

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELELCTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – June 20, 2018

Selectmen James Cleary, Mark Mackesy and David Hardwick Sr. were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Selectmen voted to accept a \$50,000 gift from the David Glynn Trust for the purchase of books, from the net income only of the invested principal, for the benefit of the Dodge Public Library. The gift will be invested by the Trustees of Trust Funds.

Kristie LaPlante met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- With regard to unpaid 2015 Tax Liens -
 - Approved a Forbearance Agreement for M7/L55.
 - Agreed to a payment arrangement for M13/L3-A15 whereby the owner voluntarily committed to full cash payment of the Impending Tax Deed as of July 2, 2018. The Selectmen signed the associated Tax Deed but instructed the Administrator not to record the Tax Deed prior to the Board's July 11, 2018 meeting.
 - Heard a report that the interested party associated with M7/L31 did not pay the 2015 Tax Lien nor provide a Forbearance Agreement as directed prior to this evening's meeting. The Selectmen signed the associated Tax Deed but instructed the Administrator not to record the Tax Deed prior to the Board's July 11, 2018 meeting.
- With regard to the June 11th Planning Board subdivision approval for M19/L21A –
 - The Town's Zoning Ordinance conflicts with NH RSA 674:41.
 - The Town's Ordinance cannot be less stringent than State law.
 - The approved subdivision relies on "Buildings or Use of Back Lots" (Article VII, L) where access is via a "private way", which driveway satisfies all of the requirements for driveways as established by the Board of Selectmen.
 - Access to the approved subdivision conflicts with the Town's Driveway Regulations.
 - The approved subdivision map does not identify the dimensions of the road nor does the map include a name of the private road.
 - Selectmen Cleary and Mackesy as well as Deputy Administrator LaPlante plan to attend the next Planning Board meeting to discuss the situation and request that the subdivision map of M19/L21A be amended to comply with RSA 674:41, the Zoning Ordinance and the Driveway Regulations. There is not an opportunity to apply for a rehearing through the Zoning Board of Adjustment due to the less stringent development that was applied contrary to RSA 674:41.

From 6:45 p.m. until 7:05 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Selectman Mackesy made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session; seconded by Selectman Cleary. Selectmen Mackesy, Cleary and Hardwick each voted to enter into the Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session was Administrator French and Deputy Administrator LaPlante. The group discussed administrative staffing and realignment of duties. Part-time administrative office support personnel Lori Ricci has announced her retirement as of September 30th. Administrator Denise French has announced her interest in working part-time. After review of her resume and thirteen years of satisfactory full-time employment, most recently as Deputy Town Administrator/Tax Collector, the Selectmen unanimously voted to promote Kristie LaPlante to the full-time

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position of Town Administrator. The Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Denise French a part-time Deputy Administrator leaving a full-time vacancy for administrative office support personnel. The group will reconvene July 11th to discuss wages, benefits and the effective date of the realignment of duties. Selectman Mackesy made a motion to reconvene the public session; seconded by Selectman Cleary. Selectmen Cleary, Mackesy and Hardwick voted to reconvene the public meeting at 7:05 p.m.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board’s June 6, 2018 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the June 14 and June 21 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers as well as budgeted expenditures for the first five months.
- Voted that the Road Agent spend down the 2017 encumbered Deferred Road Maintenance Warrant Article before tapping the 2018 budget.
- Established a \$25 fee for the recent reinstated Demolition Permit.
- Heard a report that the dilapidated shed on M7/L33 is slated for demolition by June 30th.
- Confirmed permanent employment of Highway Department employee Christopher Davies. He was hired July 2017 as a temporary employee.
- Heard a report that the Administrator signed an Asset Management Program Pre-application for a Wastewater loan. Prior to signing the document NHDES officials were contacted to confirm that the filing of the Pre-application would not obligate the Town.
- Agreed to schedule a fall date for the Tri-Town Landfill sitewalk and meeting with Antrim and Frankestown.
- The Selectmen are pleased to announce the following awards:
 - Edward E. French Memorial Scholarships to Katriona Keenan and Dominique Wheeler
 - Top 8th Grade Bennington student is Kayla Bishop
 - Conservation Commission awards to Adeline Regis and Joseph Hodgen
- Heard a report of gratitude and appreciation from the organizers of the June 16th Antique Car Show which was held at Sawyer Park; the beneficiary of the event was the Antrim/Bennington Food Pantry.
- Reviewed, approved and signed the following documents:
 - Service Connected Disability Tax Credit – M7/L84
 - Forbearance Agreement – M7/L55
 - Building Permit – M21/L6, #59
 - Current Use Application (as of April 1, 2018) – M17/L28
 - Unlicensed Dog Warrant
 - Receipt and Consent for the acceptance of \$7,500 Evergreen Trust Fund
 - Receipt and Consent for the acceptance of \$50,000 Library Trust Fund

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator