written sketch presented by Joseph Cuddemi whose property is damaged whenever a big rig uses his restaurant parking lot to turn around. Road Agent Gary Russell will meet with NHDOT representatives seeking their assistance in relocating and improving truck traffic signage. Monadnock Paper Mills' Logistic Manager is working with Mr. Cuddemi and the Town to reroute trucks to the Paper Mill via Route 202.
- The Recreation Committee has postponed their planned Spooky Walk until next fall. This year's efforts will be partnered with the Library for the children's Halloween party.
- Agreed to host a November 8th Public Hearing at Pierce School to receive public input regarding the Town Hall and VFW buildings. Information gleaned will become part of the Feasibility Study that is underway to address limited work space and associated restrictions for the Police Department, Administration, Town Clerk and as well as space for all less dominant Departments/Committees.
- Received, with regret, the resignation of Budget Committee member Debra Whitney.
- Asked that Department Heads be scheduled to meet with the Board at least once a month.
- Signed was a Yield Tax Levy for M11/L15A as well as Building Permits for M3/L21, M19/L2-1, M19/L2-2, M19/L2-3, M19/L2-4, M19/L2-5 and M19/L2-6.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise French
Administrator