

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 7, 2018

Selectmen James Cleary and Mark Mackesy were present as well as Deputy Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

In the Road Agent's absence, Highway Department representative Chris Davies met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- Chris plans to start work on the Loader next week to diagnose the cause of the hydraulic leak. The Selectmen authorized Chris to contract with a local mechanic if necessary to help facilitate expedient repairs.
- The piston in the Backhoe will be replaced within the coming month.
- As previously discussed, the Town of Weare will take the Town's waste oil at their Certified Waste Oil facility.
- Chris plans to process another 1,000 yards of winter sand in the coming month.
- The Selectmen authorized Chris to install under drains and complete necessary ditching on the lower end of Pierce Hill Road.
- Chris presented the Selectmen with three bids obtained for replacing guardrails on North Bennington Road along the river using special funds allocated in 2017 under SB38. The Selectmen asked Chris to complete a site walk with the lowest bidder to determine the functional scope of guardrail replacement. The goal is to reduce the cost of the guardrail project and to use the remaining funds the Town received from SB38 for ditching roads.
- Approved a 3.1% wage increase for Chris effective September 10, 2018.
- Effective January 1, 2019, the monthly cell phone stipend will increase to \$20 for affected employees.
- The Highway Department will continue working four 10-hour days through October 4, 2018.
- The Selectmen will facilitate a staff meeting for the Highway Department upon the Road Agent's return from leave.

From 10:47 a.m. until 10:53 a.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(a). Selectman Cleary made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. Both members voted to enter into Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session was Deputy Administrator Kristie LaPlante and Chris Davies. The group discussed the full-time vacancy recently created by John Plourde's resignation. Motion was made, seconded, and voted to hire Damon Beaudreau to fill the full-time vacancy starting no later than October 1, 2018.

The Selectmen reviewed a Proposal for Banking and Treasury Management Services from Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. In late July the Town opened discussions with Bar Harbor Bank to see if their product met or exceeded the product being received by People's Bank. Between a reduction in banking fees and increase in interest earnings, the Town will save a net \$2,500 annually over current operations with People's Bank. Selectman Cleary made a motion to switch financial institutions as soon as feasible; seconded by Selectman Mackesy.

Kristie informed the Selectmen that the 2019 budget process would be starting soon with worksheets going out to Department Heads. At this point the Selectmen do not anticipate any changes for wages or benefits in 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante