

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – November 1, 2017

Selectmen James Cleary, Mark Mackesy and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Architect Michael Petrovick met with the Board to provide an overview of the Community Conversation forum which he will facilitate, on the Town's behalf, November 8th. Mr. Petrovick delivered the draft handout for the public meeting and assured the Selectmen that it is premature to discuss building design or office locations. The intent of the public meeting is to deliver and receive information relative to personal experience when obtaining services from various Departments at Town Hall as well as issues not being addressed due to the current organization of space at Town Hall. Public opinion will also be solicited regarding the possible utilization of the VFW building to house Town services. The Administrator will create an invitation which will be mailed to every Bennington resident with a "03442" mail address; as well as any out of Town address associated with Bennington residency.

In response to the Town's RFP for LED Streetlight Replacement the Selectmen opened the two bids received:

- Efficient LED Lighting Systems, Sunapee, NH for \$8,535.00
- LighTec, Merrimack, NH for \$14,780.10

David Beck, author of the RFP for LED Streetlight Replacement, volunteered to review both proposals for completeness and report his findings to the Selectmen; no decision has been made.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's October 18, 2017 Minutes. The Board also reviewed the September 28, 2017 Conval Selectmen Advisory Committee's Minutes. Notable was the stated 26% decline in enrollment for the period October 1, 2017 through October 1, 2016 as well as the funding formula discussion where the group stated their preference to keep the funding formula at 50% equalized community value and 50% student population.
- Reviewed and approved the Payroll Registers for October 26 and November 2, 2017. Also approved was the October 26, 2017 Accounts Payable Register.
- Selectman Rose provided his firsthand account of the October 30th storm damages gleaned from his ride along with the Police Chief and Deputy Emergency Management Director. Significant damage occurred on Gillis Hill Road when the deluge of rain plugged and overflowed the culvert at the top of the hill which resulted in washout of half the travel portion and three driveway entrances. The integrity of two Mountain Road culverts will need evaluation by an engineer (yet to be identified). A thirty foot section of right-of-way on Whittemore Lake Road West washed out when the Fish & Game dam spilled over; repairs to this private way are not the expense of the Town.
- In partnership with the Bennington Water/Sewer Commissioners, determined that the cumulative Sewer Contingency Fund should be capped at \$38,000; the Antrim Commissioners will be notified of Bennington's decision.

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- In a follow-up report regarding a joint effort of the Town and Monadnock Paper Mills' quest to redirect truck traffic away from Antrim Road, NHDOT officials determined that existing truck traffic signage, in the village area as well as Route 202, meets all specifications and has been deemed adequate; the Town was warned not to post its signs on existing NHDOT sign posts. Subsequent to receiving this DOT information Monadnock Paper Mills Logistic Manager William Morrissey spoke directly to the Swanzey DOT office and was able to schedule another visit to personally review the truck traffic signage with NHDOT officials. The matter currently rests with Monadnock Paper Mills; the Town has exhausted its options.
- The Selectmen discussed a recommendation from Peter Martel that the Town consider installation of a motion detector at Sawyer Park rather than keeping the street light on the premises. The Administrator will review the Town's options with an electrician.
- Asked for additional information from Beltronics in support of their proposal to upgrade the Town's security system; no decision has been made.
- Moderator John J. Cronin, III has appointed Debra Ash and Judith Heddy to fill the vacated Budget Committee positions previously held by Barry White and Debra Whitney.
- Although all required Town documents have been in the custody of the Department of Revenue Administration since August 31st, Conval School District has yet to file their required documents which has created an unexpected delay in calculation of the 2017 tax rate and the ability to process tax bills.
- Selectman Rose reported that trees intended to be preserved have been marked at M10/L57 ahead of the Highway Department's upcoming cleanup of the Antrim Road, Bible Hill Road, and Main Street intersection.
- The Selectmen reviewed and approved the following Permits:
 - Driveway Permit – M2/L3-9
 - Sign Permit – M16/L2A
 - Building Permit – M7/L3
 - Building Permit – M13/L4A1

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m. to enable the Selectmen to participate in the 2018 Capital Reserve Funding Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise French
Administrator