

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – March 21, 2018

Prior to the commencement of the Selectmen's meeting, Justice of the Peace Denise French administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Selectman James Cleary and newly-elected Selectman David Hardwick.

Selectmen James Cleary, Mark Mackesy and David Hardwick were present as well as Administrator Denise French when the meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Resident Steve Roy met briefly with the Board to extend his appreciation for the upgraded LED light fixture near his home; also to personally thank the Selectmen for the Town of Bennington's donation towards replacement of the American Legion roof. Steve also asked if visibility at the Route 47/Main Street intersection could be improved by taking down some of the snow bank.

From 6:22 p.m. until 6:37 the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(b). Selectman Cleary made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. Selectmen Mackesy, Cleary and Hardwick each voted to enter into the Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session was Administrator French. The group reviewed an application for employment; the Selectmen unanimously voted not to hire the applicant. Selectman Cleary made a motion to reconvene the public session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. Selectmen Cleary, Mackesy and Hardwick voted to reconvene the public meeting at 6:37 p.m.

From 7:01 p.m. until 7:20 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Selectman Cleary made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. Selectmen Mackesy, Cleary and Hardwick each voted to enter into the Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session were Administrator French, Laura Michlik and Kasandra Cullinan. The group discussed the recent passing of a family member who owns property in Bennington. No decisions were made. The Selectmen will arrange to have the property's condition assessed as of April 1, 2018. Selectman Cleary made a motion to reconvene the public session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. Selectmen Cleary, Mackesy and Hardwick voted to reconvene the public meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Fire Chief David Foster met with the Selectmen. The Board unanimously approved his planned purchase of replacement fire gear at an estimated cost of \$10,000; the expense will be paid from the Protective Gear Capital Reserve Fund. Also discussed was the need to obtain estimates for the conceptual installation of secure digital access for the Fire Station.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for March 1, March 8, March 15 and March 22, 2018. Also reviewed were expenditures for the period January 1 through March 15, 2018.
- Heard a revised report regarding the David Glynn Estate's \$50,000 payment to the Cemetery Trustees from the Florida law office of Fisher & Wilsey, P.A. After the Selectmen's acceptance of the funds at their February 21<sup>st</sup> public meeting, the NH Charitable Foundation notified the Town that the funds should have been made payable to the Foundation to be added to the existing fund there. The Trustees of the Trust Fund are in the process of returning the money to Fisher & Wilsey (administrators of the David A. Glynn Living Trust) so that it can be paid directly to the NH Charitable Foundation.
- Heard a report that, among other gifts from the David A. Glynn Living Trust, the Town of Bennington will receive ten percent to be administered by the Selectmen. The funds are to be used for improvements and

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maintenance of the Town Hall and other historical buildings. Mr. Glynn specified and directed that the funds be used for installation of an elevator and sprinkler system in the Town Hall as a first priority. Upon eventual receipt of the gifts the Selectmen will engage the residents for ideas on how best to use this wonderful gift towards Bennington's future.

- Voted to renew the Town's property and liability insurance with Primex. The Administrator will inquire of Primex if participation in the Contribution Assurance Program is still a viable option.
- Heard a report that the Department of Revenue Administration has determined a median ratio for the land, buildings and manufactured housing for Tax Year 2017 to be 96.8%; the 2016 ratio was 91.5%.
- Briefly discussed an ongoing complaint, received via the Police Chief, about truck traffic on Antrim Road where inattentive tractor trailer drivers are turning around on private property and causing damage to the premises. The Selectmen all agreed that the Town has done its due diligence in working with Monadnock Paper Mills, the NH Department of Transportation and sending written requests to all GPS mapping companies requesting that they update their driving directions to avoid the Antrim Road railroad trestle.
- As of March 19<sup>th</sup> the burst pipes at the VFW were replaced; the facility is now available for warm weather use.
- Appointed the following Town Officials:
  - Planning Board Ex-officio – Mark Mackesy for one year
  - Fire Chief – David Foster for one year
  - Road Agent – Gary Russell for two years
  - Capital Reserve Funding Committee – James Cleary, Peter Eppig, David Hardwick Sr., Mark Mackesy and David McKenzie, each for one year
  - Conservation Commission – John Baybutt and Valerie Germain, each for three year terms
  - Highway Safety Committee – James Cleary, Gary Russell and Bret Sullivan, each for one year
  - Newhall Park Board – Brian Whittemore for a three year term
  - Solid Waste Committee – David Parker, Jeffrey Rose and Gary Russell, each for one year
- In response to an inquiry from Pierce School, Selectman Mackesy volunteered to solicit a member to join the school's Community Engagement Committee.
- As the result of an affirmative vote of Warrant Article 25 where the voters appropriated \$40,000 for the purpose of funding an Asset Management Planning Grant, the Selectmen voted to approve and accept the 2018 Asset Management Grant as stated in the letter dated January 22, 2018 from the NH Department of Environmental Services. Selectmen Hardwick and Mackesy authorized Selectman Cleary to execute the Grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.
- The Selectmen reviewed, approved and signed the following documents:
  - Asset Management Planning Grant documents
  - SWRPC Authority to Undertake Road Inventory
  - Recommendation for NH Forest and Lands to appoint Damon Beaudreau a Deputy Warden
  - Building Permit – M2/L3-9
  - NH the Beautiful Registration Form for Earth Day cleanup supplies

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise French  
Administrator