

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – January 10, 2018

Selectmen James Cleary, Mark Mackesy and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's January 3, 2018 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the January 11, 2018 Payroll Register and the January 5, 2018 Accounts Payable Register.
- Confirmed the Selectmen's December 19, 2017 decision (which is absent from the Board's meeting Minutes) to encumber \$5,860 from the 2017 Deferred Road Maintenance Warrant Article for planned Dodge Road maintenance which the Highway Department was unable to complete.
- Reviewed the Town's January 9th meeting with Monadnock Paper Mills officials at which time the group discussed the red list status of the bridge over the Mill canal. When the Mill lowers the river for annual maintenance of their facilities they will engage their vendor to inspect the bridge and seek estimates for repair of the deficiencies identified by NHDOT.
- Finalized plans for funding 2018 Capital Reserve (CRF) and Expendable Trust Funds (ETF):
 - Highway Truck CRF = \$0. A Warrant Article (WA) will request this fund be closed and the balance transferred to the Highway Heavy Equipment CRF.
 - Highway Heavy Equipment CRF = \$37,000
 - Road Rehabilitation CRF = \$15,000
 - Mower CRF = \$1,000
 - Bridge Replacement CRF = \$0. The original WA was created to replace the North Bennington Road bridge. A WA will request this fund be closed and the balance transferred to the Bridge Repair CRF.
 - Fire Truck CRF = \$20,000
 - Rescue Chassis CRF = \$0. The original WA was created to purchase a chassis for the Rescue Vehicle. A WA will request the purpose of this CRF be changed to reflect acquisition of a rescue vehicle.
 - Breathing Apparatus CRF = \$2,000
 - Protective Gear CRF = \$5,700
 - Police Cruiser = \$10,000
 - Water Pump Replacement CRF = \$0. The original WA was created to replace the water system's pump. A WA will request the purpose of this CRF be changed to reflect repairs and/or maintenance to the water system.
 - Property Revaluation CRF = \$12,000
 - Library CRF = \$5,000
 - Bridge Maintenance ETF = \$10,000
 - Town Buildings ETF = \$33,000
 - 2018 funding is established at \$150,700 which is the same level of 2017 Capital Reserve funding.

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- Eversource has agreed that the LED Street Light project meets the CBR and does screen for the incentives the Town applied for. The vendor has ordered the fixtures and expects delivery the later part of February; installation is expected to be completed within a week's time frame.
- Heard a report from the Whittemore Lake West Road property owners that there is State activity at the washed out bridge; two culverts have been delivered.
- Discussed the impending January 29th deadline when the Town's Budget and Warrant must be posted; this same date, as provided by Statute, the Planning Board has scheduled a second hearing to consider amendments put forth at the January 8th public hearing which substantially changes Article XVII, Section 14 (currently "Home Occupation") to "Home Businesses". Solutions put forth included rescheduling the second hearing to January 27th or having the Selectmen and Administrator meet January 29th after the Planning Board hearing to receive the Planning Board's final form of the Zoning Amendment warrant article for inclusion in the Town Warrant.
- The Administrator reported the January 8th frozen water pipes at the VFW. The following day pipes burst in the crawl space; the water service was shut off. The Selectmen voted not to restore water until spring when the weather is warmer and a subsequent freeze isn't likely.
- Received notice that Code Officer Dario Carrara has accepted an employment offer with the City of Concord. At Dario's recommendation, the Selectmen agreed it wise to meet with the Code Officer after Town Meeting to discuss his part-time availability and mutual expectations.
- Revisited the Town's policy of paying holiday compensation to employees who normally work the day of the holiday and are compensated for their scheduled hours. The Selectmen confirmed occasional hours worked outside of regular scheduled public hours are not eligible for holiday pay.
- Revisited the Town's policy of paying employees their regular scheduled hours when the Selectmen close specific Department/s due to severe inclement weather. The Selectmen confirmed occasional hours worked outside of regular scheduled public hours are not eligible for inclement weather compensation.
- Agreed that \$50 per hour for use of an employee's plow truck was reasonable compensation. This arrangement does not include the employee's wages.
- Signed a Land Use Change Tax for Map 16, Lot 2A.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m. to allow the Selectmen's attendance at the Town's 7:00 p.m. Budget Hearing at Pierce School.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise French
Administrator