

## TOWN OF BENNINGTON

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

#### Minutes of the Meeting – November 15, 2017

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Mark Mackesy were present as well as Administrator Denise French.

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Transfer Station operations;
  - Building repairs/maintenance will be taken care of by Transfer Station employees outside of normal business hours.
  - Exploration of alternate means to dispose of electronic waste and tires. Gary was asked to shop around for purchase prices to acquire a 40' container.
  - Conceptual plan to join area communities for a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day which is hosted by the Town of Hillsborough.
- Highway Department operations; attending this portion of the meeting were Road Advisory Committee member John Baybutt and Deputy Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante.
  - Agreement that the Town rent a hot box/sealer for two days for repair of cracks. The \$2600 rental price includes 2400 pounds of material.
  - John provided an overview of the November 4<sup>th</sup> Road Advisory Committee meeting. All were in agreement that the bases of Town roads aren't good; Eaton Avenue being the perfect example of a typical roadway. The group also acknowledged the need to prevent cracks and associated water penetration.
  - Kristie reported on her attendance at the *Road Maintenance 101* workshop she attended at the direction of the Selectmen. The UNH Technology Center has developed a road assessment tool which the State has pushed out to the local planning commissions. The *Pavement Preservation Plan*, which is free to the Town, provides a base analysis and offers program funding alternatives for a ten year maintenance plan. The focus is on road surfaces, drainage and shoulders; it does not address the road bed. At the recommendation of the Road Agent, the Selectmen authorized Kristie to schedule the road review with Southwest Regional Planning Commission.
  - Evaluation of Mountain Road culverts where at least one culvert appears to have been compromised by the October 30<sup>th</sup> rain event. At the Road Agent's recommendation the Selectmen unanimously agreed to engage CLD Engineers who has done extensive bridge and culvert work in neighboring communities. In the interest of full disclosure, Administrator French informed the audience that her daughter-in-law is a project manager for CLD Engineers; this information did not concern the Road Agent or the Board of Selectmen.
  - Conceptually agreed that the additional \$38,000+/- received from NHDOT could be used to purchase and install guardrail along the North Bennington riverbank between the old iron bridge and the Deering town line.

Kristie reported the results of her detailed review of all active Capital Reserve Funds (CRF) and Expendable Trust Funds (ETF) – from their original origin to the Funds' current uses. As a result of discussions with Town Counsel it was determined that the following Funds need revision:

- Rescue Vehicle – the original vote authorized establishment of this CRF to purchase a chassis. Through time the CRF has been used to purchase a replacement vehicle and retrofit a former rescue vehicle into a forestry truck. A 2018 Warrant Article will seek voter approval to repurpose the fund for rescue vehicle acquisition.
- Water Maintenance – the original vote authorized establishment of this CRF to purchase a replacement water pump. Through time the CRF has been used for water line installation and maintenance. A 2018 Warrant Article will seek voter approval to repurpose the fund for equipment and maintenance.
- The Capital Reserve Funding Committee recommended that the Bridge Replacement CRF and the Bridge Repair ETF be consolidated into one fund. The original vote authorizing the Bridge Replacement CRF was specific to the Antrim/Bennington bridge. Town Counsel advised that CRF and ETF cannot be comingled. A 2018 Warrant Article will seek voter approval to close the Bridge Replacement CRF with all funds being transferred into the existing Bridge Repair ETF.
- Highway Truck – the original vote authorized establishment of this CRF to purchase heavy equipment.
- Heavy Equipment – the original vote authorized establishment of this CRF to purchase a loader/grader. A 2018 Warrant Article will seek voter approval to combine both Highway CRFs for Highway Equipment.

Kristie also discussed the following matters with the Board:

- Mower CRF – the original vote authorized establishment of this CRF to purchase a mower for combined use by the Highway Department and the Recreation Committee. Through time the mower has been exclusively used by Recreation for the maintenance of Newhall Field.
- Water Department Asset Management Grant – should she continue to author the associated grant application which is due December 12<sup>th</sup>? Due to the need for voter approval to change the use of the Water CRF the Selectmen voted to table the grant request for one year rather than try to fund a CRF whose use is subject to change.
- Should the Board of Selectmen develop goals through a planning session that will address the conceptual retirement of 4-5 Department Heads within the next five years?

Rhubarb Festival representative Tom James met with the Board to inquire their interest/support for construction of a permanent stage at Sawyer Park. Tom presented conceptual photos of design and location. The Selectmen unanimously stated their support for the volunteer project.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen’s November 1, 2017 Minutes. Reviewed a courtesy copy of the November 1, 2017 Energy Committee’s Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for November 9 and November 16, 2017 as well as Accounts Payable Registers for November 2 and November 9, 2017.
- Signed a contract with Efficient LED Lighting Systems, Sunapee NH for LED Lighting Retrofit. The \$8,535 contract is for removing and disposing of 35 existing metal halide streetlight fixtures as well as replacement with new LED streetlight fixtures. The contract also includes supplying and installing three new LED fixtures after new streetlight arms are installed by Eversource. Efficient LED Lighting Systems will recycle all fixtures and provide valid certification of disposal. The Town has received

confirmation that it is eligible for a \$100 rebate incentive for each fixture. These funds will offset the net costs after applying the 2017 appropriation of \$5,000.

- Heard a report that Bill Lambert from NHDOT has agreed to meet with Monadnock Paper Mills' officials and determine first hand which truck traffic signs can be moved and/or installed to direct Mill delivery trucks to Route 202 rather than the current arrangement which directs most trucks to Antrim Road and the wrong side of the trestle.
- Heard a report that Architect Michael Petrovick is scheduled to meet with the Board November 29<sup>th</sup> to review conceptual administrative and police office designs.
- Determined December 6<sup>th</sup> will be the rescheduled Comcast Cable Franchise Renewal Public Hearing.
- Voted to use \$62,000 from the Town's unrestricted fund balance as a revenue offset for the Tax Rate. The Selectmen approved the 2017 tax rate at \$31.94; an overall increase of \$0.16 or one half of one percent.
- Selectman Mackesy volunteered to be the Planning Board Ex-officio Alternate with regard to a Gillis Hill land use matter. A site walk is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> to view the Hardwick/Valentin properties.
- Heard a report that the Conservation Commission has requested a 2018 Warrant Article seeking voter approval to deposit 50% of revenue generated from the sale of timber and gravel into a Conservation account. The funds would be used to reclaim, mitigate, or purchase sensitive and important lands of public interest. The Administrator will work with Town Counsel to develop the appropriate legal verbiage.
- Signed a Building Permit for M13/L3-B.

The meeting adjourned 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise French  
Administrator