

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – February 21, 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.

At the Selectmen's invitation, Trustees of the Trust Funds Valerie Germain and Bethany Craig were present as well as Cemetery Trustee Chair Karen Bartlett to discuss and define the legal procedure for the Town to receive gifts, legacies and devises. Gifts to the Town for the benefit of Sunnyside and Evergreen cemeteries did not meet the letter of the law.

The Selectmen voted to accept a \$7,500 gift from the David Glynn Estate for establishment of an Evergreen Cemetery Trust. The gift will now be invested by the Trustees of Trust Funds.

After the fact, the Selectmen voted to ratify the annual gifts of interest received from the NH Charitable Trust (since 2013) from donor David Glynn for the establishment of a Sunnyside Cemetery Trust. Upon Mr. Glynn's 2017 passing, the Cemetery Trustees received a \$50,000 gift from the Florida law office of Fisher & Wilsey, P.A. The money was transferred to the Trustees of Trust Funds who invested the money in an account that was set up in 2013.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's January 31, 2018 Minutes.
- Reviewed Minutes from the Planning Board's January 27 meeting as well as the Energy Committee's February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for February 8, 15 and 22, 2018. Also reviewed and approved were Accounts Payable Registers for February 7, 14 and 22, 2018.
- Recreation Chair Bethany Manley discussed with the Board the conceptual benefit for the Town to pay for lifeguard certification. The Board unanimously voted to pay eligible employees for new lifeguard certification or advanced certification for teaching swim lessons. The payment would represent reimbursement of costs at the conclusion of successful summer employment.
- Heard a report that propane usage at the Highway Garage has dramatically increased. For the contract period September 1, 2017 to February 19, 2018 the Garage has used 1655 gallons of propane. Last year's contract period used 1257 gallons. The Selectmen agreed they would rather pay for propane than pay the Highway Department's labor and equipment to collect and process wood for alternate heat.
- Continued to table a decision for provider of property and liability insurance.
- Asked the Administrator to follow-up with the Planning Board on the apparent abandoned condominium project (M13/L14).
- Heard a report that Monadnock Disposal Service intends to bill their customers for out-of-pocket cost to dispose of recycled plastic. The Selectmen voted their disagreement with the proposed change since the existing contract is silent on assessing a fee for plastic disposal.
- Tabled developing a policy for mileage reimbursement for trips to Main Street Antrim until such time as the Town Clerk can meet with the Selectmen to discuss the matter.

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- At the recommendation of the Road Agent the Board discussed a spring-time waiver to the 6-ton road restriction as requested by a Durgin Road business that will likely experience increased truck traffic. The Selectmen and Road Agent agreed that the waiver should be issued as long as the owner provides written acknowledgement of their responsibility for any deterioration of the road as a result of heavy trucks accessing M22/L11C.
- Discussed the unfortunate reported tire damage from drivers traversing Antrim Road. Inasmuch as the Highway Department has been out daily throughout Town in an ongoing effort to mitigate seasonal road damage the Selectmen voted not to reimburse motorists for any vehicles damaged from a pothole that is likely visible and avoidable.
- Received notice from NHDOT that, from the intersection of Route 31 to the Greenfield town-line, South Bennington Road will be treated with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " paver shim.
- Discussed a letter received from Michael Hoiriis regarding information he heard at the Deliberative Session that caused him concern. The Selectmen asked that the Administrator respond to him explaining that neither the Fire Department nor the Board Selectmen have discussed elimination of the forestry vehicle.
- Heard a report of frustration expressed by the Deputy Town Clerk regarding the dog software program and associated time being worked out of the office for Clerk obligations that can and should be undertaken during open office hours utilizing the licensing software.
- Heard a report that the Town Clerk is suspicious that administrative staff sharing office space are hiding mail and moving papers in the Clerk's portion of the office space. The Selectmen plan to discuss this allegation with the Town Clerk, as well as other topics of mutual interest.
- Chairman Cleary signed the Fish & Game Limited Agency Agreement.
- The Board signed the MS-535 (Financial Report), a Supplemental Intent to Cut for M3/L17 and a Yield Tax Levy for M3/L17.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise French  
Administrator